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MARSHALL BROTHERS,

Newfoundland Agency.

The Bearns-Hanley Fire

BY "MAC."

There appears to have been so many blunders in connection with the Fire and Water Departments at large conflagrations in recent years that it is nearly time a Commission was appointed by the Government to investigate matters thoroughly.

NO WATER.

For nearly three-quarters of an hour yesterday morning no water could be got except a slight effusion—barely more than a dribble—which expanded a force of water nearly ten feet in the air. Now this is not intended to be satire, or exaggeration, but real genuine facts. Apparently owing to the peculiar phases of the situation the Water Department men are not to blame as no alarm of fire was received by them; but surely if at the expiration of ten or fifteen minutes if a flow of water was not forthcoming, it was somebody's duty to inform them. Another plausible (?) excuse is offered, viz., that owing to the cold spurt people have been letting their taps run, with the result that the mains have somewhat diminished. Something of the same nature occurred at the Baird and Vinland-Gale fires a few years ago, but no investigations were held; or if there were, the results were not made public. Oh, dear, no! It might have caused some embarrassment. Then again one of the beautiful, costly, enormous "merryweathers" would not work. In the meantime "someone had

blundered," and Messrs. Bearns, Hanley and Thompson, together with their families and friends, had to gaze as complacently as circumstances would allow upon their blazing properties, while the miserable dribble from five hoses caused puddles in the snowy slaw. I'm sure these gentlemen must receive great consolation from the fact that the water service was temporarily out of commission.

REMEDY.

Such occurrences can very easily be remedied. (1) Some years ago the City Council at a great expense built a large conduit and reservoir from Windsor Lake for the purpose of giving a greater water supply and presumably a greater pressure in time of fire. Strange to say it has never been opened once since it was built for the purpose of fire-fighting. Again, the West End water supply was shut off yesterday from 5.50 a.m. till 2 p.m., not a drop being available anywhere except from those who were fortunate enough to have had a quantity in for culinary purposes. Now, Mr. Editor, this is "criminal barbarism," to use an expression of Kipling's. Imagine what distress and inconvenience was caused to, I may say, thousands of the families of our laboring classes, who were dependent on the "tanks" for their supply of water for dinner. And this is the service for which we are forced to pay large taxes semi-annually. Now, what I propose should be done is to open the reservoir in case of fire and flood the tanks. This would obviate the necessity of turning off the water in either portion of the town, and at the same time would give a pressure which

would throw the water at least one hundred feet in the air instead of ten, such was the case yesterday morning. I hope the Mayor will take this matter up at their meeting this afternoon. What is the good of hoarding up these millions of gallons of water (surely the Council do not anticipate that Windsor Lake will dry up) if it is not used in cases of serious conflagrations? It seems ridiculous to think that while valuable property was being burned for the want of water, millions of gallons of it were reposing peacefully in the reservoir. Then the question of a fire boat for harbor duty crops up again. It cannot be gainsaid that if one of these were on the harbor yesterday morning much less damage would have been done. Some months ago a correspondent in your paper very wisely suggested that the one launch or small steamer could very well manage to fulfil the duties of both the pilot and fire patrol service. The authorities, however, assume pure disinterestedness when a suggestion comes from outside parties, but let the tiniest atom of an idea creep into their brains, be it fallacious or otherwise, it is immediately put into execution and they put their own chests and congratulate themselves on their ingenuity and foresight. This harbor patrol has got to come sooner or later—the quicker the better.

INSURANCE.

Have the authorities ever considered the deleterious effects a fire like yesterday has on the Fire Underwriters? The rates at present are certainly excessive, but an "exhibition" or two like this will certainly result in increased premiums in order to protect their own interests—and justly so.

FIREMEN.

The firemen, from Inspector General Sullivan down to the reserve men, deserve every encomium of credit and praise. Despite the inclement weather conditions they worked like trojans; and yet these are the men who receive the miserable pittance of one dollar per day, or \$365 a year (by the way, they will get \$366, as this is a leap year) and make no grumble to the public. While the Government can afford their picnics and sit in their cosy offices discussing libels, these men are doing their utmost to prevent destruction. Truly, as in the words of the song:

"In their hearts there's only one dream—
It's to fight with all their might
For the cause they know is right.
The men who fight the smoke, the flame, the fire."

Their work is the hardest and most dangerous, yet they are the most poorly paid of any of the public services.

Electric Restorer for Men
Phosphorus restores every nerve in the body and vitality. Premature decay and all sexual weakness arrested at once. Phosphorus will make you a new man. Price 25¢ a box, or two for \$5.00. Write to Mr. J. H. Smith, The Smith Bros. Co., St. Catharines, Ont.

vents. Their wages now stand the same as they did ten years ago, despite the increased cost of living. Surely something can be done to remunerate them for their labours.

LADDERS.

Probably the most important item of the whole fire service is the prompt arrival of ladders. The alarm was sent in at 8.50, the ladders arrived at 9.10, or twenty minutes later, notwithstanding that the distance they had to go would occupy five minutes at the most, as it was all down hill. Now if this had been a place in a tenement, say at 2 or 3 o'clock in the morning, what would have been the result? As it was, their absence greatly inconvenienced the firemen, who had to use private ladders, which are usually anything but safe. Here is room for another enquiry.

