

1,000 MEN IDLE IN ST. JOHN

Great Depression in
Several Lines

200 Carpenters Walking the Streets
—Has Been a Hard Winter For
Many Longshoremen

"One thousand men are walking the streets of St. John today, idle," was the statement made in the Sun Saturday by one of the foremost and best informed of the working men in the city.

"It is a fact," he continued, "that for many years business depression has never laid its hand on the industrial employments of this city to such an extent as prevails this winter. When I say one thousand I am not exaggerating the matter. Why, in the carpenter trade, for instance, two hundred, all good carpenters, too, who are anxiously seeking for work and cannot find any. There is no building going on, and you can readily see that this means lack of employment for masons, metal workers and common laborers. Add to this the men that are idle in other professions as a result of this same depression and you will find the thousand mark only too quickly. Now, for instance, you know the ship laborers or longshoremen are never all employed at one time, and I will just state to you one cause that came under my observation. During the past winter of thirty weeks the longshoremen of whom I speak only once earned as much as \$10, and that was followed by two weeks of idleness. The rest of the winter they would consist of \$5 for one week and \$3 for the other. This man had a family to support and was doing his utmost to earn bread and butter. The number of such instances one can point to is only limited by the scope of acquaintance."

FRUIT GROWERS

RETURN HOME

S. C. Parker Speaks of the Results
of the Canadian Fruit Growers
Conference.

S. C. Parker, secretary of the N. S. F. G. A., one of the delegates from Nova Scotia to the fruit growers' conference of Canada, held in Ottawa last week, was a guest at the Royal Sunday. Mr. Parker told the Sun he thought the conference would result in great benefit to the fruit growing interests throughout the country. One of the principal points agreed upon was a standard size apple barrel, although the new regulation will not become compulsory for two years. An amendment to the fruit marks act defining a No. 2 apple, will also have very satisfactory results, he thought. Another amendment decided upon was the abolition of the present form of branding instead of one or three Xs, the apples must be marked No. 1, 2 or 3.

"The fruit marks act will also be more vigorously enforced in the future," said Mr. Parker.

R. W. Starr, another of the delegates and a pioneer in the fruit growing industry, said that Hon. Sydney Fisher, who presided at all the meetings of the conference, gave them an informal promise that he would call a similar conference every two or three years.

The apple shipments from the valley this past season, Mr. Parker estimated, at \$5,000 barrels. As good prices were obtained there is more than ordinary prosperity in Nova Scotia's fruit belt this year.

The delegates from the maritime provinces to the conference were: New Brunswick, J. C. Gilman; Prince Edward Island, J. W. Stephenson, Sheffield; and P. E. Island, Father Burke, A. G. Dewar, Charlottetown, and J. A. Ready of the department of agriculture, Nova Scotia—S. C. Parker, Berwick; R. W. Starr, Wolfville; R. E. Eaton, Kentville; G. C. Miller, Middleton; B. W. Chipman, secretary of agriculture, and Prof. S. J. Truro.

The Nova Scotia representatives will go across the bay this morning.

It was as a result of a suit started by Mrs. Colt in September, 1905, two years after the second marriage, that the dual life led by the banker has at last become known.

Because of unpleasant relations between himself and Mrs. Colt, but that she was advised to take such action for her protection when he became seriously ill last year.

Whatever the cause, Mrs. Colt brought action to recover \$250,000 from Mr. Colt, and employed John S. Griffith for her lawyer. The banker met the lawyer and offered to settle the case for \$50,000. According to depositions made by Griffith in an action now pending against Mr. Colt, the sum was shortly after increased to \$97,000. This was informed by Mrs. Colt, he alleges, that the case had been settled and that he should stop proceedings. William F. Scott, of the firm of Scott, Upson & Tewcomb, Manhattan lawyers, offered Griffith a nominal fee, which he refused and brought action to recover \$37,000.

Attached to the papers filed by Griffith is an affidavit made by Mrs. Colt, in which she alleges that she was led to marry Mr. Colt on false representations, he having told her he was not married. She said she did not know he had a wife living until after their marriage.

