

## MR. SEARS TO THE DEFENCE OF POST OFFICE

Complaints Regarding West Side Postal Service He Says Are Unfounded—Better Accommodation Than in Past.

To the Editor of The Standard:

Sir,—It no doubt makes interesting reading such communications as that paragraphed "Mail Regulations in Carleton Cause Much Inconvenience," which appeared in your issue of the 27th inst. Were it fact, it might well be cut out and sent to the Postmaster General as evidence of how little interest the postmaster inspector had in the welfare and accommodation of the people of West St. John.

But I scarcely think, Mr. Editor, you could get any number of the West Side business men who understand conditions as they were and as they now obtain in relation to their mail service, who would coincide with your paragrapher's conclusions regarding the change that has been inaugurated this season, or who would wish to return to the former system.

The change pursued is a progressive step, undertaken solely in the interest of the people of the West Side and to bring them up to the advantages possessed by residents and business firms of this side of the harbor—to obviate the disconnections and interferences that put the correspondence of West St. John sometimes a day or two behind that of the east side.

The change is not one originating in a single mind or blindly adopted by the new postmaster as "his idea" of how things should be done in this connection.

The old system had shown such disappointing results and contributed to so many faulty delays that the former postmaster, Mr. Hanington, had long before his retirement sought to effect betterment along the lines of the present plan.

Let us look at what it was from the standpoint of the present so far as the postal matters of St. John West are affected in its mailing and distributing facilities.

No system should be considered perfect, and if minor changes are found by experience to be desirable in the working out of results so far as the interests of the western side of our harbor in its postal matters are concerned, I shall be only too pleased to do all I can to have these adopted.

Letters from street letter boxes, W. St. John were formerly collected twice daily—at 2 p. m. and 9 p. m., and at 9 p. m., carried to the West St. John office, remaining there till morning, the contractor bringing them over on the 6 o'clock boat, unless accident to the ferry or other detention prevented, which happening, severed all connections with the various distributive routes from East St. John.

While West side local deliveries were made by carriers starting out at 8:30 or later, these carriers now start from the main office by 8 a. m., or earlier with the full mail, and I find householders generally are more satisfied receiving their morning budget from half an hour to an hour and a half earlier than formerly.

Letters from the boxes are now collected three times daily as on the East side—9 a. m., 3 p. m., and 9:30 p. m., brought to the main office, so that routing connections are absolutely ensured. Under the old plan mail closed 5:30 a. m., 1:30 p. m., and 3:45 p. m. In West St. John at present it closes at 9:30 a. m., 3:30 p. m., and 9:45 p. m. Street boxes are cleared at 9:30 p. m., St. John West and 10 p. m., on this side of the harbor. Neither are again cleared until the following morning.

Under the old plan the morning mail could not make connection with outgoing British mail steamers, and especially during the winter months large numbers of these letters would be detained in the city office from Tuesday morning until the following Thursday afternoon for the next British mail. Now the mail is brought over at 9:45 p. m., so connecting with all outgoing mails.

When under the old plan the carriers had to leave the West side post office at 8:30 a. m. and at 3:30 p. m., they carried only a major portion of the entire mail. Now they leave the main office morning and afternoon earlier with the complete complement for their side for distribution, thus formerly many letters were left in the morning for afternoon delivery, and in the afternoon for the following morning delivery. At times over 500 letters have thus been held over under the old arrangement and West side merchants and corporations knowing this would call or send over for such letters—the present system obviates this completely.

If the Montreal train were late under former conditions, very little of its mail was deliverable until next morning. Now the carriers wait and work ensuring its delivery the same afternoon.

West St. John has not the same accommodation as the city proper, either in the receipt or in the dispatch of mails. Now with an addition-

## Popular Actor Coming To St. John



FAMOUS THIRD ACT BOAT HOUSE SCENE IN KIRK BROWN'S PRODUCTION OF BROWN OF HARVARD AT THE OPERA HOUSE, MONDAY EVENING, MAY 2.

