

THE SEMI-WEEKLY TELEGRAPH

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Semi-Weekly Telegraph
ST. JOHN, N. B., APRIL 23, 1908.

DR. PUGSEY'S SURRENDER

The Minister of Public Works was compelled yesterday to produce the order-in-council authorizing him to award dredging contracts at last year's prices without calling of tenders. This modest order covered dredging operations in no less than ten harbors, the prices ranging from five dollars a cubic yard for rock down to a comparatively low rate for easy work. The order-in-council was rescinded because of the opposition criticism led by Mr. Bennett. The extent of the work involved is evidently very extensive and the expenditures which it was proposed so quietly to authorize might have amounted to a million or more so far as the country knows.

Had Dr. Pugsley had his way he would have let the matter drop after announcing the government's decision to cancel the obnoxious order-in-council. But Dr. Pugsley was not allowed to have his way. This is what happened in the House when the matter came up:

Mr. Bennett asked Mr. Pugsley when he would bring down the order-in-council authorizing the extension of dredging contract without further tenders.

Mr. Pugsley said that the order was cancelled and it was therefore not necessary to bring it down.

Mr. Bennett pointed out that the rule of the house required a paper to be brought down by the minister who referred to it in the House.

The Speaker—"But if the rule is not invoked at the time, it cannot be applied afterwards."

R. L. Borden—"It was invoked at the time, though not mentioned. No more is invoking necessary, for the minister promised to lay the papers on the table."

The speaker ruled that the order-in-council should be brought down, and Mr. Pugsley said he would produce it.

He produced it yesterday. Its contents will be studied with lively interest by the country generally. Tenders for the work will now be called for.

A newspaper which devotes much space to explanations of Dr. Pugsley's acts is now engaged in seeking to demonstrate that when the Minister of Public Works had the order-in-council passed he did it for fun or for exercise, never intending to employ the power it gave him. The same journal omitted from its news columns that Dr. Pugsley was compelled to announce that the order-in-council had been rescinded. The policy of defending the minister by suppressing news of the character referred to is evidently rendered necessary by the unfortunate character of the great man's recent experiences in the House.

Opposition comment on dredging matters led the cabinet to believe it was to recall the order-in-council which Dr. Pugsley had succeeded in getting through. This course, it was thought, would cause the country to regard future transactions in the Department of Public Works with less distrust. Dr. Pugsley's futile attempt to hold back the contents of the order-in-council and his surrender yesterday, however, make it impossible for him to emerge gracefully from this particular adventure. It is another incident tending to render uneasy the friends who expected Hon. Mr. Pugsley to handle a great spending department with credit, or at least with caution.

THE PROVINCIAL AUDIT

In their eagerness to find, or construct, some argument against the provincial government certain Liberal journals are suggesting that Mr. Haen should have accepted the report of the Robinson expert instead of carrying out his campaign promise to have made a thorough investigation of provincial finances. Newspaper friends of the Robinson government are nervous. They objected to a commission of inquiry in the Central Railway matter, thus showing they believed facts damaging to the old government would be uncovered. The new administration takes the ground that the people ought to know

how their money was spent. If the process of finding out is going to damage gentlemen who were associated with the Central in one way or another, that is their misfortune. But the inquiry must go on. The expert Mr. Robinson employed late in the campaign to give his government a certificate of character appears to have unearthed some information which, had it been published before March 3, would have rendered the defeat of his employers even more crushing. But a garbled version of his report was given to the public by the Robinson newspapers in an attempt to deceive the people, and that particular investigation passed into history as another blunder of the old administration.

Even if that campaign document did not lack critical references to the men and methods of the old regime no reasonable man would expect Mr. Haen to substitute it for the audit he promised to have made as soon as he triumphed. The new audit will show where the province stands. It will enable the present government to start with a clean sheet. It will tell the people in what condition the old government left things—to what condition they had reduced the province. The newspapers which object to the new audit fear disclosures damaging to their party. They would not fear such disclosures without reason. Their objection at this time will convince the public that the investigation is highly necessary.

Those who followed the developments of the last campaign carefully will not be surprised to find that anything in the nature of an investigation is dreaded by friends of the politicians who were swept from power on March 3. So long as the old government could keep the lid on all its newspaper supporters were ready to testify that the public business was being transacted honestly and economically. How strange that these same newspapers should object to the production of the evidence necessary to test the value of their earlier assertions. They fear the worst.

