

THE WEATHER.

MARITIME: Fair and cold, but some snow flurries. Toronto, Ontario, March 3.—The weather has been fair and cold today, throughout Canada east of the Rocky Mountains, except that snow has fallen in Southern Alberta and snow flurries have occurred locally in the Lake regions. Mild conditions have prevailed in British Columbia.

Table with weather forecasts for various locations including Dawson, Allin, Prince Rupert, Victoria, Vancouver, Kamloops, Edmonton, Battleford, Prince Albert, Calgary, Moosejaw, Qu'Appelle, Winnipeg, Port Arthur, Pelly, London, Toronto, Ottawa, Montreal, Quebec, St. John, Halifax, Lower St. Lawrence, and Gulf-Western winds, fair and cold.

AROUND THE CITY

Thorne Lodge Meeting. Rev. Wellington Camp will be the speaker at the temperance meeting to be held under the auspices of Thorne Lodge L. O. G. T. in their hall Haymarket square, on Sunday afternoon.

Market Committee. A meeting of the Market Committee which was set for yesterday afternoon at 4 o'clock, was not held owing to the absence of a quorum. The committee will meet this morning at 11 o'clock.

Temperance Meeting. Loyalist Division Sons of Temperance, will hold its weekly Gospel temperance meeting in the Gospel Hall, Paradise Row on Sunday evening at 8.30. R. H. Cocher will be the speaker and there will be special music.

Infant Class Entertained. Mrs. N. P. McLeod entertained the members of her infant class in the Charlotte street United Baptist Sunday school at her home Watson street, on Thursday afternoon. There were about 35 children present and they heartily enjoyed themselves. Games were enjoyed from 3 o'clock to 7 and a dainty supper was served.

Licenses for M. J. Nugent. The Liquor License Commissioners met yesterday afternoon and discussed the matter of granting M. J. Nugent a license to sell liquor on Main street. There were no protests presented before the commissioners and it was decided to grant Mr. Nugent a license.

Socialist Meeting. J. W. Eastwood will speak on the "Housing and Rent problem in St. John," on Sunday night at 11 in the street. A Taylor will take the chair. Doors open at 8 p. m., commence at 8.15. A silver collection will be taken on entering. Ladies are always welcomed.

Restigouche L. O. L. Restigouche County Loyal Orange Lodge elected the following officers for the ensuing term at their annual meeting held in Campbellton: D. K. Graham, worshipful county master; Walter Scott, deputy county master; D. P. DeLaportelle, recording secretary; George A. Duncan, treasurer; J. Kierstead, chaplain; J. E. Haines, lecturer; William Corling, director of ceremonies; James McDavid, financial secretary.

Empress of Ireland Arrives. The C. P. R. steamship Empress of Ireland arrived off Partridge Island shortly after midnight and came to her berth at No. 2 West End, and her passengers were expected to get away early this morning. The Empress landed 1242 passengers and 60 cabin, 457 second cabin, and 719 third class passengers. James Patten, of the Ogilvie Flour Mills Co., and his bride were among the passengers.

BUILDING PROSPECTS ARE NOT ENCOURAGING

Local Architects Expect Dull Season Unless Development Around Courtney Bay Materializes—The Outlook.

Although there is much talk of a boom in building this spring, inquiries made among local architects yesterday failed to elicit any definite information regarding the prospects in the building trades this season. Everything seems to depend on whether work is started on the sugar refinery and at Courtney Bay, in connection with the G. T. P. or government projects. The minister of public works announced some time ago that there would be 1,000 men working on the shores of Courtney Bay by July 1st and if this expectation is realized there will no doubt be a good deal of work for the building trades, not only in connection with the proposed docking and railway terminal facilities, but in putting up cottages for the accommodation of the workers in the vicinity.

Mr. Pugsley has had visions of 10,000 ton ships coming up Courtney Bay before this, but a more substantial prediction was the statement made by President Hays at the board of trade banquet that G. T. P. trains would be coming into St. John within a year; which would indicate that the G. T. P. will be doing some work here by July.

As for the sugar refinery, Mr. Durant has until the 15th of this month to start work and so far there has been no information forthcoming as to whether he is willing or able to proceed with the work. Evidently he is not prepared to start construction work on an extensive scale or his representatives would in all probability be here now making the preliminary arrangements. It is believed in financial circles that Mr. Durant has not raised the money, though he may be able to do enough work to make his agreement with the city valid for another year or so.

THE COMMON COUNCIL PROMPTLY EXPOSED

Statements Endorsed by Commission Organ Shown to be False in Every Particular--Deliberate Misrepresentation or Gross Ignorance Says Standard's Correspondent--Discreditable Tactics.

To the Editor of The Standard. Sir:—I noticed in the Times this evening a letter signed Commission Plan, in which the writer attacked the boards of the common council for their methods in dealing with certain specified transactions at the meetings held this week. The Times gives the letter great prominence, heads the article City Hall Gives Best Arguments For Commission, and endorses it editorially. Whether the letter was written in the Times office or not, is immaterial, it has the full approval of the Times, whose editor is the accredited press agent of the commission campaign and the statements and arguments contained therein must be accepted as an example of the campaign literature with which it is hoped to defeat the common council at the approaching plebiscite.

