ANNUAL MEETING

Of the St. John Rural Cemetery Company.

The Directors Submit an Interesting Report on the Last Year's Proceedings.

Financial Posiion of the Company Clearly Exhibited—The Cost of Perpeual Care—General Matters.

The annual meeting of the St. John Rural Cemetery Company was held yesterday afternoon. The directors submitted the following report:

The St. John Rural Cemetery Company:

Gentlemen,—The directors beg respectfully to submit a report as required by law of their proceedings during the past year for your information.

Five years have now passed since the new system of managing the affairs of the company was initiated. It may be well, therefore, to make a record of what has been accomplished so far in that time towards the improvement of the cemetery. It will serve to mark the steady progress which has been made, and, at the same time, incite those who may now, and in the future, be authorized to control the business of the company to achieve further improvements in the same direction. A general summary may be stated as follows:

Retiring old stock of $3,200, bearing 8 per cent. interest, issuing bonds at 5 per cent for same amount, and paying off $1,000 of this debt.

Drawing up and enacting new bylaws and regulations for the government of the cemetery and its officers.

Estblishing a complete system for the annual and perpetual care of lots.

Securing the full profit of the labor of their employes, whereby a liberal income accrues to the company.

Obtaining further legislation giving ample powers to the directors, etc., and legalizing their acts.

Opening offices properly equipped in the city and cemetery for the transaction of their business.

Constructing new fences on either side of the roadway at the Marsh entrance, and along all the boundary lines of their property.

Grading, draining and improving the fields on both sides of the said entrance.

Establishing a telephone service in the city.

Erecting three substantial buildings, work shop, carriage house and office, besides two small erections.

Filling up the "gravel pit" so called, and arranging it for interments.

Obtaining and fitting up a receiving tomb under proper conditions.

Improving paths and avenues, including all now completed.

Improving culverts and placing tile and pipe drains in various directions, and generally improving the drainage. Drains were made to the extent of 4,900 feet and 700 feet of culverts.

Making a complete index of all interments and procuring all modern registers and forms to secure accuracy in their business.

Purchasing and planting over 500 young trees.

Purchasing and adding to the cemetery 34 1-2 acres of land, making the total area now to be 144 1-2 acres.

Putting up a shelter house with the necessary adjuncts to it.

Laying out new sections, buying horses and all necessary vehicles, etc., etc.

Repairing and putting in order two dwelling houses for their workmen.

Providing galvanized iron pipe leading water from Water to Cypress avenue, where it was much needed.

It wil be seen from this outline that much good work has been accomplished. But after all there still remains a great deal to be done before the plans now under consideration are fully realized. Nature has done so much for the cemetery, its scenery is so diversified, its general characteristics so beautiful, and the opportunities for its embellishment so abundant that they feel confident the company would desire the work of improving it should go forward, even if some extra expense is incurred, until it equals or excels any other similar institution in Canada.

At the last annual meeting the directors were authorized to borrow $1,500 to enabe them to erect a shelter house and form a new approach or avenue to the Cemetery from the Westmorland road. The house has been completed at a cost of $665.45, and has proved to be very useful as well as ornamental. The roadway has only been partly completed. They obtained an estimate for this work from a competent engineer, but the amount was so far in excess of what they anticipated that they resolved to do it gradually with their own staff. In this way about 600 feet have been completed, leaving about 600 feet which will be finished in the course of the present season, without any addition to their funded debt.

A section of their grounds was laid off for single graves or interments in a prominent and pleasant situation under a recent Bye-law. Such graves are under perpetual care and constantly looked after. It is very gratifying for them to be able to report that the action of the company in this respect has been most warmly appreciated by those who are interested in these interments. To this date 27 interments have been made here.