The Opera House will have for a two weeks attraction, starting next Monday evening, one of its most popular stars in the engagement of Kirk Brown and his excellent company. This will be Mr. Brown's fifth annual visit to St. John and while it can be admitted that he could afford to rest on laurels won, as far as spending money in elaborating his company is concerned, he is not doing this according to advance rumors and when he opens his engagement on Monday night he will start a two weeks visit that will be the most expensive from a stage standpoint of view than that of any previous engagement. The repertoire of attractions contains several new high class royalty plays, one of the most expensive being the noted college drama "Brown at Harvard," selected as the opening production Monday evening.

## MORE THAN 200 PRESENT AT I.L. & B. BIG SMOKER

Successful Reunion in Society's Rooms Last Evening—Names of Those Taking Part in Programme.

The members of the Irish Literary and Benevolent Society held a successful and largely attended smoker in their rooms, Union street last night, more than 200 being present.

The following interesting programme was carried out: Address of Welcome, John O'Regan; Piano selection, J. L. Mullaly; Violin, L. T. McGuire; Reading, Frank Conlon; Solo, M. T. Morris; Violin selection, Master J. O'Regan; Solo, John A. Kelly; Address, John Lunnay; Address, Charles P. O'Neill; Step dance, Walter Harris; Address, Frank Casey, president of St. Peter's; Address, Charles Owens, G. K. of K. of C.; Address, Wm. Daley, of St. John Baptist Society; President O'Regan, James Barry and the ex-president, John A. Barry, also delivered addresses.

Regrets at inability to attend were received from the presidents of the St. Joseph and A. O. H. societies, J. L. Mullaly and J. A. Kelly acted as accompanists.

at carrier, extended service and fine all round connections, they are on a par with the other parts of our growing city and better prepared to handle the large and rapidly increasing business their enterprising factors have in sight and are determined to secure.

Thus is our postal service adding and abetting the strenuous efforts of our loyal citizens—young and old—to keep abreast of the times. Endeavoring to make its facilities play a part in working along paths of improvement helping to obliterate sectional lines and to Canadianize the thought and reliance of our people and in return should it not feel an assurance that it is appreciated and not have to submit to such distributive as your paragrapher indulges in before he has any proof that what has been done is not in the interest of the city and citizens of St. John as well as marking the common sense that should guide such a particular service as is the postal service.

EDWARD SEARS, Postmaster.

Sale Of Furniture.

Special attention is called to the extensive sale of handsome household furniture, ornamental rugs, cut glass, silver ware, cutlery, gentlemen's riding saddle, etc., at the residence of Col. G. Rolt White, Wellington Row, this Thursday morning at 10 o'clock by F. L. Potts.

## BETTER WATER SUPPLY NEEDED AT GENERAL PUBLIC HOSPITAL

Water and Sewerage Board Deals With Complaint From Commissioners—City Engineer to Report ---Opening Tenders for Pipes Deferred---Electrolysis in Water Main Does Much Damage.

The question of providing better fire protection for the city hospital was the principal business before the meeting of the water and sewerage board last evening. It was decided to postpone the opening of tenders for water pipes till May 10. Several other matters were dealt with. Ald. Prink presided, and Ald. Lewis, Hayes, Kelley, Scully and Christie were present with the common clerk and city engineer.

The chairman, before tenders for water pipes were opened, stated that Charles Nevins, who represented an English pipe company, had complained to him that the notice calling for tenders had been too short to enable him to secure the necessary information to submit a tender on behalf of his company. He thought he was unfairly treated.

The city engineer said he had no intention of doing an injustice to anybody.

On motion of Ald. Hayes the time for the opening of tenders be extended to May 10.

The city engineer submitted a report on the effect of electrolysis on the water mains in the neighborhood of Middle street, West Side. He stated that hills had been sent to the Street Railway, and without admitting any liability the company had offered to pay half the cost of the damage.

The chairman explained that the pipes affected were lead water mains, and the damage appeared to be the result of the electric current escaping from the wires and running through the ground.

