

THE WEATHER.

Maritime—Moderate, north-westerly to westerly winds; fine and a little milder.

Toronto, Mar. 23—Fair, mild weather prevails in all portions of the Dominion.

Washington, Mar. 23—Forecast: Northern New England—Fair Wednesday; Thursday—fair east, cloudy west; moderate northwest and west winds becoming southwest Wednesday night.

Table with columns: Temperatures, Min., Max. Rows include Victoria, Vancouver, Kamloops, Edmonton, Battleford, Prince Albert, Calgary, Medicine Hat, Moose Jaw, Winnipeg, Port Arthur, Pelly Sound, Toronto, Ottawa, Montreal, Quebec, St. John, Halifax.

Around the City

Horace Kellogg, Jr. Dead.

The funeral of Horace Kellogg, Jr., took place at Vancouver yesterday. Mr. Kellogg, who was well known among railroad men, had only been ill three days. He was about thirty years of age and was very popular.

Barney Barry Away

While the chain gang was working on Cradle Hill at Mount Pleasant yesterday afternoon Barney Barry escaped and up to a late hour last night had not been captured. It was while the guards were not looking that Barney made a clean get away. The prisoner is a man over sixty years of age, but despite his age is active enough to get clear of working for the city without wages.

Red Cross Work.

Every day finds earnest workers at the local Red Cross depot, Chipman Hill, and the executive and members are pleased with the response continually being given to appeals for help. It is pointed out, however, that there is still need for more circles or groups that will make up the materials for socks and other suitable clothing which will be gladly supplied from the depot rooms.

Oddfellows Celebrate.

Peerless Lodge, Independent Order of Oddfellows, held its annual celebration for the seamen members, who will soon take up their work for the summer. A programme of unusual merit was carried out and refreshments served. An enjoyable evening was spent. Those taking part in the programme were as follows: John Salmon, F. Dunham, John Cunningham, M. D. Morrell, Charles Hannah, F. W. Stanton, James Moore, W. J. Sanderson, W. F. Mitchell, J. S. Clayton, H. E. Codner, W. W. Chase, E. N. Stockford, W. Bagnell and J. Johnston. The gathering broke up with the singing of the National Anthem.

Graham Doing Well

Reports from the General Public Hospital late last night were to the effect that Private Graham of the 26th Battalion was rapidly recovering and would be around in a few days. Graham is the young man who drank carbolic acid a few days ago, but failed in the attempt to end his life. There was a report about the city yesterday that another member of the 26th had attempted suicide, but on investigation it was learned that such was not the case. Yesterday morning, while walking along the street, Private Walter Collins of the battalion was stricken with syncope on Coburg street and fell to the sidewalk in a faint. He was conveyed to the General Public Hospital for treatment.

Soldiers Were "Kept In"

The early morning march of the soldiers of the 26th Battalion yesterday and the actions of some unruly ones in the armory on Monday night formed the subject of considerable discussion about the city yesterday. As previously stated the two or three hours' march out in the early morning for punishment may have something to do in teaching a lesson to those who have acted badly, but the good boys of the battalion are being served with the same medicine. The soldiers, in addition to the usual drill, yesterday, were all given a long march out in the morning and afternoon and when they returned to the armory the orders were passed that there would be no leave for three days. Accordingly every soldier was in barracks last night, and as far as the members of the 26th is concerned the streets and theatres were deserted.

CHILDREN'S RAIN COATS

F. A. Dykeman & Co. are placing on sale a large lot of samples of children's raincoats in sizes from six to sixteen years. There is no two alike in the large lot and the prices are one-third less than the regular price. They are made from good material, and the newest styles. Some have the cape and hood, while others have the regulation raglan, and plain sleeves. The prices run from \$2.25 to \$6.50.

Broad Cove coal and Pictou Egg coal now landing, J. S. Gibbon & Co.

SILLY CANARD OF THE TIMES CAUSES REVULSION AMONG SUPPORTERS OF COMMISSION

Citizens who refused to sign Petition now ready to do so - Over 2,800 names on petition - Ex-Sergeant Finley repudiates story of the Times.

Notwithstanding the assertion of The Times that only 600 persons had signed the petition asking for a plebiscite on the question of whether the commission form of government had proved satisfactory up to last Friday evening, reputable citizens assert that on that date 2,800 citizens had signed the petition. Since then the number of signers to the petition has been increased.