The letter is noteworthy as it is about the first genuine attempt to attack the common council. Hitherto the advocates of commission have contented themselves through the columns of the Telegraph and Times the only newspapers in St. John which they can get to support them, with generalities, such as calling the reform movement inaugurated by the council the work of a "clique" and endeavoring by sneers and insinuations and much prating about "business methods" to bring the present system of civic government into disrepute. Now at last we have something tangible in the way of charges. As soon as I saw the letter I lost no time in making inquiries, as any citizen and ratepayer is entitled to do, and I have no hesitation in saying that the statements made are a disgraceful perversion of facts or a gross misstatement of the facts of civic affairs than was even to be expected from the advocates of commission.

The Safety Board. The first matter dealt with by Commission Plan, relates to the proposed sale of certain city property in the North End. His statement is as follows: "At the safety board it was decided to recommend that the city building in the North End be sold to Dr. Maher for \$3,400. At the present time this building is bringing the city a rental of \$25 a year, or nearly 10 per cent. on that valuation. If \$3,400 is accepted, what will be done with the money? If it is put in the bank it will draw 3 per cent. interest or \$102 a year, as compared with \$25, a direct loss of \$223 a year to the city. Is that the way business men would act?"

Now, sir, here is a direct charge that the aldermen by their recommendation would deliberately incur a loss of \$223 a year on the city. What do I find on inquiry, are the facts. The city pays an annual ground rent to the Dominion government of \$50 for this property which is part of Fort Howe and there is an additional yearly charge of \$17 for insurance. Repairs may be placed at the modest estimate of \$30 a year. The net revenue is therefore not \$25, but \$28. The city cannot collect taxes or water rates on its own property, so there are no receipts now from these sources. If the property realizes \$3,400 by sale, the funds can be invested in city 4 per cent. bonds, not by depositing in a bank at 3 per cent., as Commission Plan in his ignorance supposes, which will give a net income of \$136. A charge of \$27.50 a year will be made on the new owner for water rates and \$80 a year for taxes. So the total revenue after the city disposes of the property will be \$243, or an increase of \$15 on the present net receipts. And the Times in its eagerness to bring discredit on the common council sends broadcast over the city the lying statement that there will be a loss of \$223 a year. And with its mind set on a commission and "business methods," endorses the question, "Is that the way business men would act?" This is only one specimen of commission campaign methods.

The Board of Works. Then follows an attack by the writer in the Times against the Board of Works in connection with the specifications for permanent pavement. He states that the city engineer knew nothing about the proposed method when he recommended the acceptance of their tender, entirely overlooking the fact that the city engineer previously made a special investigation of this and other methods and visited the Hasmak works under instructions from the council.

"Commission Plan's" contention that no alternative method should be mentioned in the specifications is ridiculous. Surely if a more modern and better method is offered by a tenderer, the city should be at liberty to accept it. The specifications used by the city are, I understand, standard specifications adopted by other cities and invariably contain a provision permitting the use of a permanent pavement "equally good or better."

The Marble Cove Sewer. The next mare's nest discovered by Commission Plan has reference to a preliminary arrangement. It is believed in financial circles that Mr. Durant has not raised the money, though he may be able to do enough work to make his agreement with the city valid for another year or so.

As regards the project to build a paper mill in connection with the Partington pulp mill, it does not appear that any definite arrangements have been made yet though there is a greater probability that it will materialize than that Mr. Durant will build a sugar refinery.

At the present time the local architects do not have much work in hand, and they are inclined to think that things will be dull in the building line this season, unless the government and the railways start development work at Courtney Bay.

As yet local landlords do not show signs of putting up new buildings, but they seldom make a move till April—except to put up rents, which are very high in some sections of the city. The various Land and Realty Companies will probably put up some dwelling houses this year, but then architects are badly handicapped by the street car service to suburban sections, and the difficulty of securing water and sewerage accommodation.

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Vertical text on the right edge of the page, including "VOL II NO", "DEST", "CA", "Prof. Leaco", "Vigorous", "Reciproci", "als.", "Speaking i", "Says it", "the Work", "of Confec", "Quebec, Que.", "before a crowd", "political charac", "night, Prof. Les", "treaty. The att", "force this finan", "Canadian people", "They had no me", "nd had never", "as she had been", "her own destini", "come from the s", "dered their nat", "an extent that", "with exhaustio", "for, desirous of", "riers to get at", "in order to relie", "own.", "Dwelling upon", "the past to build", "nationhood the", "hearers not to", "that they were", "their emprise.", "place of Canada", "more than two", "to throw in the", "States. Canada", "ded by the dov", "(the Hudson an", "reciprocation", "not fall to sever", "would undo at o", "of Confederatio", "reciprocation", "mean higher pr", "wheat, in the", "that by reciproc", "beautifully cheap