OUR TWENTY-FIVE DOLLAR RIFLE

Mr. Broder, M.P., said a good thing the other day when he remarked that eleven dollars for militia to one dollar for agriculture seemed to be a little too much for war and too little for peace. An Ottawa correspondent adds that the men who wrote the civil service report have the same opinion of the Ottawa Militia "who takes with a little bread such an intolerable degree of sack. They point out forcibly that the country is paying between \$6,000,000 and \$7,000,000 a year for military equipment which three years ago cost only \$3,500,000. Sir Frederick puts a bold face on the matter, as he does on everything, but he will have an unusually bad week of it when he gets into supply."

Eleven dollars for militia to one dollar for agriculture is a statement of fact that will interest nine-tenths of the taxpayers of this country, and make them thoughtful. But even if they were to admit that there is reason for the vast military expenditures, they would insist that the country ought to get the best possible value for its money. That brings us to the Ross rifle, for which we pay \$25 each, while the British rifle, Canada bought cost \$15.75 each. The Ottawa correspondent who predicts that Sir Frederick Borden will experience trouble in getting his estimates through makes these extraordinary statements about the Ross rifle deal:

"We have now a new contract for another 10,000 Ross rifles though few seem to be using the \$2,000 already purchased. The most active military unit in Canada is the mounted police. That body under Sir Wilfrid Laurier himself and the premier is rather proud of his command. The first Ross rifles made were sent to the mounted police and that body set about testing them. One trooper nearly lost his eyesight through the bursting of the weapon, and so many other accidents occurred that the whole supply of rifles were bundled off to Ottawa. That was more than two years ago, and the mounted police are still armed with Springfield or other miscellaneous equipment. These men know what they want and refuse to trust themselves to the mercuries of a rifle which has been found to be unsafe to the man behind it. The minister of militia has frequently explained to the house that all the defects have been remedied, but he has not been able to persuade the premier to force the weapon on the one body of soldiers which is always on active service. Moreover, though \$2,000 have been accepted, only \$7,716 are in use. So the minister himself has told the house. Why then this new order for 10,000?"

"If you go to the ranges where the best shots compete you see no Ross rifles except at the tent where they are placed for exhibition purposes. The crack shots at Rockcliffe and at Binsley take the Lee-Enfield, the service weapon of the British army. There are 50,000 or 60,000 of these in the country still, and the minister stated the other day that those bought from the British war office about 1896 cost \$15.75 each. We are paying \$25 for the Ross rifle and commencing the payments about

two years before the weapon is delivered. Not long ago the return from tests of the Ross rifle at Petawawa was brought down to the House. The report was certainly not complimentary to the rifle and yet at the same time it was presented came the announcement that an order had been given for another 10,000 at \$25 each. It need not surprise the public to learn that advance payments will be made instantly and that the final delivery should be delayed for many months. Take notice that the extra \$9.25 paid amounts to \$481,000 for 62,000 rifles."

Parliament may know, or suspect, all the facts behind the Ross rifle contracts. The country at large needs much more information. It should be definite information. The country pays. It should know the whole story.

INTRODUCING DR. PUGSEY

Hon. Mr. Pugsley was the guest of the Reform Club in Montreal on Saturday, and no doubt he made an interesting address and warmed the hearts of the already converted who were assembled. This Montreal appearance represents an attempt to introduce Hon. Mr. Pugsley to the party at large, to make him known. Hitherto he has been known chiefly to New Brunswick and to the Ottawa circle. The Montreal appearance is doubtless one of several intended to multiply the number of Canadians who can say they have seen and heard the new Minister of Public Works. Many who have never seen Dr. Pugsley have heard of him. It may be that personal acquaintance with the honorable gentleman will tend to modify the impressions formed from having heard of his various public activities. He has a pleasing personality and speaks of himself with favor and fluency. At all events it will do him no harm to swing round the circle and make the acquaintance of a few of the people whose money he is spending so rapidly.

Yet the best way to introduce a Minister to the Dominion is to have him do courageous, independent, aggressive work in the public interest in his department and in his place in the House of Commons. The banquet table may come later. It has its uses, but they are greatly enhanced by previous public services such as give a man impressive stature in the eyes of the whole country for work done. There are certain Liberal newspapers today, paid by the government and dependent upon Dr. Pugsley and his lieutenants, which are daily proclaiming Dr. Pugsley's greatness and covering with abuse those who dare to criticize him. By such newspapers—which suppress news they deem injurious to their idol—the country is not deceived. It knows the source and nature of their inspiration.

