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MR. WOODS AS WELL AS A MANAGER

One of His Plays, "Billy The Kid" is Remembered Here.

SIEGE OF OJINAGA HAD NOTHING ON IT

Has had Success in Theatrical Career, and Many Present Day Stars Owe Success to Him.

The following report approving the principle of Com. Aar's local improvement Act was adopted by the council of the Board of Trade yesterday, and will be submitted to the meeting of the full board on Monday. To the council of Board of Trade, St. John, N. B.:

A special committee convened by department of civics to consider the proposed act respecting the paving of the streets and sidewalks of the City of St. John, wishes to report as follows:

In a country it is found that not only is the principle of assessing abutting property owners for a portion of the cost of permanent street paving, generally adopted by all the principal cities of Canada and the United States, but also that the proportion assessed against abutting property owners is usually much larger than that provided for in the proposed act for this city, and it further appears that it is customary to make such assessment against local property owners, whether the improvement is initiated by them or by the city authorities.

The principle that where there is local benefit, there should be local assessment, is so manifestly fair, that there can scarcely be any objection to it. There is, however, to be a wide difference of opinion as to the proportion of local and general benefit derived from any particular improvement that may be proposed, and it seems desirable, therefore, that some rule should be established by law to determine what portion of the cost of any improvement undertaken by the city, shall be assessed against local property owners and the city at large. The only other alternative would be the reference of each case to a permanent arbitration board, which would not only be very costly, but would also cause considerable delay in the undertaking of needed improvements.

While, however, the committee is of the opinion that such a law as that proposed is correct in principle, and necessary in the interest of the community, they feel that it should receive the endorsement of the Board of Trade under an opportunity has been afforded for discussion of its details by a full meeting of the board. It is, therefore, recommended that the matter be taken up as the principal subject for discussion at the February meeting of the board.

W. F. BURDITT,
Chairman, Dept. of Civics,
St. John, N. B., Jan. 27, 1914.

MR. WALTER WOODS

In the theatrical Who's Who of America, Walter Woods of the Thompson-Woods Stock Company, now playing at the Opera House, has two claims to distinction. In the first place he is the greatest little leader of ferocious hopes in the show business and in the second he is the sole author of "Billy the Kid" of the first record he talks with pleasure but does not say much about the second, that is not until he has been cornered and then he hastens to explain that he is doing his best to live it down.

Mr. Woods to tell it properly is a member of the firm of Thompson & Woods of Boston. For a number of years the firm has been prominent in theatrical ventures and at the present time in addition to the local company they are proprietors of the Brockton Stock Company as well as a number of profitable road organizations. Starting out as an advance agent, Mr. Woods soon learned the essential things in that end of the theatrical business. He could talk shop with the tank town reporters and jolly them into a half column of free advertising right under the nose of the business manager and then make them feel they were indebted to him for a good story. It is said of him that he was a success a head of a show but his immortal soul was not satisfied. Way down deep under his hat he had the idea that as a real live actor he had the most of them lashed to the mast and every time he had an opportunity to allow his show to find with him he used to stand in the back of the house first nights and make faces at the hero just by way of showing his utter contempt for all so-called actors.

Finally one dark night his boss happened to be in the audience and not noticing a commotion in the rear of the theatre, wended his way back to find Walter making a contemptuous moue (the writer has been told that "moue" is a very stylish word, and much more up to date than moue, which it is intended to represent, consequently "moue" goes proof reader or no proof reader). Anyway that what he was making. Well when the boss came along and surprised the advance man at his wily way he uttered a few utterances to the effect that if Mr. Woods was not satisfied with the work of the ladies and gentlemen on the stage he could either show that he could do better himself or else throw up his job. Truly opportunity was knocking at his door with an axe.

In consequence he was translated from the back of the house to the back of the stage and for some time played with success. But the discontent was strong in him and from showing that actors, all and sundry, did not know their business he started in to criticize the plays. He said he would write better ones himself and again alone came opportunity with an axe. Consequently he evolved "Billy the Kid." Ever see Billy the Kid? Then you have no idea what you have missed. Funny how some people are born to fortune. The writer has seen it and he thought he would ever look upon it like again he would at once give the genial author an opportunity to become plaintiff in a suit for assault and battery.

However, such as it is, Mr. Woods wrote it and it was a money maker. Also it was once in St. John. Just a little more than a year ago "Billy" arrived for a one night's visit. Early the next morning he left and has not returned. Possibly a brief resume of the story of the piece which brought money and enemies to Mr. Woods might be of interest.

A nice lovable youth named Willie,

who was so expert in the use of a Smith & Wesson that he could shoot much as giving "nunkle" a cold in the head, returned to his home one day to find that in his absence an enemy (slow motion) has shot up his relatives and altogether put the happy family circle on the friz. Willie at once professes the S. & W., looks at it longingly, fires 47 shots at the scenery, and vows to be revenged whereupon he changes his name to "Billy," ties a red handkerchief around his neck and starts off looking for vengeance, 328 more shots and curtain.

