

AROUND THE CITY

A Slight Fire. A still alarm was sent in to No. 1 chemical yesterday morning for a slight fire in the J. Marcus building on Dock street. The fire was in a barrel of rubbish and the damage done was slight.

A Valentine Tea. A valentine tea held in the basement of the Carleton Presbyterian church yesterday, proved to be most successful and was largely attended. Tea was served from 6 to 8 o'clock under the auspices of the ladies.

An Enjoyable Evening. There was a large attendance at the free entertainment given by the St. John Girls' Association in their room, 140 Union street, last evening. A musical and literary programme was carried through and refreshments were served at the close.

With the Pin Pickers. Last evening in the city bowling league on Black's alleys the Tigers took three points from the Ramblers. Belyea of the Tigers captured the three string record for the season by rolling a score of 219. Macaulay Bros forfeited their game to O. H. Warwick.

Illustrated Lecture. There was a good attendance in Tabernacle church last evening when illustrated lectures were given under the auspices of the Young Men's Brotherhood of the church. The speakers of the evening were F. B. Hustin, W. F. Hatheway and E. S. Hennigar. The lectures were beautifully illustrated with lantern slides.

A Successful Tea. A most successful Valentine tea was held yesterday afternoon in St. Matthew's Presbyterian church, when a large number attended and enjoyed a thorough good time. Mrs. Urquhart, Mrs. John Colwell and Mrs. L. A. Colwell were in charge of the tea. After the supper a pleasant programme of vocal and instrumental selections was rendered.

Skater Receives Watch. Charles Gorman, the speedy young skater, who defeated Hedley Northrup in a match race in the Victoria Rink last Friday night was agreeably surprised last evening when he called at the rink, when Elmer Ingraham presented Gorman with a gold watch and chain. One of the donors last night stated that Gorman did not receive even a medal for winning the race, and his friends thinking that he should receive a prize gave him the handsome watch and chain.

Robbed on Train. Charles Doolittle of Colborne, Ont., who arrived in the city last evening to take passage on the Allan line to Corsican today for England, was the victim of a robbery on the train east of Montreal when \$180 was stolen from his berth. Mr. Doolittle first noticed the theft yesterday morning when dressing, and at once reported the matter to the pullman car conductor. A search of the berth failed to reveal the money and the C. P. R. detectives were at once notified. They have taken up the case and expect to land the culprit in jail. The loss of the \$180 coming as it did while on the way to his home in England has caused Mr. Doolittle considerable annoyance forcing him to wire to Port Colborne for more. He will continue his journey on the Corsican today.

ART CLUB SECURES FAMOUS PAINTINGS

Twenty-five Drawings Presented Last Evening—Will be of Great Assistance to Pupils—Interesting Lecture.

After the transaction of regular business at the meeting of the St. John Art Club last evening an instructive lecture was given by Mrs. John Seeley on "Some Dutch Painters." W. S. Fisher, president of the club, presided, and at the close of the lecture tendered a vote of thanks to the lecturer on behalf of the club.

The chief business of importance was the presentation of the twenty-five drawings. These drawings were purchased by the president recently in Philadelphia from the Curtis Publishing Company. They are from the collection which the art department of the company purchased from a number of capable painters, and represent a varied type of work, all well executed, showing skill in design and finish. The drawings will be of great assistance in the work of the art school, affording the pupils excellent models, and will show them what is possible for them to achieve. Through the generosity of the Curtis people the drawings were secured for the club at very moderate terms, for which courtesy a vote of thanks was expressed by the club.

The growing collection of the club's paintings together with the lack of facilities for properly exhibiting the pictures, makes the present quarters of the club unsuitable and there is a probability that other quarters will be provided. There is under discussion by the executive a scheme to provide another studio.

The executive is considering building a permanent home for art if it is found possible to have one or two other organizations build in conjunction, thereby sharing the responsibility. By this means each of the organizations will have accommodation and a more spacious home, both for gallery and art school, will be provided for the club.

The special item of interest at Dykeman's for the week-end shoppers is a Great Sale of Flannelette. They have three thousand yards of Striped Flannelette which they have secured at a price that will enable them to sell it at one-third less than the regular price. It is 26 inches wide and of an extra good heavy quality. The regular price is 15 cents but while these three thousand yards last it will be sold for 10 cents a yard, in lengths of ten yards and over. Under ten yards the price will be 12 cents. A large variety of patterns in light, medium and dark colors.