I am sorry to ask you for so much space for this lengthy criticism, but the circumstances of the case demand it. A Government investigation should immediately be held and see who is responsible for the terrible chapter of blunders of yesterday morning.

A Menace to the City.

If a fire should occur at present on the higher levels, say about Freshwater or Cookstown Roads, Parade Street or any other thoroughfare in that section, the city would be menaced with a disaster similar to that which occurred in 1892, especially if at the beginning of the outbreak a high wind prevailed. The streets of the upper parts of the city are now covered with snow drifts from 6 to 10 feet deep, and the firemen, if called upon, could not get their heavy apparatus along with that despatch which is theirs under normal circumstances. We think it would be money well spent if the Council were to employ men at once to open up and level these streets to put them in condition to admit of vehicular traffic going over them. The loss of a few minutes at the outbreak of a fire might mean the destruction of the city. Many poor citizens who are idle at present would consider a few days work at snow shovelling a godsend, and in no better way could a portion of the revenue be spent than in this way. It might mean the saving of much property as well as the conservation of human life.

Shipwrights Hold Meeting.

The annual meeting of the St. John's Shipwright Society, was held in the Star Hall last night. After the roll was called it showed the Society to be in good financial condition. Mr. John Halfyard was then moved to the chair and the election of officers took place and resulted in Mr. Wm. White-marsch being re-elected President; Isaac Mercer, 1st V.P., elected; Richard F. Baggis, 2nd V.P., elected; Frederick C. Pitcher, Secretary, re-elected; Lemuel Simmonds, Treasurer, re-elected, and ten committee men.

Mr. P. Hanley's Heavy Loss.

Besides his own house which was destroyed yesterday, Mr. Philip Hanley owned the residence of his son, James, and also that of Mr. F. Thompson. His insurances on these properties were \$1,000 on his own and \$400 on Thompson's with the Liverpool, London and Globe, and \$700 on his son's residence in the Phoenix. This aggregates \$2,100 on the 3 houses so that Mr. Hanley's loss is a heavy one. He roughly values his own residence at \$2,200, his son's, \$1,800, and Thompson's, \$1,600, or \$5,600, so that he stands to lose \$3,500, as the residences named are completely gutted. The three men lost practically all their furniture, and Mrs. Hanley was particularly unfortunate. She held a policy of \$700 on her own personal effects with Mr. Percy Johnson but allowed it to lapse a few months ago, and in the fire of yesterday lost almost everything. Mr. Hanley saved all his books and most of his papers. He and his wife are now staying at the Crosbie Hotel.

A Weekly Drill.

The full Battalion of the C. C. C. were present at the Armoury last night and were put through drill by Major Donnelly. The band of the Corps headed the men in the marches and gave some fine music. Until further notice these drills will be held each Thursday evening. The Corps Athletic Association will meet Sunday next, after last Mass, to arrange hockey and other sports for the season.

CODROY SUFFERS.—Mr. Robert Templeton received a message from Codroy this morning informing him that during the terrific storms of the past week the church at that place had been blown down, and the dwellings of the residents greatly wrecked.

Mind's Liniment Cures Dandruff.

Telegram Fashion Plates.

The Home Dressmaker should keep a Catalogue Scrap Book of our Fashion Cuts. These will be found very useful to refer to from time to time.

9085.—A NEW DESIGN.



Ladies' Shirt Waist With Under-arm Gore and With or Without Yoke Facing.

This model will recommend itself to all women who like their shirt waists to fit snug and comfortable. It is cut on simple lines, has the regulation shirt sleeve, and is suitable for all shirtings. The Pattern is cut in 6 sizes: 32, 34, 36, 38, 40 and 42 inches bust measure. It requires 3 yards of 27 inch material for the 36 inch size. A pattern of this illustration mailed to any address on receipt of 10c. in silver or stamps.

Suitable materials for any of these patterns can be procured from AYRE & SONS, Ltd. Samples on request. Mention pattern number. Mail orders promptly attended to.

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A Big Fire at Halifax.

Special to Evening Telegram.

HALIFAX, To-day. A fire early this morning destroyed the Herald building and several houses. The Herald building is completely gutted and machinery of every description destroyed. The fire is still burning, but is under control. The loss is over a quarter of a million. The Herald appeared as usual with the assistance of the Chronicle plant. The firms burned out include Cragg Bros., Shaffer & Sons, Munis Davidson, McCormick and several other buildings.

Big Fire at North Sydney.

Special Evening Telegram.

NORTH SYDNEY, To-day.

The Hotel Sydney and the moving picture house was burned to-night.

"Conquerors of Our Hearts."

Special Evening Telegram.

BOMBAY, To-day.

The newspapers here, including the vernacular, print reviews of the visit to India of the King and Queen. All the newspapers are eulogistic. The Jam Janshed says five weeks ago it was Bombay's proud privilege to welcome King George and Queen Mary as conquerors of our hearts.

Still Stormy at the Cape.

Special to Evening Telegram.

CAPE TOWN, To-day.