A suggestion was made at the annual meeting two years ago that it would be desirable, for several reasons, to change the name of the cemetery. It was then favorably entertained, buf after some discussion it was considered advisable not to press the question to a vote at that time, so as to allow of further reflection. Last year the subject was again brought forward, and it was then unanimously resolved that the cemetery should be designated and known as "Fernhill." Another year has now elapsed, and the experience gained in that time proves the name to be a good one and quite acceptable to the majority of the proprietors. No one, in fact, has objected to it. It is appropriate, and at the same time a very apt description of their grounds. They therefore now recommend that a further step be taken, and the corporate name of the company be also changed. It can be easily accomplished. By an act passed last year permission is given to them to make this change without resorting to the legislature. It is only necessary for a petition to be adopted and sent to the Lieutenant Governor in Council, setting forth the reasons for it, and, no doubt, the prayer of it will be allowed. As soon as it is granted the legal and popular name of the cemetery would then be "Fernhill Cemetery Company" in place of "The Corporation of the Saint John Rural Cemetery Company," as heretofore.

The financial position of the company is clearly exhibited in the accounts rendered by Mr. F. O. Allison, treasurer. They have been duly audited by Mr. R. M. Boyd and pronounced to be correct. His report to this effect is submitted herewith.

An abstract of the general account may be stated as follows:—

RECEIPTS.

From cash on hand, 13th March, '98	$ 14 31
" annual care of lots	1,007 05
" burial, removal and death fees (271)	1,279 00
" sale of lots (32)	1,338 35
" rent of houses	32 00
" interest on per. care funds	288 31
" sale of hay and grass	66 85
" sundries, deposit fees, etc.	59 23
" sale of debentures	1,530 00
" Bank of New Brunswick overdraft	562 25
Total	$7,177 08

EXPENDITURES.

From Bank N. B. overdraft	$1,001 91
" sundry charges, including cost of shelter house, $665.45	2,215 12
" wages of workmen	2,633 09
" salaries secretary and superintendent	1,000 00
" balance on Trafton property	6 95
" interest on debentures	320 00
	$7,177 08

There are some features of this account which merit attention. In the first place, the receipts from the sale of lots has been less than the previous year, to the extent of $438, but on all the other items an advance has been made. Last year the balance to debit was $1,001; this year it is only $562, and claims chiefly on annual care alone of $311 are due, a great portion of which will be collected. Three slate vaults, valued at $90, are also on hand.

It is worthy of special note that during the past five years the sum of $9,744.35 has been received for care of lots and interest on perpetual care deposits — which is practically the same thing. Previous to that time not one dollar was ever paid into the treasury for work of this kind done in the cemetery.

The perpetual care fund is growing steadily as the advantages of the system are realized by the proprietors. The amount received on this account to 15th March, '99, is now $12,289.79. Of this money $11,523.75 is invested in city debentures, purchased at a premium of 9 3-4 per cent., and the balance $766.04 is in the Bank of Montreal Savings Bank at 3 per cent. Thirty-four contracts were executed last year, making the total now to be 127.

There is no part of the work of the directors which interests them so forcibly as the adoption of the fundamental principle of perpetual care by the proprietors. It is the keynote of the successful management of the cemetery. Strenous efforts have been made, with considerable success to induce them to adopt it, but many still hesitate to do so. All thinking people now approve of it, and the directors will continue to press the subject upon them year after year.

In order to meet the wishes or inintentions of some of the proprietors, it has been considered advisable to prepare a short draft of a form of a bequest by will or otherwise, of a sum sufficient to secure perpetual care of a lot or lots, and the monuments thereon, as the case may be, owned by the testator, or in which he or she may be interested under their by-laws, and this draft will be found attached to this report.

There is one point that should be most carefully considered in this connection, and that is, the scale of fees adopted for the care of lots in perpetuity. It was prepared five years years ago, when the interest on investments of money was much greater than it is at present. The gradual depreciation of the interest bearing value of money is, in fact, still going on. It becomes, therefore, a serious question whether a very considerable addition should not be made to these fees to secure the company from loss. Sufficient money should be obtained to assure a proper income from work done under all possible contingencies.

The funded debt of the company amounts to $8,200, bearing 4 per cent. interest, except $2,200 at 5 per cent.

They have to report that nothing has been done to improve the condition of the seamen's lot, so called, during the past year. Since the application was made to the marine department of the federal government it has been ascertained that there are hundreds of persons interred there who had the name and date of death inscribed on wooden tablets, which have now fallen into decay, perished or been overthrown. It would be well for many reasons to renew them, but this cannot be done with the undertaking to keep them in order in future unless the grant from the government is increased from one to two thousand dollars, and this fact has been represented in the proper quarters.