PROPERTY HOLDERS AND CITY TO SHARE EXPENSE

Commissioners Virtually Decide that those Benefitted Must Bear One-half the Cost of Street Improvement.

An important departure in civic policy was made yesterday afternoon when the city commissioners virtually decided that the property owners directly benefitted should bear at least one half of the cost of paving a street. This matter has been under the consideration of the commissioners for some time; inquiries have been made all over the continent, and as they have learned that in most cities the property holders have to pay anywhere from one half to the whole cost of paving a street, they have concluded that it was time to abandon its old policy of paving a street at the general expense, and assessing a good portion of the cost against those directly benefitted. At yesterday's meeting Commissioner Agar's programme of street improvement for the year was discussed and it was decided to approve of the programme to the extent of \$150,000 for the year. The commissioners will advise what streets they propose to pave this year, and will notify the property holders interested that they propose to assess them for half the cost of the work under the provisions of the act passed at a recent session of the legislature. If the property

holders interested raise a vigorous protest and refuse to pay their share they will not pave the street in question, but make arrangements to do work on other streets where the property holders are not averse to paying something to have their property improved. The commissioners anticipate no difficulty in this respect, as they feel that they are very liberal in only asking the property holders to pay one half the cost. A paved street greatly improves the value of a property, and in other cities very little opposition has been offered by landlords to the policy of assessing one half or two thirds of the cost of the paving against the abutting property. Very little hardship is involved as the special assessment is spread over a period of ten years. As reported in The Standard some time ago the commissioners propose to lay permanent paving on Charlotte street down to Queen, along Union street, on Governor street from Princess to Union, and to start some permanent work in the North End, and South End with the idea of giving the people an object lesson in the value and importance of well paved streets.

STOLE A COAT FROM SHERIFF WILL PROVIDE NEW HOME

Cold Bodied Thieves Rounded Up on the West Side by Detective Killen—Overcoats will be Recovered.

As was reported in yesterday morning's Standard, two overcoats were stolen on Wednesday. Between twelve and one o'clock an overcoat owned by William E. Demings was stolen out of the Odd Fellows' Hall on Union street, and during the evening an overcoat owned by Sheriff S. DeForest, was stolen from the hallway of Walter Gilbert's residence on Charlotte street. The police were notified late last night of the robberies and from early yesterday morning Deputy Chief Jenkins and Detective Killen worked hard on the case and obtaining certain information, they managed to place the thieves under arrest in the afternoon. Having hunted all over the city all morning and part of the afternoon, Deputy Chief Jenkins about 4 o'clock decided to remain in the city and continue the search, while the detective decided to take a hunt through Fairville. When he reached the Street Railway waiting room, on the west side, during the suspension of the street car service, he found two men drinking out of a bottle, and lost no time in placing them under arrest. At the time one of the men was wearing the coat stolen from Mr. Demings. The prisoners gave their names as Patrick Crowley, aged 43, and hailing from Ireland, while his companion is Fred Edmonds, aged 38, and hailing from Nova Scotia. It is thought that the two men have been working up country on the railway construction work but have been loafing about the city for some days. A couple of weeks ago Edmonds sought protection at the police station for the night, claiming that he was without money and had no place to stay. It is expected that the officers will recover the coat stolen from the sheriff. The prisoners will be taken before the magistrate this morning.

Church of England Institute Feels Boost in Rents—Rev. R. A. Armstrong is Elected President.

At the annual meeting of the Church of England Institute held last night in their rooms, Rev. R. A. Armstrong was elected to the office of president to succeed Rev. E. B. Hooper, resigned. The retiring president has held office for five years. The election of officers and members of the council, and the reception of the annual reports were the chief business of the meeting. One of the chief matters discussed was a prospect of providing a permanent home for the society. The board in rents has reached the institute, and the advisability of securing another home. Both had been deep in the minds of the members before the meeting. After discussion of the question, it was left to a committee to be dealt with. The council's report for the past year was read and approved. The report showed a satisfactory condition of affairs. In view of the increased rent, the hope was expressed by the council in its report that the diocesan synod will carry out the proposal to erect a church house which will be adequate not alone for the institute, but for the needs of the diocese in general. Regret is expressed in the report at the death of two members during the year, Mr. Brennan and Mr. L. P. D. Tilley. Both had been deeply interested in the work of the institute, and through their death the society sustained a considerable loss. The appointment of a mission secretary, the report said, in concluding, would show a large outlet for the future usefulness of the institute. The council thanks those who took and do take, an interest in the wellbeing of the institute. The election of officers resulted in the choice of the following president, Rev. R. A. Armstrong; vice-presidents, Rowland Prith, John K. Schofield, Mrs. L. P. D. Tilley, Mrs. Geo. F. Smith, Mrs. W. D. Forster. The council chosen for the ensuing year are: R. H. Coupe, H. H. Pickett, Chas. Coster, J. Roy Campbell, W. H. B. Sadler, Jack Teed, Mrs. W. O. Raymond, Mrs. J. K. Schofield, Mrs. E. M. Shadbolt, Mrs. McMillan, Mrs. Thos. Walker, Mrs. J. M. Hay and Mrs. W. S. Neales.