In Dr. Parkin's Life of Sir John Macdonald the author tells an old story of the Chieftain. To the late Principal Grant, who admired Macdonald greatly, but could not always give him support, Sir John remarked, "I wish you were a more steady friend of mine." "But, Sir John," said Grant, "I have always supported you when you were right." "My dear man," was the reply, "with a merry twinkle of the eye, 'I have no use for that species of friendship.' The Minister of Public Works has at his beck and call newspapers whose admiration grows in warmth as he stumbles into deeper water. They applauded the Fairview speech, only to find later on that Dr. Pugsley abandoned the subject in the Commons. They endorsed the Minister's patronage committee. They were enthusiastic over his interference in the recent provincial elections. And that wretched adventure did not prevent them from attempting to discover political wisdom in his decision to call, and his decision to postpone, the New Brunswick Liberal Convention."

Dr. Pugsley's dredging policy—his retreat before Mr. Bennett and his final surrender in bringing down the order-in-council whose contents he tried to conceal after it had been rescinded—awakened new admiration in the columns of the Sun and other dailies and paid newspaper servants of the government. They seek to make it appear that Hon. Mr. Pugsley would not have acted upon the order-in-council even if the opposition had not exposed the character of the transactions involved. But here, as in the matter of the Fairview incident, the provincial elections and the Liberal convention, the Minister of Public Works has given his willing journals a task beyond their powers. Columns of mingled praise and admiration do not suffice to conceal the feet of the idol, and the public sees that the feet are made of clay. The cabinet career of Dr. Pugsley has been brief. The people will not readily recall another politician whose promotion to a conspicuous post was followed by so many mistakes in so short a period. Ottawa is not Fredericton.

A MAN WORTH HEARING

The Forest, Fish and Game Protective Association has taken up a great good work and is pushing it with vigor. Sustained effort along the lines adopted will

give the people generally a definite idea of the value of preserving the forests and the fish and game of the province. The average man will be amazed as he realizes what intelligent protection of these assets would mean in revenue, in public wealth, in reserve resources, in future security and greatness.

The association has done well in securing Mr. Kelly-Evans to address a mass meeting here on the subject. The Toronto World, in an editorial, gives warm praise to Mr. Kelly-Evans. Under the caption "A Man With a Great Idea," the World says:

"No man has done more for the protection of the fish and game of the province of Ontario, yes, and of Canada, than Kelly-Evans. He has in a few months aroused an enthusiasm for fish and game preservation that will never, so long as time flies, die down. He has done a great deed for his province and his country."

"And the people recognize it. No public speaker has been in greater demand throughout Ontario than he, and none who have heard him expound the gospel of free fish food for the people but has gained a lesson in practical patriotism. We congratulate Mr. Evans on the honor that has been tendered to him by Premier Hazen of New Brunswick in being asked to address the legislature of that province on his great idea. Premier Hazen appreciates the importance of fish and game protection from the public service standpoint."

"It would be well for Ontario to have more men like Mr. Evans imbued with valiant public spirit, sparing neither time, talent nor money to educate the people on matters of vast public importance. Mr. Evans has done well. It may be that greater honors are in store for him. He will have deserved them."

THE DON'T LIKE IT

Several American journals are condemning the All-Red line proposal. These journals as a rule believe, or say, protection is a good thing for the United States but a bad thing for the United Kingdom. They mean that the Chamberlain policy, giving the Colonies a preference in the great British market, would cut into the American export trade. It would. So in regard to the steamship plan, American journals are afraid improved direct steamship connection of the all-British kind would divert trade from American ports. It will. Even the New York Journal of Commerce, a Free Trade paper, looks askance at the All-Red scheme. It says, in part:

"Leaving out British patriotic sentiment, the advantages may be questioned by outsiders. The commercial benefit to the Colonies is assumed to be that of trading with the mother country in preference to 'foreigners,' and that does not look to be sufficient to justify a heavy annual outlay in subsidies. It is difficult to see where there will be any commercial benefit to the kingdom if the free trade policy is justified there only as strengthening the imperial union by means of regular and rapid mail communication and increase in the auxiliary naval force. Whether that advantage in this costly red route will be sufficient to win consent to the British share of the expenditure would seem doubtful, and whether this bond of empire would prove of much value if a real strain were put upon it may be questioned."