They acknowledge, with thanks, a donation of flowers from Mr. Gould, florist, Sussex.

The superintendent, J. P. Clayton, has made his usual report of work done in the cemetery during the last year.

And in closing their report they must again acknowledge the aid which theye have received from so many of the proprietors. Owing to old associations some of their suggestions for the removal of hedges, iron fences, trees, copings, etc., etc, may have been distasteful, but in the end it has been generally admitted that the only object they have in view is the improvement of the cemetery as a whole and not in one section more than another.

Respectfully submitted,

J. R. RUEL,
J. S. GILBERT,
S. S. HALL,
J. D. SHEFFIELD,
ROBT. THOMSON,
GEO. E. FAIRWEATHER,
C. F. KINNEAR,
H. D. McLEOD,
J. R. STONE,
JAMES MANCHESTER,
A. CHIPMAN SMITH,
Directors.

St. John, March 30, 1899.

At the annual meeting on Monday afternoon, on motion of Col. Markham, the directors' report was submitted.

(For report see page 6).

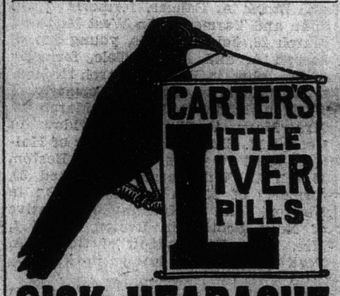
The report of the treasurer, the auditor's report thereon, and the superintendent's report were read and adopted.

On motion of S. S. Hall the directors were instructed to take the necessary steps to have the corporate name of the company changed to "Fernhill Cemetery Co."

A resolution was moved by George E. Fairweather, and unanimously adopted, setting forth that in view of the gradual depreciation in the value of money and the rate of interest which accrues from investments in good securities, the directors take into consideration the scale of fees under the by-law for the care of lots in perpetuity and report at the next meeting whether it should not be amended by increasing the amount payable therefor, so as to secure the company against any positive loss.

With respect to the seamen's lot it was decided, on motion of H. D. McLeod to use every possible effort to induce the federal government to increase its grant from $1,000 to $2,000.

The following directors were elected: S. S. Hall, H. D. McLeod, J. R. Ruel, J. Manchester, G. E. Fairweather, J. R. Stone, J. S. Gilbert, C. F. Kinnear, A. Chip. Smith, Robt. Thomson, J. H. McAvity, Dr. M. Sheffield.



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The fac-simile signature of Chas. H. Fletcher is on every wrapper.

NEWFOUNDLAND.

A Great Catch of Seals—Immense Ice Floes.

ST. JOHNS, Nfld., April 4.—The sealing steamers Newfoundland, with 17,000 seals; Panther, with 15,000, and Algerine, with 16,000, arrived here today.

The people along the coast are still taking seals by the hundreds.

The steamers Dahome, from Halifax, and Dorset, from Milford Haven, which arrived today, report encountering immense ice floes south of Cape Race.

ST. JOHNS, Nfld., April 5.—News reached here today of the burning of a French lobster factory at St. John's Island, off the west coast, the largest French fishing centre along the treaty shore of Newfoundland.

Besides the factory eleven large boats and a lot of valuable fishing appliances were destroyed.

It is believed that the fire was the work of an incendiary, and the circumstance may serve to bring about a crisis regarding the French shore question.

REACHING OUT.

HALIFAX, April 4.—A Sydney paper states that the Canadian Pacific railway is negotiating for a controlling interest in the proposed Inverness and Richmond railway and the Coal Company's extensive areas at Broad Cove. On this and other data it builds a theory that the Canadian Pacific are on the eve of establishing a fast Atlantic service and that a Cape Breton port will be the point for landing passengers and mails.

ST. JOHN PRESBYTERY.

Many Reports Received and Much Business Transacted.

The Subject of Home Missions Received a Large Amount of Attention.

Delegaes Elected to the General Assembly—Sunday Schools—The Statistical Report—Church Life and Work.