In the second act "Billy" has come up with trouble. Deputy sheriffs which have a habit of butting in whenever a nice hardworking young man decides to decimate the population, have rounded him up and express their determination to take him to jail. "Billy" remarks that he has no such intention, shoots 654 shots into the general direction of the sheriffs and departs in a halo of smoke and powder.

Act III—"Billy" loves, but the object of his affection has a bully sweet heart, who is mean enough to take advantage of an orphan like our hero and tells him that as far as his fame, morita is concerned it is "skidoo." 465 shots. Good bye bully and curtain falls with Billy still burning powder.

There are several other acts, but they are similar in construction. Suffice it to say that after being out three weeks "Billy the Kid" was sold to the Remington Arms Company and Joe Santley, who was playing in it had to get another vehicle. Mr. Santley, who is now a "big time star" still says he owes his start in life to "Billy Woods." As a matter of fact he probably owes not only his start in life but all the rest of it to the fact that "Billy" was not loaded with real bullets, for a young man who fires by actual count 7,865 shots every performance for weeks on end, may some time become pensive, and if he gun carried the real article in the way of bullets might damage himself.

After "Billy" Mr. Woods was convinced that his play was his for years and he kept it at it with much success. In collaboration with Wilbur Fawley, society editor of the New York Times, he has written "The Woman in the Lampshade," which may be produced here. He has also written several other pieces which are be-

At Odds Over Fight for Amendment



There is disruption in the ranks of woman suffragists here which affects many women throughout the country. At present there is little indication of a settlement, further than that the wings of the suffragettes will work independently for the passage of the amendment to the federal constitution granting to women the right to vote, saying as little as possible about their differences.

When the Congressional Union announced its policy to work against the state in power should it refuse to pass the suffrage amendment, Dr. Anna Howard Shaw, president of the National Association, denounced the methods of the Congressional Union as opposed to those of the national organization. She characterized the policy as being modeled after the methods of Mrs. Emmeline Pankhurst, in England. The campaign of the national body, Mrs. Shaw said, will be non-partisan. Each member of Congress opposing woman suffrage will be campaigned against in his own district, she said.

Through clever maneuvering the Congressional Union has now been severed from all connection with the National Association.

The Congressional Committee of the National Association has opened headquarters in the campaign for the suffrage amendment. Mrs. Medill McCormick is the chairman. Mrs. McCormick is being assisted by Mrs. Antonietta Funk and Mrs. Sherman Booth, both of Chicago, in the campaign for the suffrage amendment.

ATTACK ON BAY OF FUNDY BY CAPT. CLIFT REFUTED IN HOUSE BY HON. MR. HAZEN

Capt. Clift is not an Official of Marine Department.

STATEMENT IS BOTH UNFAIR AND UNJUST

Report on Cobequid Disaster will, in all Probability, Show it was Not due to any Inherent Danger in Bay.

Special to The Standard. Jan. 30.—The attack upon the Bay of Fundy, which has been made by a number of the Liberal newspapers, including the Ottawa Free Press, has caused keen controversy in the capital. The basis of the attack is a report, which was published in the Ottawa Free Press, and which was based upon a statement made by Capt. Clift in a speech in the House of Commons. The report stated that Capt. Clift, who is an official of the Marine and Fisheries Department, had made a statement to the effect that the Bay of Fundy was a particularly dangerous water for mariners, and that the cause of the disaster was due to an inherent danger in the bay.

Capt. Clift is not an official of the Marine and Fisheries Department, he is a retired sailing master living in Montreal. "From time to time," said Hon. J. D. Hazen, in referring to the matter in the Commons, "for a good many years past the wreck commissioner in investigating wrecks in the Bay of Fundy, which has been made up by a number of the Liberal newspapers, including the Ottawa Free Press, has caused keen controversy in the capital. The basis of the attack is a report, which was published in the Ottawa Free Press, and which was based upon a statement made by Capt. Clift in a speech in the House of Commons. The report stated that Capt. Clift, who is an official of the Marine and Fisheries Department, had made a statement to the effect that the Bay of Fundy was a particularly dangerous water for mariners, and that the cause of the disaster was due to an inherent danger in the bay.

The articles in an alleged interview with Captain R. F. Clift, of Montreal, who was a passenger on the ill-fated Cobequid, and who is credited with the statement that "it is nothing short of manslaughter, no, it is worse, it is murder, to compel vessels to traverse the Bay of Fundy, and that the cause of such terrifying hurricanes are likely to crop up and when fogs make it almost impossible to be certain of a safe passage, with the dangerous racing currents."

An attempt has been made to prove that Capt. Clift is an official of the Marine and Fisheries Department, and to convey the impression that Capt. Clift's views were the official views of the department.

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P. E. ISLAND MAN'S HEAD OF VANCOUVER POLICE

Denies That He Intends To Retire

B. F. Smith Contradicts Statement of Opposition Press of Withdrawal from Active Part in Politics.

Malcolm B. McLellan Appointed as Successor to Chief Mulhearn.