The British government subsidizes the record-breaking Cunard steamers which go to New York. If it now joins with Canada, New Zealand and Australia in an Imperial steamship venture, protest from the United States is to be expected, but it will be obviously interested and unconvincing. The American idea is that any measure promoting American trade is justifiable no matter what effect it may have upon other countries, but that other countries have no right to serve themselves if in doing so they may hit American interests. During the next twenty years the United States will learn much about the importance and unity of the British Empire. Business and sentiment together are behind the Imperial trade idea, and they make a great team.

NOTE AND COMMENT

"Mr. Pugsley," says the Toronto News, "seems to have surrendered at discretion to Mr. Bennett."

St. John, Moncton, and Fredericton are bidding for the Dominion exhibition grant. All deserve it, but the promise is not yet sure that 1909 is to be New Brunswick's year for the grant, and as only one city can handle the big show when it comes, it should go to the city offering the most satisfactory guarantee of success.

The effort to increase the membership of the board of trade and make that organization an aggressive and powerful promoter of St. John's interests is a welcome one. All business men should lend a hand. The volunteers who have the movement in hand should meet with encouragement everywhere. They are working in the interest of the whole population.

the approbation of the men who have been breaking the law. Mr. Maxwell will have the approbation of all the people who stand for better conditions. They outnumber the others by about a hundred to one.

Messrs. Fowler and Taylor and Hon. Mr. Pugsley engaged in a somewhat diverting discussion in committee yesterday. Our Ottawa despatches indicate that the Minister of Public Works does not enjoy himself when under fire. It is not unlikely that newspapers which are continually praising or apologizing for him will forget to publish any account of his experience yesterday. They do not find it easy to and at the same time argue that he is getting on well at Ottawa. The news tells how he is getting on. The road is rough. All this is poor preparation for the Liberal convention which must be held after a while. It was postponed in order to let things settle down a bit; but they will not settle.

Dr. Pugsley's Surrender.

(Montreal Star)
Press Gallery, House of Commons, Ottawa, April 23.—Hon. William Pugsley has again "backed down." The score is to the credit of Mr. W. H. Bennett, of East Simcoe. The issue was again the order-in-council extending dredging contracts. On Tuesday last week, to the disgust of not a few of his fellow oppositionists, Mr. Bennett, in the absence of the leader of the opposition, took up the better part of the sitting in a protest against this order-in-council, while the debate on immigration bonuses was pushed aside.

When the house resumed on Tuesday Mr. Bennett, by asking for the production of this order-in-council, which he used as a play room for the scholars. The floor, instead of being of asphalt or cement, we found was of wood, another objectionable feature, there was only one small door three feet wide for exit, which opened inward and we requested the janitor to take it off, which was done. The janitor said he thought the floor should be removed, and the floorboards should be removed.

The other portions of the basement where the steam boilers are were found in good condition so far as we could discover; the lavatories clean. A very objectionable and dangerous feature in the basement was discovered, viz.: a small room directly under the front stairway by which we entered basement was being used as a carpenter shop, work bench directly over steam pipes and a quantity of shavings lying around on the floor and on the pipes, and the steam pipes, instead of being enclosed with asbestos or other suitable material, were covered with a sort of bagging.

The chief of the fire department asked the janitor to remove the shavings from the pipes and clear the place out, which he promised to do. He told us his son used it as a workshop. We called attention of the principal to this later on and he was very much surprised. The janitor assured us the place would be cleared up and not used again. Should a fire occur in this room directly under the stairway loss of life would be likely to occur to the pupils endeavoring to leave the building by front entrance.

There is a rear entrance to this basement and in our opinion no necessity exists for this front entrance. The whole partition should be removed and space floored over, thus giving wider exit from first floor.

We came up from the basement by the rear stairs to ground floor and here we found another menace to safety, viz.: one small direct exit to the north yard door opening inward. There is a door at the head of the stairway and a partition which narrows the rear exit to the playground on the south. The exit doors therefrom are entirely too narrow, being only two feet ten inches wide. The door leading from hallway to basement opens out into the hall instead of inward to basement, thus clogging the passage. The partition should be removed, there is apparently no need for it; total number of scholars 537.

Class Rooms.
There are four class rooms on ground floor, and small children are in two of them. The scholars are distributed as follows:
Principal's room, grade 8, thirty-nine pupils from eight to sixteen on ground floor;
Room grade 7, eighty-six pupils;
Room grade 6, sixty-three pupils;
Room grade 1, seventy small children; total on the floor, 288.