The Presbytery of St. John met on Tuesday morning in the school room of St. Andrew's church. The moderator, Judge Forbes, presided, and there were also present: Revs. H. H. Morton, J. W. Murray, J. A. McLean, A. A. McKenzie, J. K. Bearisto, A. H. Campbell, D. Campbell, Robinson, D. J. Fraser, C. D. McIntosh, A. H. Foster, G. D. Ireland, H. E. Gratz, W. McDonald, J. Ross, J. A. Sutherland, and Elders L. W. Johnston, J. Livingstone and John Willet.

The home mission's report showed a number of parishes were visited, and made the following suggestions, which were all adopted:

That Barnesville be disjoined and connected with Golden Grave; that W. A. Ross be appointed a catechist at Fort Kent and Francis; that Henry Sedgwick be appointed to labor at New Maryland and Clarendon; that A. M. McLeod be appointed as catechist at Enfield; that Frank Baird be appointed as catechist to Salina and Campbell Settlement; that Henry McIntosh be catechist to Barnesville, Golden Grove and Loch Lomond; that B. Glover be appointed to St. Martins and Black River, and C. Myers to Three Rivers and Riley Brook; that application for grants be made: $300 for the mission at Grand Falls, $300 for Andover, $275 for Grand Bay and Nerepis, $200 for Fairville, $250 for St. Matthew's church; that a committee be appointed to visit the mission at the north end; that application be made for a grant of $200 for Hammond River, Hampton, Bloomfield and Norton; $225 for Riverside and Almas; $300 for Dorchester and Sackville; $200 for Stanley and Nashwaak.

That Rev. J. Valentine be appointed as missionary to Grand Falls, C. D. McIntosh to Grand Bay, Nerepis and Jerusalem, A. S. Morton to Fairville and South Bay, J. B. Douglas to Hampton, Rev. A. J. Archibald to Dorchester and Sackville, J. C. Robertson to Stanley and Nashwaak.

That appointments to Riverside, Andover, Hampton, Springfield and English Settlement, St. Matthew's, St. John West, be referred to the home mission committee, with power to act.

The congregation of St. Matthew's church petitioned the presbytery, regretting the resignation of their pastor, Rev. Harvey Morton, and praying them to endeavor to have him reconsider his decision, as the very existence of the church was threatened by his leaving at this time. The petition suggested that Mr. Morton be granted leave of absence to recuperate his health. On motion of John Willet, seconded by Rev. J. Sutherland, the communication was referred to the home mission committee to confer with Mr. Morton.

Revs. D. J. Fraser, J. A. Sutherland and Mr. L.W. Johnston were appointed a committee to visit St. Matthew's church.

Vacancies were reported in Andover and in Riverside, and Rev. Mr. Foster and Rev. Mr. Gratz, who filled the pulpits there, declined reappointment. These appointments were sent back to the committee, and the committee given power to act.

The augmentation committee then submitted their report, which showed a slight decrease from last year. Nine places asked for grants from the fund. The committee recommended a grant of $75 to Woodstock, which was agreed to by the presbytery.

South Richmond wanted $175, and this the presbytery allowed, on the committee's recommendation.

Pisarinco was given $200, and St. George's $175.

Kincardine asked for $200, and at the suggestion of the committee was granted $185. Waterford and Mechanics' Settlement were given $150 each.

The grant to Greenfield was deferred, owing to the resignation of the pastor.

Consideration of the grant for Shediac was deferred until the afternoon, and the request of Buctouche for a grant was also deferred on account of the arrears due by the congregation. A motion to give them the grant if they settle the arrears was carried.

Quite a discussion was caused by the recommendation that no applications for grants from this fund be entertained if they are from congregations not previously aided. This was owing to the state of the fund at the present time.

A motion to adopt the report as a whole was carried.

The report of the special committee to consider remits of the general assembly was read and considered section by section.

There was a discussion over the second section, providing for a reduction of the number of delegates to the general assembly. An amendment made by Rev. J. Ross that no change be made, was lost, and the recommendation of the committee adopted.