MARITIME PROVINCE MEN TAKING LEAD

Former Nova Scotian Telegrapher's Interesting Reminiscences—Repeated First Message Over Atlantic Cable from Queen Victoria to U.S. President

Hardland, N. B., Jan. 27.—"I have never made any statement, on any paper or party, what my intentions are along political lines. If any statements have appeared in the public press, as coming from me, they are entirely without foundation." These are the words of Mr. B. F. Smith, of Florenceville, in answer to a query by your correspondent as to the truth of insistent remarks here regarding his withdrawal from an active part in politics in Carleton county. Mr. Smith has just returned from Ottawa, and during his absence last week the statement appeared in one of the opposition papers of the county that Mr. Smith was to retire from politics and considered that some compensation was due him for his loyalty to the Conservative cause during the past years, and that he was looking forward to a seat in the Senate of Canada as his reward. In the light of Mr. Smith's statement, as given above, the inference must be drawn that somebody is making politics where there is little material to work upon.

That there is good stage talent in Hardland was bountifully shown on Monday evening, when some members of the High school here put on the boards at the Lyric a delightful little comedy in three acts entitled "All Tangled Up." There was a capacity audience and the audience was delighted with laughter from the rise of the curtain until the last lines were spoken in the third act. The scenes were well set, the lines clearly enunciated and the parts very well played for an amateur aggregation. The male actors were Curtis Simmons, Kenneth Keith, Lyric Giesen, Ray Plummer and George Boyer; while the ladies in the cast were Misses Mary Carr, Pearl Ridcomb and Anna Murdoch. Each player did justice to his or her part and Mr. W. would be difficult to say who carried off the honors of the evening.

Principal Alexander and his wife deserve no small degree of praise for their part in the training of the pupils and the general management of the play.

Col. Marsh, of Fredericton, who last week celebrated his 85th birthday, is a native of Carleton county, and was born in Upper Simonsville, N. B., 55 years ago. Like the late chief constable, he grew up with the force—rather the force grew up with him. He spent the greater part of his life in the force, and was promoted to the rank of constable in 1886. He assumed the command of the first paid force when it was created four years later. At that time the equipment was all hand-made; now the greater part of it is self-propelled. There are fourteen fire halls in the city, manned by 182 firemen, of whom are from New Brunswick. Although nineteen pieces of apparatus are auto-driven, over 30 horses are still used in the department mostly to pull the steam fire engines, only one of which is an automobile. Fourteen pieces of apparatus are horse-drawn. Chief Carlisle introduced the auto fire apparatus into Vancouver in 1908 before the experiment had been tried in any other Pacific Coast city and soon after the system had been inaugurated for the first time in the western half of the continent.

A prominent merchant of Nanaimo and a native of Prince Edward Island died in the General Hospital here last week in the person of Mr. A. E. MeLeod. He had come west in search of health and was visiting his brother-in-law, Mr. T. H. B. Witter, Lakewood Drive, prior to leaving for a health resort in California.

Mrs. Henry Lawson, a native of Prince Edward Island, celebrated her eighty-fourth birthday in Victoria last week.

To have worked as a telegrapher for nearly sixty years, during which he was employed on nearly every important telegraph line in America, has been the experience of Mr. W. P. Archibald, who, last month, celebrated his seventy-sixth birthday. He has been manager of the C. P. R. office in Nanaimo, Vancouver Island, for nearly nineteen years and an office of the C. P. R. for over twenty-four years. There are few men that up to a short time ago could send faster than Archibald, who must soon retire, however, because of his failure in his eyesight.

Mr. Archibald's experience anti-dated the introduction of the cable wire across the Atlantic. He remembers the days of the pony express in the Maritime Provinces, when the presence of a cable service, newspapers were taken off the steamers from the old country and carried by hard-driving horsemen to the nearest railway line, there to be conveyed to the nearest telegraph office for transfer to the Associated Press.

He started at telegraphy in 1852 in Nova Scotia and six years later had the honor of repeating the first message that ever came over the Atlantic (Continued on page 3)

TAFT IS IMPRESSED BY VISIT TO CANADA

Thinks Canadians a Great People, and he had a Fine Time—Made Many Friends in Toronto.

Toronto, Jan. 30.—"You are a great people, you Canadians, I wish you prosperity. I have had a charming visit and a splendid time. I have met many and will carry away with me the kindest thoughts of the citizens of Toronto. Just give them my best regards and tell them that I ask their forgiveness if I have tired them."

"This was the farewell message of William Taft before leaving Toronto for Ottawa this morning. Mr. Taft was escorted to his train by Sir John Gibson and party. Once in a compartment with newly-made friends. He shook hands all round and thanked Sir John for his hospitality.

It is expected to be in Ottawa tonight and will likely go over to your legislature. If all goes well I will be back in New Haven for church on Sunday.

SECRETARY OF BOARD OF TRADE RESIGNS

The resignation of H. T. Hoag, secretary of the St. John Board of Trade, was presented to the council of the board at a meeting yesterday. The resignation, which came as a surprise to the council, was not accompanied by any explanation, but as it was of a definite character, the council was forced to accept. It will take effect on March 1.