Wind N. W. storm still raging; heavy snow showers. The S. S. Portia passed west at 3 p.m. yesterday; 3 small icebergs are grounded west of here and are fast breaking up and very dangerous to shipping. Nothing in sight to-day. Bar. 29.32; ther. 14.

Fire Caused by Throwing Match Away.

Special Evening Telegram.

NEW YORK, To-day.

The official investigation into the Equitable Building fire reveals pretty certainly that the disaster was caused by the careless throwing away of a match. Between three and four hundred millions of cash securities were removed yesterday intact.

One Hundred Years of Peace

Special to Evening Telegram.

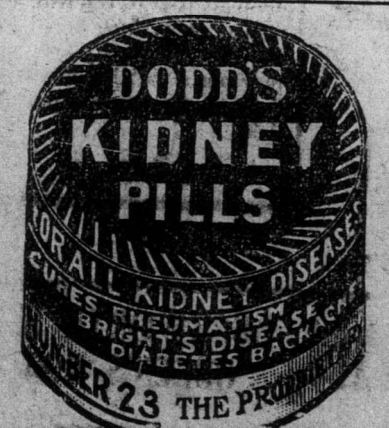
WASHINGTON, To-day.

The plan for the celebration of the hundredth anniversary of the Treaty of Ghent, pending before the Senate Committee of foreign relations, is in the shape of a bill appropriating \$7,500,000 for the purpose of invitations to the nations of the world to join in celebrating the Ghent Treaty.

Grouse Prospects for 1912.

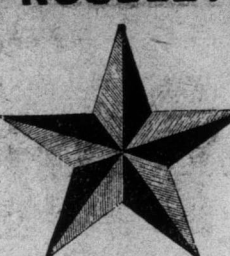
To those who take any interest in the grouse prospects for the forthcoming season, it will be an interesting speculation as to the effect of the present hard winter on the stock of birds. It is a well-known fact to rearers that an unsuitable season destroys more birds than any amount of shooting over a moor, and a rainy June or a long cold winter or spring causes great mortality amongst the parent birds. Those who have had the temerity to face countrywards the last few days must have noticed not only the quantity, but the hardness of the snow. A crust strong enough in most places to bear a man's weight covering the whole surface of the country. Both caribou and grouse find the crust very much of an obstacle in the way of their procuring the moss or buds on which they live. It is to be feared that if the present conditions are universal on the barrens, that the birds will suffer heavily from lack of sufficient food, resulting in death or small and weakly broods.

A. C.
NOT A GAS EXPLOSION.—The explosion we alluded to yesterday while the fire on King's Road was on, was not caused by gas.



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Mr. Percy Orth.
In a delightful single act.
Parodies, Comic Songs and Monologues; also, Waltz Clog Dancing.
New selections by the orchestra.
Lovers of good music have a treat in store; piano, cornet, violin and drum.

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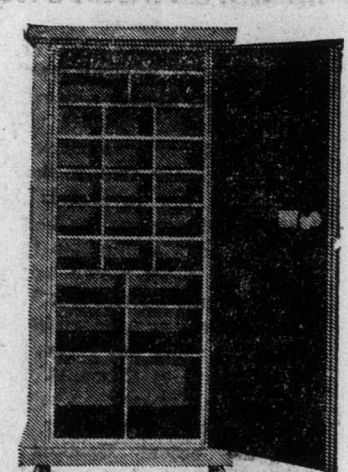
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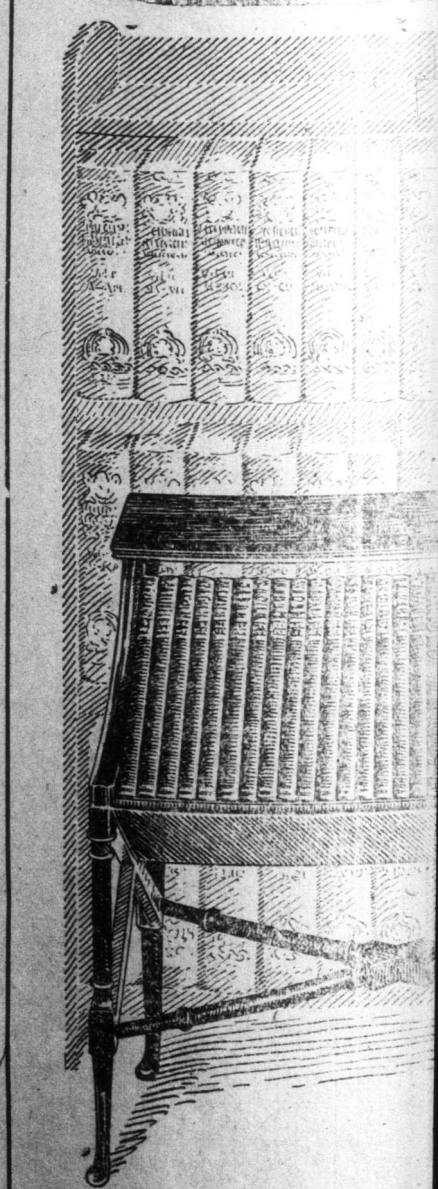
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