"The Times is a silly falsifier, and is hurrying the commission form of government in the home of its friends," said a well-known citizen last evening. "I attended the meeting at which The Times said a slate was drawn up. There was no talk of a slate of any kind. The Times should have apologized for its report, but instead of doing so it attempted to gloss over the matter, and then told another lie about the number of signatories to the petition for a plebiscite. Reports made at the meeting on Friday night showed 2,800 citizens had signed the petition, instead of 600 as The Times asserts.

"However, those who want an expression of opinion from the citizens in regard to the commission form of government are much indebted to the silly campaign of The Times and Telegraph. Yesterday after the unfair and stupid tactics of The Times had been exposed one of the best known merchants in the city called up and asked that a man with the plebiscite petition be sent round to see him. "I refused to sign the petition once," he said, "but I am convinced now that an unfair attempt is being made to discredit those who are asking for the plebiscite, and because I believe in fair play I will sign the petition, though I am still prepared to go to the polls and vote in favor of the commission form of government. When the matter of adopting the commission form of government came up the old council passed a motion providing for a plebiscite on the question at the request of a small committee of citizens, and did not wait for a petition to be sent to the legislature. Those of us who supported the commission form of government can hardly object to giving the citizens an opportunity to express their opinion. The commissioners themselves if they are satisfied that they have given satisfaction ought to welcome the idea of such plebiscite."

This merchant is not the only one whose attitude has been changed by the campaign of the Times, and it is expected that if the petition is kept in circulation the number of signers will be greatly increased in the next few days.

An attempt has been made by the Times and Telegraph to convey the impression that the prime movers in the campaign to secure a plebiscite were discharged policemen, and the Times even declared that ex-Sergeant Finley was one of the members of its imaginary slate. The following letter indicates the malicious character of the Times' stories:

To the Editor of The Standard, Sir—Allow me a few lines in your paper to express my opinion as to my name appearing on an imaginary aldermanic slate printed in the evening Times.

I never heard of such a slate. I have not been consulted on the matter at any time and never heard the matter discussed. I consider it a high-handed piece of work to publish names in this way, without making any effort to confirm such a rumor, if indeed it is such, or merely pure imagination on the part of the Times.

I will leave it to the public to judge the motive which prompted the Times to publish a story without the least foundation. I am of the opinion that has proven to be too expensive for St. John. The debt of the city has increased too rapidly during the past three years, and if the Board of Trade had not protested the increase would have been even greater than it is.

Why should work be done or supplies be purchased without competition or tenders, as appears to be the practice at present? Why should citizens be treated as if they were the servants of the commissioners instead of the commissioners being servants of the public? The contention of the promoters of the commission system was that we would secure the services of better men by paying them \$2,000 a year instead of \$200, but what do we find? Four members of the present commission are gentlemen whom the commission promoters thought the city should be rid of. I will leave it to the public to judge if the fifth member is any better than his fellow commissioners.

These are some of the reasons why I favor a change, and I am not alone in my opinion. If the Times would like to know my other reason I would be pleased to grant an interview at any time with the understanding that the report of such interview will be published without being trimmed up to suit the imagination of the Times.

I am, yours respectfully, WM. H. FINLEY.

valuable addition to the fire fighting capacity of the department. The next and most immediate requirement of this department is a ladder truck, which should be purchased immediately.

This department remained in about the same condition, as the previous year, with this exception, that a gov-

STEAMSHIP SERVICES TO NOVA SCOTIA

Meeting of merchants recommends granting of subsidies asked by steamers John L. Cann and Westport III— Department of

A meeting of merchants interested in trade with Nova Scotia was held at the Board of Trade rooms yesterday afternoon to consider the matter of making a report to the Dominion Department of Trade and Commerce, regarding the steamship services from St. John to Yarmouth and points in Digby County. It is understood that Hon. George E. Foster asked the merchants of St. John interested to make a report to his department regarding last year's services, and also to make recommendations for the present year.