Stairway to second floor of wood right angle platform two flights, balusters wooden, enclosed wooden wainscoting on walls. Should be open railed or iron lattice. On second floor there are four class rooms, grades 2, 3, 4, and 5; grade 2 one room, sixty-three and six small children. Sixty-one grade 2, sixty grade 3 and 4, fifty grade 5 and 7, total 234.

Third floor single stairway from second floor, four and a half feet wide. Two class rooms, grade 4, forty-six pupils. Grade 5, forty-nine pupils, total 95.

The assembly room is on this flat, and can accommodate 500 pupils easily. Benches are used here as the pupils, but they should be made stationary. The two doors of assembly room, five feet wide, open outward to the hall. All the class room doors of this building open inward. We recommend that the children of grade 2 room on second floor be removed to the room on ground floor now occupied by grade 7, and grade 7 to the one now occupied by grade 2. There are no fire escapes in this building. Proper fire escapes should be erected on the north, south and west sides; none required on the eastern side.

There are no chemical fire extinguishers in the school house. We recommend at least one chemical and fire extinguisher be placed in some convenient place in each hall and one in basement ready for instant use. Fire drill is had at least once a week in summer, but there has been none this winter.

The principal complains that the fire alarm bell is not large or loud enough and that the janitor should have some means of giving alarm signal from basement. In this we agree with the principal. A larger gong be installed and attachment made to it for janitor in the basement.

The building can be cleared of scholars inside of two minutes, and the fact was demonstrated on one occasion by Alderman Baskin and Rev. Mr. Sampson, and without consulting the principal.

One other objectionable feature we found, and it should be remedied; the furnace chimney running up through the centre of the main hall is sheathed with wood for almost four feet in height. The chimney, we are informed, becomes so hot sometimes that one cannot keep his hand on it any length of time. The sheathing should be immediately removed, as it is a source of real danger. All the class rooms and exit floors should be made to open outward. Immediate attention to

SUNLIGHT AND PESSIMISM.
(Adelaide Register)
It seems anomalous to associate pessimism with sunlight; yet apparently there are good reasons for the belief that brilliance of summer is more depressing than the gloom of winter. Amiel wrote in his "Journal" that of all the hours of the day, in fine weather, those of the afternoon were the most difficult to bear.

MUCH AT FAULT IN ALBERT AND THE VICTORIA SCHOOL BUILDINGS

Many Objectionable Features Detracting from Safety of the Large Number of Pupils Attending Each—Council's Inspection Committee Make Recommendations—No fire Escapes at All on Albert Building; Those on Victoria School Are But "So-Called."

Here are given details of the results of inspection of the Albert school in Carlton street, Principal, W. J. McDermid; and the Victoria school by the Common Council's committee. It will be found that much needed improvement was discovered in each.

The Albert School, Watson Street.

Three story wooden building, with wooden tower; entrance on Watson street; Principal, W. J. McDermid; situated on a hill, heated by steam, two boilers; janitor, John Akerley, has held this position for seven years; lives in east end section of basement fronting Watson street. Principal reported him as an efficient and careful officer. The front and principal entrance to this school has large doors opening outward six feet three inches wide, but this feature is spoiled by reason of a partition. Instead of having a clear hall or passage way as wide as the entrance, or wider, a partition on the right of the entrance has been built up enclosing the well hole of a front stairway to basement. The partition extends two feet three or four inches into the main hall way. This is objectionable. It should be removed and this entrance to basement closed up.

There would then be a free and full passage way for the scholars' exit. This is a very much improved feature. The first staircase there is a room situated on right hand side of north portion, which is used as a play room for the scholars. The flooring, instead of being of asphalt or cement, we found was of wood, another objectionable feature, there was only one small door three feet wide for exit, which opened inward and we requested the janitor to take it off, which was done. The janitor said he thought the floor should be removed, and the floorboards should be removed.

The other portions of the basement where the steam boilers are were found in good condition so far as we could discover; the lavatories clean. A very objectionable and dangerous feature in the basement was discovered, viz.: a small room directly under the front stairway by which we entered basement was being used as a carpenter shop, work bench directly over steam pipes and a quantity of shavings lying around on the floor and on the pipes, and the steam pipes, instead of being enclosed with asbestos or other suitable material, were covered with a sort of bagging.

The chief of the fire department asked the janitor to remove the shavings from the pipes and clear the place out, which he promised to do. He told us his son used it as a workshop. We called attention of the principal to this later on and he was very much surprised. The janitor assured us the place would be cleared up and not used again. Should a fire occur in this room directly under the stairway loss of life would be likely to occur to the pupils endeavoring to leave the building by front entrance.