Mrs. Colt's home is in a fashionable section in Brooklyn Hills. Her son, who is twenty years old, said yesterday: "Mother will have nothing to say about the matter. Mr. Colt is head-quarters for all information and what he says is reliable. You can depend on it that what he says is true."

Kiley's Jefferson avenue dwelling is in an exclusive part of the Bedford section and is about one mile from the Brooklyn avenue dwellings.

\$5,000 GRANTED FOR EXHIBITION

Arrangements For Reception to Prince
Arthur in the Governor's Hands.

A meeting of the provincial government was held in the government rooms on Church street here on Saturday morning. All the members of the executive were present. As fore-shadowed in the Sun, the government decided to make a grant of \$5,000 for an exhibition in St. John this fall, and later in the day this decision was formally communicated to the Exhibition Association by Hon. Mr. Farris.

The matter of arranging for a reception to Prince Arthur of Connaught, who will arrive here on the second of May, will be left with the Lieutenant Governor. It is understood that only an address will be presented. The prince is the guest of the federal government while in Canada.

Sitting as the asylum commissioners the members of the government transacted considerable routine business.

WEALTHY BROOKLYN BANK PRESIDENT CONFESSES BIGAMY

Thomas W. Kiley Admits He Married
No. 2. When He Thought No. 1
Was Dying.

Confessing he is a bigamist, Thomas W. Kiley, president of the North Side Bank, Brooklyn, gave yesterday as his reason for his second marriage that he believed his first wife was on her deathbed and would be dead when he returned from his wedding trip in the West.

While Mr. Kiley lives with his first wife at No. 201 Jefferson avenue, he said he frequently called on his second wife, who resides at No. 212 Brooklyn avenue. To neighbors and friends she has been known for several years as Mrs. Flora A. Colt, a wealthy widow, and Mr. Kiley has been introduced as a vis-à-vis.

Frankly admitting that he loved his second wife more than his first wife and that this love was not changed by the fact of his two marriages having become known, Mr. Kiley said it was the understanding between himself and Mrs. Colt that their marriage should be kept secret until the present Mrs. Kiley was dead.

In a divorce suit when she filed a suit to recover \$350,000 damages, Mrs. Colt alleged that Mr. Kiley had represented that he was single and that she had been led into the marriage by his false representations.

Suit is now pending against Mr. Kiley for the recovery of \$37,500 by John S. Griffith, a lawyer, who alleges that he had a contract with Mrs. Colt that he would receive 25 per cent of whatever was recovered from Mr. Kiley in the suits she had instituted.

In his affidavits Griffith contends that he has been informed that Mrs. Colt has received \$250,000 in settlement of her claims against Mr. Kiley. This the banker denies.

Mr. Kiley's second marriage took place in Hammond, Ind., in October, 1905, when he was on his way to a convention of bank presidents in San Francisco.

THOUGHT WIFE DYING.

"Mrs. Colt went with me on the trip, and we discussed getting married," he said yesterday. "I told Mrs. Colt I was anxious to have her marry me. Mrs. Kiley was very ill when I started west, and I was confident she would be dead long before we returned to Brooklyn. I would not have been married if I had not been certain she would die. We talked the matter over and decided to keep our wedding a secret for a few weeks."

Mr. Kiley is sixty-five years old, and his wealth is estimated at several million dollars. His financial interests are large, and he is head of the hardware house of Thomas W. Kiley & Co.

When he was six years old Kiley's parents died and he went to work in the hardware store of Guy B. Brown, who was the father of Mrs. Colt. Brown lost his money, and during the last years of his life worked for his former employer. From the first day he went to work for Brown Kiley was a playmate of Flora Brown, who is now the second Mrs. Kiley.

His marriage did not alter his friendship for Mrs. Colt, who had married a younger man. About eight years ago Mrs. Colt died, leaving his widow with one son. She went to live with her parents in Hancock street, Brooklyn, and when her parents died Kiley contributed to the funeral expenses. He was an invalid a short time after their marriage and Kiley said his home life was not congenial.