REPORTS LESS WOMEN SEEKING EMPLOYMENT

Monthly Meeting of Associated Charities Held Yesterday—Secretary's Report Shows Excellent Work Done.

The regular monthly meeting of the Associated Charities was held yesterday afternoon with the president, W. S. Fisher, occupying the chair. There was a good attendance, and many important matters were dealt with. The following report was submitted by the secretary, Miss Grace Robertson: Applications received 393, requests for employment 81, seeking relief 24, recommended to employers 30, employment secured 87. Advice given in 24 cases, records given in 26, 34 visits made and 24 cases investigated. The report is compared with last month, showed a few more men seeking employment and not so many women. Adjutant Cummings was asked to express his opinion on the existing condition in the city this winter, and stated that while there was a great demand for skilled workmen, there were more of the laboring class out of employment than during the past winter. The Army shelter was closed and last Sunday evening the doors had to be closed before eight o'clock there being no more room available. A resolution was passed endorsing the appeal of the Playgrounds Association to the board of education, asking that a department be established at the Provincial Normal School for the training of teachers in the playgrounds work. The matter of obtaining the use of some of the public schools in the city during week nights for educational purposes was discussed, but nothing was decided upon. Will Appear at Nickel. The many friends of Miss Adele Harney, the popular young soprano of this city will be pleased to learn that beginning next Monday she will fill an engagement at the Nickel theatre.

ROCKLAND ATHLETIC CLUB HAS ADVENTURE

Headed by President, Boy Athletes Attempt Cross Country Run—Are Wolves Once More Ravaging the Countryside?

A glorious time was spent last evening by the members of the famous Rockland Athletic Association. At 7.30, with the president in the lead, they formed in procession and started for the woods by way of Park street. After proceeding for two solid miles they discovered that they were as much lost as the babes in the woods, and at the same time the mournful howl of wolves smote upon their astounded ears, to say nothing of the fearful thrills created in their spines by the howling of a cat locked out from the hearthstone of a farmer. Headed by the president, the club struck across country at the rate of—miles per minute, and finally came out on the borders of the artificial lake, where they paused to take breath. This done they returned post haste to their palatial quarters, where the president, John Kinsella, made a speech which will rank with the best oratorical efforts of Sir John A. Macdonald. When the gathering recovered refreshments were partaken of and everybody returned home and went to bed at an early hour. A Valentine tea held in Leinster street Baptist church Friday evening beginning at 6 o'clock; tickets, 25c.; art gallery, post office, raggy table, and other attractions. Coms.

LECTURES ON HOUSING PROBLEM IN BIG CITIES

Rev. J. H. A. Anderson Delivers Comprehensive Address on High Rents and Housing Problem in St. John

That the appearance of big industries will mean grave dangers for the city, and that big responsibilities will be thrown upon the city council by industrial expansion, was brought out vividly by the Biles lecture read by Rev. J. H. A. Anderson, before a meeting of the Young Men's Guild of the St. John Presbyterian church, last evening. "A big pork manufacturer from Toronto was here last year looking into the question of establishing a branch factory," said the lecturer. "He decided not to establish a branch here and when asked why he did not, he said: 'Most of the houses in St. John are being put up now will rent from \$200 to \$400 a year, and the people who are not able to pay this rent will have to crowd into narrow quarters. The city is being growing, but no provision has been made for those, whose wages only permit of the payment of a small rental, and St. John is confronted with a serious problem unless something is done.'"

