

for several years past. The fact is St. John has not yet been fully recovered from the disastrous fire which swept over it twenty-three years ago. In that fire, two-thirds of the city was destroyed, two hundred acres being burned over, and over 1600 houses consumed in the flames. About 2700 families, containing 13,000 persons, were made homeless. The money loss was estimated at \$15,000,000, while the insurance was less than one half of that sum. This was a terrible blow to a community, composed as it was so largely of working people, but the people rallied from it and today St. John is a substantial city. But, in re-building the city, every dollar was apparently required for what were considered absolutely necessary purposes, and thus it is that St. John is still without a suitable building for the Library which was established seventeen years ago, and which now contains about 14,000 volumes.

I am stating these facts in detail with the hope that you will be able to give the City of St. John, some kind consideration. I am sure that all Canadians must heartily appreciate your handsome offer of gifts to Ottawa, Vancouver, Sydney and other cities in the Dominion.

I have the honor to remain,

Yours very Truly

J. W. DANIEL, Mayor.

This letter was replied to on June 6, from Skibo Castle, Scotland, and the enquiry made as to how the Library was then housed. To this the Mayor replied that the Library was housed in rented rooms, and that the city contributed \$2,500 toward the support of Libraries of which \$600 was applied to the North end Library which was amalgamated with the Free Public Library in 1889. The Mayor also added, "I think the Common Council are prepared to increase the grant to the Free Public Library."

The reply of the Mayor was sent on June 18th and on July 26th the following letter was received from Skibo Castle.

Yours of June 18th to hand, Mr. Carnagie's rule is to give a sum to erect a library building, the amount being based on what the city will pledge per year for support; about ten times the latter is usually given and the city is also required to find a site suitable