Ald. Kelley moved that the offer made by the street railway be accepted without prejudice to any future claims of a similar nature. This was passed.

The city engineer recommended that the sewer and water mains be extended in Murray street, at an estimated cost of \$250, and that a fire hydrant be installed at a cost of \$150.

On motion of Ald. Hayes the recommendation was concurred in. George H. Purdy asked for an extension of the sewer in Rodney street up to his property.

On motion of Ald. Scully, this petition was granted.

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## PLAN ILLUMINATION SCHEME FOR BIG FAIR

Committee to Ask Treasury Board Today for Grant—Prize Lists Ready—Tenders for Roofing Wanted.

The prize lists of the Dominion fair have been received from the printers and are now ready for distribution. The list makes quite a bulky booklet and it very neatly gotten up. The amusement concessions, as already announced in The Standard, have been given to F. G. Spencer, who has signed a contract for the two amusement halls and all the "Pike" privileges.

Thomas W. Hand, of Hamilton, reached the city on Tuesday to arrange for the fireworks display and a contract was signed yesterday covering an elaborate programme for the protechnic features of the big show.

The city engineer replied that Mr. Whitaker had pulled down the retaining wall himself.

The matter was referred to the city engineer to report.

Ald. Belyea laid before the board the grievance of Dr. Day in the matter of making connections with the sewer on King street west.

The chairman said that Mr. Cowan had a similar grievance against the city. They were waiting for the advice of the recorder and would not take action on this complaint until they knew where the responsibility rested.

The chairman pointed out that in taking over the Maple public mill the city had acquired a large block of forest land which was of little use. He thought a recommendation should be sent to the council advising that the property should be sold.

Ald. Kelley said that the city had been offered \$800 for the property some time ago. He had thought this insufficient and had opposed the sale.

Ald. Belyea thought the city might as well hold on to the property as its value was increasing in value. No action was taken.

Ald. Scully asked that a new committee should be appointed to look after the matter of improving the Lancaster sewerage system.

The city engineer was instructed to bring the matter up at the next meeting.

More Water for the Hospital.

Ald. Kelley said it was the desire of the commissioners of the General Public Hospital authorities that the city should lay a larger water main, and install several new fire hydrants near the hospital. At the present time the nearest hydrant was on Waterloo street, and in case of fire it would be necessary to stretch the hose a long distance. It should be the object of the city to provide this institution with the best possible fire protection. A proper stand pipe should also be installed.

The city engineer said the hospital authorities had assumed responsibility for the water and sewerage service of the hospital. There were city hydrants near the premises.

Ald. Belyea said there was a fire hydrant right under the hospital wing doors.

Ald. Belyea thought any doubt as to efficiency of the water service should be set at rest.

On motion the city engineer was instructed to make a report of the condition of the General Public Hospital.

Ald. Belyea asked that the city engineer make a recommendation in regard to the petition of Charles Colwell, he said, was handicapped in his business. There were no hydrants handy either.

On motion of Ald. Scully the city engineer was instructed to report on the cost of laying the pipe.

Ald. Potts asked what was being done in the matter of laying the sewer in Bridge street.

The chairman said the department was looking into it.

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and they should be for button boots when properly fitted look neater and have a nicer appearance than any other style of shoe.

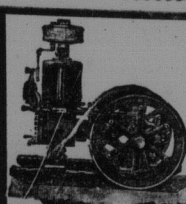
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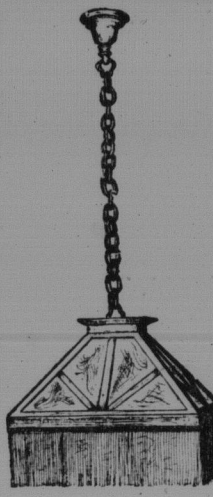
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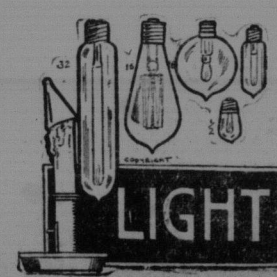
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