The lecture which dealt with housing conditions in America and Europe was one of the most interesting heard in St. John for some time. It brought out in a vivid manner the serious nature of the problems which attend the growth of industry, and that in many communities the workers were able to obtain for anywhere from \$2 to \$200 a year, self-contained houses with baths, modern improvements, and gardens. Of particular interest was the portion of the lecture dealing with conditions in Germany. In that country, where the government is more concerned to protect the welfare of the people, than to promote the interests of the classes, the cities have practically prohibited speculation in land, and in St. John a general rule of Berlin is a great landowner. In the suburbs it owns 2 1/2 times as much land as there is in the city proper. It uses this land to provide housing accommodation at reasonable rentals for the working class. The city of Frankfurt owns 48 per cent. of all the land in the city limits as a general rule German cities are extensive landowners, and buy up any district where there is likely to be an influx of people, for the purpose of prohibiting speculation. Mr. Anderson referred to the fact that the city of St. John was a large landowner, and that as the city authorities here as elsewhere would have to deal with the problem of providing housing accommodation for the workers, it should be wary of selling land to speculators.

The man who owns the land, owns the people, said the lecturer. In many places the landlord has not only evicted the people; he has evicted Jesus Christ. Reference was made to a mining company which offered land for a church, but would not grant a title to the land. When the bishop asked why the land was not deeded in fee simple, the manager of the mine said his company wanted to be able to determine what kind of a Gospel was preached from that church to its slaves.

NEW BRUNSWICK BANK CLERKS HOLD DINNER

In View of the Passing of the Bank, Employees Held Reception Last Evening—Many Present.

In view of the passing of the Bank of New Brunswick the members of the local staff held a reunion and dinner in Bond's restaurant last evening. The general manager, C. H. Eason, presided, and the proceedings were of an interesting nature. In replying to the toast to the president and directors, James Manchester advised the young men to stick to their calling, they would have even greater opportunities under the Bank of Nova Scotia, and also advised them to form a club where they would foregather and enjoy themselves in a social way. The toast list was as follows: Canada and the Empire, proposed by R. Dole; responded to by R. H. Gilman. Our city, its trade and commerce, proposed by D. W. Harper; responded to by S. M. Beattie. The old bank, proposed by C. H. Lee; responded to by Chas. Macdonald in place of A. Macdonald who was unable to be present. The new bank, proposed by W. McIntyre; responded to by V. C. Crawford. The president and directors, proposed by the chairman; responded to by James Manchester. The staff, proposed by A. N. McLean; responded to by T. G. Marquis. The ladies, proposed by A. D. Dunlop; responded to by K. P. Gault and K. L. Goding.

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Only Two Days More for Free Hemming Stores Close Saturday Afternoon at 6 The February Sale of Clothing For Men and Boys Ends Saturday—Come Before Then if You Want Bargains

Clearance Sale of Infants' and Children's Coats Warm, Stylish Little Garments in Bear Cloth, Serges, Fancy Tweeds and Corduroys Much Reduced to Close Them Out Quickly. Commencing This Morning WHITE BEAR CLOTH COATS—some entirely plain, others trimmed with soutache braid and cord and with pearl buttons or frogs. Ages from 9 months to 4 1/2 years. Sale prices, 90c. \$1.00, \$1.25, \$1.75, \$1.90, \$2.00, \$2.50, \$4.75, \$5.00. RED SERGE COATS—Black searlette collars and cuffs, brass buttons. Ages 2 and 3 years. Sale prices... \$2.50 and \$2.75. NAVY SERGE COATS with velvet and braid trimmed military cape, collar, cape and sleeves piped with pale blue, brass buttons. Ages 2 and 3 years. Sale prices... \$1.75, \$2.00, \$2.50. FANCY TWEED AND SERGE COATS in fawn, grey and tan, with searlette collar, reverse and cuffs, others with collar, reverse and cuffs formed of reverse side of material. Ages 2 and 3 years. Sale prices \$1.00, \$1.25, \$1.75, \$2.50. CURDUROY COATS in navy and brown shawl collar, silk braid, trimmed, others with wide collar, braid trimmed. Ages 2 to 4 years. Sale prices... \$1.00, \$1.75, \$2.75. NO APPROVAL. NO EXCHANGE. SALE WILL START AT 8.30 IN WHITEWEAR DEPT.

Linen Room Specials for This Morning 8.30 to 12 Fine Quality Hemstitched Cotton Sheets, full size for double beds, each \$1.20, 46 inch Hemstitched Pillow Cases, to match sheets. Each, 25c. Fine Quality Hemstitched Cotton Sheets, with Mexican drawn-work ends, full double bed size. Each \$1.50. 45 inch Pillow Cases with Mexican drawn-work to match sheets. Each 62c. Manchester Robertson Allison, Ltd.