"I was in bad health when I started for California," said Kiley, "and I was almost a nervous wreck. That is the only excuse I have to offer. It was the only contemptible act in my entire career and I must confess that I married when I believed my wife was dying."

WIFE RECOVERED.

"When we were married the agreement between Mrs. Colt and myself was that we should live publicly as man and wife as soon as my wife was dead. Mr. Kiley did not die, but steadily regained her health."

"When we returned we were astonished to find Mrs. Kiley alive and decided there was nothing we could do but keep the entire matter secret. I purchased a dwelling at No. 212 Brooklyn avenue and Mrs. Colt went to live there. I continued to live with Mrs. Kiley and to provide for both women, giving them everything they wished for."

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KING PETER'S COURT BALL A FREEZE OUT.

Guests Got Angry When the Refreshments
Were Not Sufficient and Made
Unkind Remarks.

BELGRADE, March 24.—King Peter's Court ball, just held, was a tragic ceremonial at which the prevailing feeling was the universal uneasiness which exists throughout Serbia. The rigid officers strutted about, evidently determined to show their authority while yet it lasts, but the efforts to keep dancing were a lamentable failure.

The strains of the splendid military orchestra were wasted in so far as the waiters were concerned, for during a greater part of the evening the floor was empty.

King Peter walked about, affable as ever, and tried hard to forget nobody, but to shed his royal benevolence impartially upon all.

Little groups of guests stood about whispering, and eyes suspiciously followed the movements of their political antagonists. The spectacle of Mr. Chamberlain chatting with Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman in the lobby of the House of Commons could find no parallel in the Royal palace of Belgrade where members of different parties "don't know each other" and exchange defiant stares across the parquet.

The most animated part of the ball was the rush to the buffet and the unbridled denunciations which followed. For one reason or another it was insufficiently furnished on this occasion, and such remarks were overheard as "The fellows (meaning the regicides) are disgracing the palace." "His Majesty does not know that we are actually suffering from a cholera epidemic, which was raging during that winter, but the following year shows another increase, as in that year the general average came up by four hundred and ninety-three, or an increase over the year preceding the smallpox of one hundred and ninety-three."

The following is a complete record of the different terms as well as the general average since 1872 until the present time.

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The motive was in every case the same. The murderer selected a victim who was pressed for money, lent him a fairly large sum and obtained his insurance policy as a guarantee of repayment.

There seems to be little doubt that he was born a criminal of the worst type. His father, a fine type of the Cape Huguenot, despaired of his son's vicious tendencies when the latter was only twelve years old. It is related of him that he once roasted a cat alive over a slow fire, and throughout his childhood was guilty of numerous acts of atrocious cruelty to animals.

His father, a man of robust health, who had never had an illness in his life, died suddenly on October 15, 1900. No post-mortem was held though the extraordinary suddenness of the death caused much comment, and there is little doubt that he was poisoned. He was insured for \$12,500, the whole of which went to Pierre Basson.

Early in 1903 Basson returned home one day from a fishing expedition and announced nonchalantly that his brother Jasper had been washed off a rock and drowned. Jasper was insured for nearly \$12,500, and the latter was that nearly the whole of this amount was in an accident policy, so that if Jasper had died a natural death Pierre would not have benefited.

Captain J. B. Porter has decided to leave St. John shortly on an extended travelling tour of the world.

GOT SIX MONTHS FOR
STEALING A WATCH

Swede at Moncton Arrested for Robbing a
Fellow Passenger.

MONCTON, N. B., March 24.—This morning Supt. J. A. Griffith sentenced Sophus Soveron, a Swede, to four months' jail for stealing a silver watch, value eight dollars, from John Murray. The men were at the I. C. R. depot here awaiting their respective trains. Soveron bound from Londonderry, P. E. I., to Calgary. Soveron, when arrested, was searched and the watch found on him. He pleaded not guilty.