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these alterations and action thereon should be insisted upon by the Council and the Victoria school by the Common Council's committee. It will be found that much needed improvement was discovered in each.

The Victoria School.
In our inspection of this school we were greatly aided by Principal Farley, who cheerfully attended us, and evinced a desire to have everything connected with this building, and the lives of the pupils under his care efficiently looked after, and we hereby accord him our thanks, and the same can also be said of all the teachers in the city. We asked them for suggestions, which they freely and cheerfully made, for which we thank them.
This building is capable of housing 700 pupils. All of the scholars are girls. There are two entrances, one from Duke street and one from north side from play ground, opening out on Duke street and Sidney street. The outside doors are double, made to open outward, but we found only one side open, the other bolted; objectionable.
On entering the building from either entrance there are double swinging doors at foot of short flight of steps to main or first floor. There are four class rooms on the first, second and third floors and two on fourth floor. The exhibition hall occupies remainder of fourth floor.
In the centre of building is an air shaft of brick facing the entrance from Duke street and directly in front of main stair case to the upper flats. There are passageways, we found to be bolted up and in width on either side, instead of there being a full free passage from stairs. On the first floor to the west of front entrance is the principal's class room, grades 7 and 8 containing from thirty to fifty pupils. In the class room immediately adjoining to the north is another primary school, Miss Gray teaches fifty-six enrolled pupils, fifty present. On the eastern side of the hall are two class rooms grade 1 and 2 ages vary between six and seven-fifty pupils, the north room grade 2-fifty pupils; total pupils on first floor, 200.
Access to second floor is had by single platform stairs four and a half to five feet wide. There are four class rooms on this floor—grades 2 and 7 of forty-six and forty pupils, one grade 7 and 8 thirty-two pupils, and one of grade 2 forty-eight pupils; total 166.
Third floor four class rooms one for eighth grade, one for fifth, and one each of 3rd and 4th.
Fourth floor two rooms grades 1 and 5 forty each; total 80; assembly hall also on this floor.
At the head of first stair landing on second flat and on third, openings in the north wall of building, and in the east, bridges of iron with wooden platforms have been thrown or built across to the St. Joseph's school adjoining to the northward; span of bridge over each is about width five feet, with an apology for side guard thereon composed of wire netting; this latter very objectionable and in our opinion unsafe and unsuitable. Another objection is that while the entrance doors are double and they open outward from the Victoria instead of being of the swinging pattern the pupils, as they enter, are liable to be struck by the swinging doors. Another objection is that while the entrance doors are double and they open outward from the Victoria instead of being of the swinging pattern the pupils, as they enter, are liable to be struck by the swinging doors. Another objection is that while the entrance doors are double and they open outward from the Victoria instead of being of the swinging pattern the pupils, as they enter, are liable to be struck by the swinging doors.

Referring to the present fire escapes, we might mention that the lower or ground ladder, instead of being ready for immediate use, we found to be bolted up and could only be used with difficulty and that has been the case ever since they were placed on the building.
Another objection we have to make is that the fire signal gong is not of sufficient sharpness in sound as to be heard by all the pupils, and as the bell, the bell pulls are out of order to such an extent that the principal could not sound the alarm though he tried in our presence several times to do so. He managed to sound it once, but was unable to do so again.
We recommend that the trustees procure a more suitable gong with better appliances for sounding same, and that the signal can be given from either basement or any of the floors. This should be attended to at once.
So far as the fire drill is concerned, we learned that this exercise has been had three times since last August for the purpose of clearing the building of scholars. The scholars have been exercised occasionally in the drill within the building.
We also found there was nothing in the shape of a fire extinguisher in the building. We therefore have to recommend that portable hand fire extinguishers be placed easy of access on each floor and that the same be properly looked after and kept in order ready for instant use.
In the exhibition hall, chairs and benches are used. We think this objectionable. Stationary seats with aisles should be substituted. City fire alarm box 32 is immediately opposite the building.
On Saturday, March 21, 1908, at the request of Ald. Bullock, the chief of fire department, with about sixty of the firemen, including members of the salvage corps, tested the bridges on second and third flats connecting Victoria school and the school building to the northward. The trustees were present. Their attention was called by the chief to want of proper rails to bridges and the inadequate protection of wire netting. Mr. Russell, one of the trustees, discovered that the doors on each school building where the bridges approach them, were improperly planned, and urged that the alterations be made as we have hereinbefore stated.