

SAINT JOHN HAD DEBATES AS FAR BACK AS 1835

Archives Record Tells of
Organization by Six
Young Men

STORY OF SIR S. L.
TILLEY IS TOLD

Society Gave Youth of Day
Stepping Stone to
Success

Those engaged in debates among the membership of Saint John societies will be interested to read the first debating society in this city. It was instituted by six young men of the city, and an account of this enterprising young men's club is found among the records of the local office of the Dominion Bank Building, Princess street.

"In the good old days of England, and baseball was an undiscovered science," says the record, "some of the bright young men of Saint John had a happy thought. They resolved to form a debating club. In those days the Humberfield Academy was an educational institution, as prominent then as the Saint John High School is today. It stood at the southwest corner of Union and Charlotte streets. In this building six young men met on the night of October 10, 1835, and formed 'The Saint John Young Men's Debating Club.'

"The six ambitious youths were S. M. Chamberlain, John M. Campbell, W. R. M. Burtis, Joseph W. Lawrence, Charles Ansd and Henry Hanford. They adopted the motto: 'Our most important are our earlier years.' Very soon the membership was increased to about 50; young men, who, in after years, became Saint John's leading citizens. John Sears, James A. Harding (one time sheriff), S. L. Tilley, Valentine H. Nelson (author of My Own Canadian Home), Thomas Padlock, Thomas Padlock (son of Dr. Adine Padlock), Robert Shives, James W. Delaney, John Crosskill, and many others.

SOME OF SUBJECTS.

"Debates were begun and carried on with great activity that winter and for the three following winters. Weighty questions were discussed with no little zeal. One of these was: 'Resolved, that the measures of the Reform parliament have proved injurious not only to Great Britain, but to her dependencies.' And it was carried in the affirmative. As the measures included the emancipation of slaves throughout the Empire, the decision was a strikingly bold one.

"Another debate was to decide: 'Which is the greatest bulwark to British Freedom—full and perfect representation in Parliament; liberty of the press; with equitable restrictions; or trial by jury in its purity?' Yet another, 'Was the world benefited or injured by the discovery of America by Columbus?'

"These debates were public ones,

Healthy Hair

Gleamy, Thick, Wavy
—Full of Life



Modern style in hair dress, particularly constant waving and waving, is slowly burning the color, luster and life from the hair, leaving it dry, faded, brittle, streaked with gray; often the hair roots shrink, then the hair falls out fast.

A 35-cent bottle of refreshing, fragrant 'Danderine' will do wonders for any girl's hair. This vitriol beauty tonic acts on the hair like fresh showers of rain and sunshine act on vegetation. It goes right to the roots, invigorates, nourishes and strengthens them, helping the hair to grow thick, healthy and lustrous.

Try this for one week! While combing and dressing your hair, moisten your hair brush with a little 'Danderine' and brush it through your hair—the effect is startling! Your hair immediately taken on new life and that healthy, youthful luster, becomes incomparably soft, wavy and appears twice as thick and abundant.

and were held in the long room of the

Masonic Hall, as the building known

as the Saint John Hotel in later days

was called. The society had its quar-

ters in one of the smaller rooms of the

same building after removing from the

Humberfield Academy. Many

members were content to listen while

others talked and a few were promi-

nent in every debate. Among these

were Messrs. Chubb, Shives, Moore,

Hunt, Burtis, Lawrence, Harding,

Tilley, Sears and Delaney.

A LESSON LEARNED.

"One of the brightest of these was

James W. Delaney, who was then an

apprentice to George Hutchinson, a

watchmaker in Dock street. His

father, who was later to be governor

of New Brunswick, was then a clerk

in the drug store of William O. Smith,

Market Square. The young man

had many a wordy tilt in debate and

one day Delaney taught his friend a

very useful lesson. Before the meet-

ing, Delaney, who was to open the

debate, dropped to the drug store and

stated the line of argument he

intended to take. When Tilley heard

it, he quite as freely stated the nature

of his reply. That evening, Delaney

made his speech and at every stage of

it informed his auditors what his

friend Tilley was likely to say in re-

ply. The result was that his

opponent had expected to stand. The

druggist boy never forgot the lesson

and in all the future years of a bril-

liant career he never showed the

hand of an opponent could reap the

benefit.

"The first anniversary dinner was

given on October 10, 1836, and was a

memorable event in the history of the

society. It took place at the cafe of

Thomas Gard, in Prince William

street. There were 15 toasts, among

which were: The freedom of the press;

the birthplace of genius; the flowers

of literature; and the Society itself.

JOURNAL PUBLISHED.

"In October, 1837, John Crosskill, a

member of the society, published the

first number of 'The Literary and

Historical Journal,' in which was a

paper on elocution read before the

society by V. H. Nelson; also a prize

essay on 'The Rise and Progress of

New Brunswick,' for which the

society awarded W. R. M. Burtis a gold

medal.