At the meeting, which was fairly well attended, the consensus of opinion was that the two steamship services had proved of great benefit to St. John last year, and that it was not desirable that the services should be discontinued. The company operating the John L. Cann, which runs between St. John and Yarmouth, is willing to continue its service at the same subsidy it received last year, but the company operating the Westport III, is asking \$1,500 more than was given it last year. Mr. Hopkins appeared before the meeting on behalf of the John L. Cann, and Mr. Patisson appeared on behalf of the Westport III. A representative of the Halifax and Southwestern Railway was present and told of the rates which his company was prepared to make in connection with the service of the John L. Cann to Yarmouth. The meeting, of which Percy Thomson, chairman of the Traffic Committee of the Board of Trade, was chairman, decided to send in a report to the Department of Trade and Commerce expressing approval of the service given by the two boats last year, and recommending that the government take steps to provide the subsidies asked for during the current year, and that the government maintain its trade with Nova Scotia points affected.

Reference was made to the department investigation into the department was held, and a re-organization was considered necessary. The result will probably mean that the city will be empowered to appoint the chief of this department, and such changes made as will be considered necessary for the efficiency of the force.

Light Department. This department has received the usual amount of attention and there has been a considerable number of lights added, but more of the 100 Watt type than arcs.

The system of lighting the city is not a good one, and it is intended to secure such information, regarding the lighting systems adopted by other cities, as will place this department in a position to recommend a system, as will meet the requirements.

Market Department. This department has met with greater success than in any year since it was established, and although prophecies were made by self constituted experts, that the business would decrease along revenue lines, if the present methods were pursued, in conducting the business, I must refer you to the accounts as published, to prove how incorrect these opinions were.

After paying all expenses including the interest charge of \$7,000.00 and the regular amount of \$1,000.00 for sinking fund, a further amount of \$4,124.72 was applied to the sinking fund. I will have to recommend that the market streets be renewed this year with such material as will permit of flushing the streets daily. This will entail considerable cost, but it is absolutely necessary from a sanitary as well as an economical maintenance standpoint, that it be done immediately.

Construction of Buildings. This department has been conducted in a more satisfactory manner than for some time previous, and certain improvements will be carried out as soon as possible. A new building law is necessary but this is a matter on which considerable thought and time may be sent, in view of the fact that it will be somewhat difficult to compile a law that will meet with approval.

Public Buildings. The buildings under this department are kept in a good state of repair and for those who do not have to occupy them, may appear to be all that is necessary for a new city hall, or some means of enlarging the present one, and equipping the same with more modern means of access to the various departments becomes more obvious as each year rolls around. Any recommendation made by me at this time in regard to this matter I believe would be fruitless.

Respectfully submitted, H. R. McLELLAN, Com. of Public Safety.

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Macaulay Bros. & Co., King Street, St. John, N. B. Initial Display of New Spring Cluny and Torchon Laces and Insertions Our deliveries of these beautiful Laces and Insertions are now complete and we have at present on exhibit one of the finest and best assorted stocks of CLUNY AND TORCHON

Mantels, Grates and Tiles If you need mantels a visit to our showrooms will be most interesting. The experience gained in the past thirty years is reflected in our stock and the values offered. Wood Mantels in the Latest Designs. Register Grates and Open Fire Places. And-Irons and Fenders--Brass and Black. Fire Irons, Spark Guards, Gas Logs, etc.

See the Interesting Window Demonstration of Ostermoor Mattresses AT FURNITURE STORE, MARKET SQUARE Another Great Sale of 11c Per Yard Full Width Prints 11c Per Yard Medium and Dark Colorings in Attractive Patterns Commencing This Morning This will be a bargain surprise as the goods are all perfect, not even slightly irregular in weave, and beautifully printed and unusually fine in texture. Remember the price, per yard - 11c NO SAMPLES GIVEN AT THIS SALE Wash Goods Dept.—Front Store

BOYS' SUITS There is superior style, perfect fit, fine appearance and extra durability in these Spring Suits for boys. Mothers should come and look over the display now while the new models are here in full assortments. TWO PIECE NORFOLK SUITS, plain, yoke and fancy styles. Tweeds and Worsted in greys and browns; pin checks, stripes, club checks and mixtures. Some of the suits with two pairs of bloomer pants. Ages 7 to 18 years. Prices from \$3.15 to \$15.00 FANCY SUITS, an almost endless array of styles in Russian, Oliver Twist and Buster Brown Suits, a great variety of becoming trimming effects. Ages 2 1/2 to 6 years. Prices from \$3.25 to \$9.50 PLAIN SAILOR AND MIDDY SAILOR SUITS, \$3.25 to \$8.25 BOYS' CLOTHING DEPARTMENT. Manchester Robertson Allison, Limited