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Sold in St. John by all responsible druggists and W. C. Wilson, St. John, West.

The meeting adjourned until 2.30 p. m.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

The following delegates to the general assembly were elected: Ministers: Revs. Ross, McDonald, Sutherland, Fotheringham, Fraser, Foster, Smith, H. and A. Morton, Boyd. Elders: Messrs. Forbes, Willet, Stevens, Johnston, Walker, White, Campbell, Stewart, Trueman, Henderson.

Rev. F. W. Murray read the report of the Sunday schools committee. The statistics gathered compare favorably with those recorded in the general assembly report of 1897:

	'97.	'99.
Schools within bounds	42	77
Schools reported	35	73
Officers and teachers enrolled	241	605
Average attendance of scholars	1,213	3,354
Number committing entire catechism	651	2,459
Average attending church from S. S.	921	2,095
Total amount raised	$979	$2,648
Expended on school	825	1,807
Contributed to schemes	191	567
To other objects	102	289

The report recommended that ministers and sessions be urged to see that accurate records be kept and greater promptitude used in forwarding them. That ministers and sessions be urged to more zealously promote the study of catechism and home preparation. That the presbytery express its hearty appreciation of the work being done by the officers and teachers of its schools. That the presbytery avail itself of its privilege in the matter of more immediate supervision of the S. S. work within its bounds.—Adopted.

Rev. A. S. Morton presented the report of the young people. It gave a somewhat full statement of the work done and in prospect. The outlook in some ways was not over satisfactory, while in others it was a cause for congratulation. The report likewise presented several recommendations, looking toward the advancement of the Young People's Association.

After discussion by Dr. McKenzie and J. S. Sutherland the report was adopted.

The report of the joint committee in regard to the convention, read by Rev. A.S.Morton, contained the following recommeddations: (1) That members of the presbytery be members of convention.—Adopted. (2), One representative from each society and Sunday school.—Adopted after discussion. (3) Where no Y. P. society exists, representative to be nominated by session.—Adopted. (4) That the convention be called at 8 p. m., second Tuesday in July, in St. Andrew's church.—Amended to read "during week of exhibition." (5) That the evening sessions be public, the mornings be given to church and Sabbath school work, afternoons to Y. P. society.—Adopted. (6) That joint committees from Y. P. A. and S. S. prepare the programme.—Adopted. (7) That this committee draw up a constitution and present it to the presbytery for sanction.—Adopted.

The statistical report was read by Rev. W. W. Rainnie. Advances had been made in every department. There were now 52 congregations or groups of stations, with 155 preaching places. The seating capacity of the buildings was 3,928; number of families, 3,462; number of single persons, 2,292; number of communicants, 5,814; added by profession, 315; added by certificate, 79; baptized (infants), 267; baptized (adults), 30; number of elders, 214; number of missionary associations, 6; number of W. F. M. Soc., 38; number of C. E. societies, 27; number of Y. P. associations, 3; number of H. M. societies, 4.

The committee drew attention to the fact that careless returns were constantly being made. It likewise submitted the following statement:

Paid in salaries	$35,880
Raised on fields	30,468
Spent on churches	16,377
Contributed to church schemes	8,264
H. M. received	1,894
Augmentation fund received	1,318
French evangelization	211
Foreign missions received	3,579
Aged and infirm ministers	150
Total for all purposes	74,950

The report adopted after discussion.

The call signed by 56 communicants and 76 adherents of the Glassville church to Rev. J. K. Bearisto was taken up. The question of the amount of augmentation to be given was warmly discussed by Rev. Messrs. Ross, Sutherland, Murray and Rainnie, and by Messrs. Robinson and Johnston. It was finally carried that the call be sustained, and that $150 be asked from the augmentation committee. Rev. D. J. Fraser will preach the induction sermon; Mr. Ireland will address the people, and Mr. Fowler the minister. The edict is to be served on April 23 and 30.