"The society continued to exist until

1841, when the important duties of

life called the attention of the

society. The influence of the debates

was seen in after years; the members

had been taught to study; to think

and to seek for the improvement of

their minds. Some of the young

debaters became leading spirits in the

formation of the Mechanics' Institute.

Sir Leonard Tilley and John Sears

were its very first members. Others

of them were known down to quite

recent years as lecturers of no mean

importance. The society was indeed

the first step of the ladder on which

many of its members were, in after years,

to attain the highest rung."

THE FIRST TIME.

The Lord Mayor said he considered

it a great privilege and honor to

present the presentation. He congratulated

Captain Finlay and his crew on their

gallantry on the occasion. It was the

first time Captain Finlay had

carried out rescue work, as he had

previously received a gold watch and

chain from the owners of the entire

crew of that vessel when he captured

in mid-Atlantic in January, 1921. He

was also awarded a silver cup by the

King of Norway, and was, with his

chief officer, Mr. Black, awarded the

Emile-Robin award by the Ship-

wrecked Mariners' Society for the most

meritorious rescue of the year in ques-

tion. His behavior on this occasion

was just what they would expect of

him and his crew.

M. Jean Lesfargues, who was instru-

mental in securing the award, said

Captain Finlay was now a Companion

of the First Class in Annam, which

was a French protectorate.

CAPTAIN IS MODEST.

Captain Finlay, in returning thanks,

said he thought that what the Annam

Government had in mind was really a

tribute to the British Mercantile Mar-

ine, and in that spirit he gratefully

accepted the decoration. He assured

them that the chivalry of the sea was

as much an article of faith with the

British sailors as the freedom of the

seas. Sailors would always do their

utmost to maintain the high traditions

of their ancestors. He thought the

record of the Head Line steamers for

rescue work would compare more

favorably with that of any other line

plying the North Atlantic. Indeed,

its rescue and salvage work was known

all through the Western World, and it

was a great privilege to carry the flag

of the Red Hand of Ulster—to Eastern

waters.

Maurice V. Heyn, on behalf of the

owners, thanked the Lord Mayor for

his kindness, and spoke of the modesty

of Captain Finlay. In his report to

GOVERNMENT OF ANNAM PRESENTS ORDER TO CAPTAIN J. W. FINLAY

Government of Annam Pre-
sents Order to Captain
J. W. Finlay

EFFECTED RESCUE
IN GULF OF SIAM

Well Known Here and Wife
Was Saint John
Girl

The insignia of the Order of Kim

Khank, first class, has been conferred

on Captain J. W. Finlay, of the steamer

Fanah Head, by the Government of

Annam, in recognition of his work in

connection with the rescue of the crew

of a junk which was badly damaged in

storm in the Gulf of Siam. The presen-

tation was made a short time ago at

a meeting of the Belfast Local Marine

Board by the Lord Mayor of Belfast

on behalf of the Government of

Annam.

Captain Finlay is well known in this

port, as he has been coming here for

many years. His wife is a Saint John

girl, formerly Miss Evelyn Driscoll,

daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. M. Dris-

coll, West Saint John. Captain Finlay

will be here next month when the

steamer Fanah Head is here loading

for Belfast and Dublin.

STORY OF RESCUE.

The circumstances of the rescue were

narrated by Commander W. B. H.

White, R. D. R. N. R., secretary of the

Marine Board, who stated that on

February 12 last the Fanah Head was

proceeding from Saigon to Koh-

siang, when about 2 p. m. a junk was

sighted on the port bow, apparently

showing distress signals. The crew

of the Fanah Head was at once alerted

to close the junk and ascertain the

trouble.

On approaching the junk it was seen

that she was showing distress signals.

The crew were all on deck, some ges-

ticulating wildly and others in the atti-

tude of prayer. That none of the

crewmembers could speak any language

but their own, and it was very difficult

to get them to understand what was

proposed. The men of the junk were

languid and listless, and the crew

endeavored to satisfy those wants as

early as possible.

CREW TAKEN OFF.

Ultimately a tow rope was secured,

but as the junk had suffered very

severely in a recent storm and was

leaking badly, Captain Finlay decided

that it was impossible to tow her

even at slow speed. The tow rope

was then cast off, the Fanah Head

was maneuvered alongside of the junk

and the crew were transferred to the

Fanah Head. The men were isolated,

but otherwise made comfortable, and

the vessel arrived at Koh-si-chang

the following day, where they were

handed over to the French Minister at

Bangkok in due course.

The junk, before being abandoned,

was set on fire, as she would have

been a serious menace to navigation. It

was afterwards learnt from an inter-

preter that the junk had been more than a month

at sea, and had been blown off the land

in a storm, which had swept the Gulf

of Siam some days before. The crew

had run short of provisions, and had

been seven days without food, and had

had practically no water for the pre-

ceding three days. The rescue was

effected in the Gulf of Siam about 200

miles south of Bangkok-Bat.

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MRS. MARRINIER WEEPING ECZEMA RELIEVED BY "FRUIT-A-TIVES"

For three years I suffered with
weeping ecz