ST. MARTINS.

ST. MARTINS, N. B., March 22.—St. Martin, Capt. C. Starratt, who has been on the DeLong block undergoing extensive repairs, is now ready for sea and will go to the Jorgins for a load of coal.

Mrs. (Capt.) R. Carson entertained a few friends Thursday evening; games and dancing were the entertainments. A midnight supper was served.

The ladies of the Methodist church held a pie social Friday evening at Shanklin. A large number from the village drove out. A good time was enjoyed. A substantial sum was raised for church purposes.

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Sch. Swallow, Capt. Ellis, and Emma T. Storey, Capt. Gough, are loading with lumber for the Hammond River Lumber Co. The cargoes are consigned to John E. Moore, St. John.

THE INCREASE IN SCHOOL ATTENDANCE.

Table Showing the Enrollment
Since 1872.

The Proportion of Teachers Has Increased
Even More than the
Scholars.

A record of the school attendance in the city of St. John since 1872 until the present time shows an increase of nearly two hundred pupils, and the increase in the general average in that time has nearly doubled itself.

In 1872 the number of school departments in this city was only ninety-two, and in 1900 the number had increased to one hundred and nine, and the increase for the twenty-eight years at the rate of over two departments per year. But while the number of departments and scholars have increased so rapidly during that time, the number of teachers has increased at a still greater rate, as in the year of 1872 the number of pupils for each teacher was fifty-seven, and in 1900 the number of pupils for each teacher was only forty-seven. While the record shows that in nearly every year during the period mentioned the number of pupils has increased, yet in 1901 the average attendance dropped three hundred. This, it might be said, was caused by a smallpox epidemic, which was raging during that winter, but the following year shows another increase, as in that year the general average came up by four hundred and ninety-three, or an increase over the year preceding the smallpox of one hundred and ninety-three.

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BOSTON, March 25.—Mr. and Mrs. Alexander Simpson celebrated their golden wedding anniversary this week. Mr. Simpson and Lavinia McKay were married at Pictou, N. S., by Rev. James Bayne. They had five sons and two daughters, five of the children still living.

OBSERVED GOLDEN
WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

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BOSTON MARKETS

A Good Demand For
Dressed Planks.

Maine Lumbermen Not Worrying
Over Season's Driving—Fish
Quotations.

BOSTON, March 25.—The strength of the market for spruce lumber is rather more pronounced than a week ago. For quick delivery of frames and miums have been so easily obtained that an effort to secure \$1 over regular rates, even when there is no great hurry, is not unusual. As yet buyers have not been found willing to pay the advances, and circumstances, therefore, do not justify any actual change in quotations. Of the orders being received at present not a few relate to prompt or quite early shipment.

A good demand for dressed planks has quite recently been a rather conspicuous feature of the market. Eastern hemlock boards are wanted but are increasingly difficult to find and easily command \$22. For Pennsylvania hemlock \$23 is asked, and at that figure the market is very firm.

The lath situation is not easy to gauge accurately, but it seems to be true that the feeling is just a little easier now than the time for more general shipment by water draws near.

In New York \$4 is at present the price for 1 1/2 inch, and in Boston it is hard today to get over \$4. Even for really nice elab laths it is doubtful if a seller would be courageous enough to ask more than \$4.25.

Shingles keep very firm. Favorite brands of extras if wanted in a hurry command as much as \$3.75, but this, of course, is not the market. Conservatively minded buyers are not likely to give any further appreciation occurs it will prove to be short lived. At the moment the market is certainly strong, with an upward tendency, but it would be a mistake to believe that there are now no extras to be had for \$3.50.

In claspboards interest is reviving but as yet actual business in them is of rather meagre proportions.

The lumber men in Maine, many of whom a fortnight ago were lying awake at night worrying about water to bring the drives out, are now generally satisfied with the situation.

The prices below are those asked the yards by the wholesale trade.

Spruce lumber, rail shipments—10 and 12 inch dimension,