The report of the committee on Church Life and Work, Dr. Bruce, convener, was read by the clerk. It said that the answers to the series of questions sent out showed a growing acquaintance with them. The replies were clear and good. In regard to the instruction of children and family worship, it appears that these are becoming less. There is a general tone of anxiety and dissatisfaction in this regard, especially in cities and towns. Several reasons were given for the decline of family religion; the numerous societies and the pressure of business cares being emphasized. The attendance at church services and S. S. were good. Numerous modes of raising money were used. The replies to the questions in regard to social evils showed that the agitation against intemperance was growing. The review was encouraging, especially on account of the apparent awakened interest.—Adopted.

The clerk read the report of the French evangelization committee. The following recommendations were adopted: A grant of $50 per month to Edmunston, of $32.50 to a colporteur, and that an annual reduction of five per cent be made on grants.—Adopted after discussion.

The aged and infirm ministers' fund was reported through letter from W. A. Duncan. This fund is at present not in good condition. The following scheme for its betterment was filed: That there be one common fund for churches east and west; that ministers pay in one per cent of annual salary; that the congregation pay in two per cent of ministers' salary. These would give an annual income of $34,000.

The resignation of Rev. D. Fisk was laid on table and the congregation of Greenfield cited to appear April 15th.

Manitoba College informed the presbytery that they would lay before the general assembly the appointment of Dr. Kilpatrick of Scotland to the vacant chair of philosophy and Semitic languages.

J. C. Robertson and R. J. Douglas made application for licenses. The clerk was ordered to issue notices.

Several bills were received and ordered paid, after which the presbytery adjourned until April 15th.

ADMIRAL CARPENTER DEAD.

Took Part in the Attacks on Charleston.

BOSTON, April 1.—Rear Admiral Charles C. Carpenter, U. S. N., retired, committed suicide at a sanitarium in one of the suburban districts of this city yesterday. The admiral had been in ill health for some weeks.

Rear Admiral Carpenter was born in Greenfield, Mass., Feb. 2, 1834. He was appointed a midshipman from this state, Oct. 18, 1850, and was attached to the sloop Portsmouth of the Pacific squadron from 1851 to 1855. He was in the naval academy from 1855 to 1856, and was promoted to passed midshipman on June 20th of the latter year.

After leaving the naval academy he served on the steam frigates Merrimac, Roanoke, Colorado and Dolphin of the home squadron for two years. Carpenter was transferred in 1862 to the steamer Flag, of the South Atlantic squadron, and on July 16 of that year was promoted to lieutenant commander.

He next saw service on the monitor Catskill of the South Atlantic blockading fleet, and was on board during the operations and attacks upon the defences of Charleston. At the close of the war he went to the Asiatic station with the sloop Hartford, the flagship.

His first command was the steamer Wyoming of the same squadron. For two yeasr he was stationed at the Portsmouth navy yard, during which time he was commissioned as commander.

From 1871 to 1872 he had command of the Nantasket (third rate), but returned to Portsmouth on equipment duty for three years. His next sea duty was in the ill-fated Huron of the North Atlantic squadron from 1875 to 1876, leaving her a year before she was wrecked off the North Carolina coast. Again he returned to Portsmouth, and while there was advanced to captain, March 25, 1880. He completed his three years' shore duty at the Boston navy yard, and in 1882 was commander of the Hartford, which carried the English and American eclipse expedition of 1883 to the Caroline Atoll. For three years—1888-1890—he commanded the receiving ship Wabash at the Boston yard, and in June of the latter year was transferred to Portsmouth as captain of the yard and later as commandant.

He received his commission as commodore in 1893, and as rear admiral a year later. As commander of the Asiatic squadron in 1894 he saw many of the naval movements of the Chino-Japanese war.

During the Spanish war Admiral Carpenter was recalled from retirement to act as commandant of the Portsmouth navy yard in place of Commodore Remey, who had hoisted his flag on the receiving ship Lancaster at Key West.

Admiral Carpenter leaves a wife, three sons and two daughters.s

The Queen of Italy possesses the finest lace handkerchief in existence. It is valued at $30,000.

Rev. John McKenzie, a missionary in South Africa and noted pioneer with Livingstone, is dead.

J. H. MORRISON, M. D.

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Men and Ladies, Green and Maroon, 22 and 24 in Frame, any gear.
Wheels slightly used, modern types, $5 to $25.00.
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