

Around the City

GALES WITH RAIN.

EN ROUTE TO TORONTO.
A party of flying cadets en route to Toronto reached the city yesterday on the Boston train.

COTTAGE BROKE INTO.
Last week some person broke into a cottage at Duck Cove owned by Mrs. W. R. Avery and several things were stolen.

THE POLICE COURT.
In the police court yesterday five men were charged with drunkenness. Three were fined \$5 each, and the other two were remanded.

THE FIRST EXAMINATION.
The first year students of King's College Law School were examined yesterday afternoon on the Real Property by Dr. J. Roy Campbell.

ST. JOHN MAN SAVED.
Work has been received in the city that Alexander Leitchman, who was on the steamer Florizel, which foundered off Cape Race, had been rescued. He is a cousin of D. W. Leitchman of this city.

MILITARY OFFICER WANTED.
It is understood that the police have been notified by the authorities at Winnipeg to be on the look out for a military officer who, it is alleged, is wanted on a charge of theft. The officer was at one time in the war department of Military District No. 10.

WM. MCKAY INJURED.
While loading a scow with lumber at Murray and Gregory's mill, yesterday morning, a deal flew up and struck Wm. McKay in the head. An artery was broken causing a severe hemorrhage. After receiving attention by a North End physician he was taken to his home on Sheriff street.

A NEW BILL.
A session of the committee which have been working on the proposed bill to be presented at the coming session of the legislature relative to medical inspection in the province, was held yesterday afternoon at the government rooms, Prince William street. Hon. Dr. Roberts, who has been working on this bill for the past six or eight months, said, last night, to The Standard that it was now practically complete and ready for the House.

STREET CAR ON FIRE.
The chemical was called out about seven o'clock last evening to put out a fire under street car No. 114. It was said at the car barns that the fire was caused by water on the street car, and it was hard to get at the blaze it had been thought wise to call out the chemical. The car, which was in charge of Motorcarman Lewis, was able to proceed to the car barns under its own power.

HER BROTHER KILLED.
Mrs. Arthur Hawkhurst, of 106 Adelaide street, has received official intimation that her brother, Corp. Alfred Atwell of the 1st Cameronian Scottish Rifles, had been killed in action on January 8. Corp. Atwell was 32 years of age. Mrs. Hawkhurst has three other brothers in uniform and twenty-two cousins doing their bit for King and Country. Corp. Atwell was the second youngest son of Mr. and Mrs. John Atwell of Glasgow.

SPRING SHOWING OF SILKS AT DYKEMANS.

In marvelous striking Plaid designs, attracting a great deal of attention. The designs are so original and fascinating whether in high sport colors or in softer effects. They are from the American looms, which are becoming famous not only as weavers of silk, but creators of fashions. Exquisite silks for the smart skirts of springtime. Mr. Dykeman also has in conjunction with Serge, a combination which through necessity of wool conservation is to be very fashionable. We have arranged a window display today and therein you will find several silks which will give you some idea of the effect these silks have when made up. They come in Taffetas and Satin Paillettes. The price is \$1.95 to \$2.75 per yard. Conditions were never more favorable for an enjoyable shopping tour than today. May we expect you?

RETURNING TO ST. JOHN.
Mr. Norman L. McGloin of the former St. John insurance firm McLean & McGloin, has returned to St. John and is to open offices at 48 Princess street. Mr. McGloin has been appointed general agent for the Province of New Brunswick for the General Fire Assurance Corporation of Perth, Scotland, and St. John city, exclusive agent for the insurance (Fire and Marine) Company of North America. Mr. McGloin has also formed the firm of L. McGloin & Co. to transact an investment security business at the same address. Mr. McGloin's seven years' experience in these two lines of business in Canada and the United States make him well qualified for this undertaking and his many friends wish him every success.

PARTNERSHIP DISSOLVED.
I. J. W. Carter, have dissolved partnership with James E. Byrne of Carter & Byrne, plumbing and heating, 88 Princess street, phone Main 3500, and I am continuing my business at the same address.

One of the best shows of the season is at the Opera House this week. Fun, Black-face comedians, minstrel fun, and a comedy dog circus with fourteen well trained dogs and doggies that is a splendid treat for all the children and the grown-ups as well. There are three other good acts on the programme, also a good serial picture. Every afternoon at 2.30, evenings at 7.40 and 9. Special children's price for afternoons.

Victoria Rink Carnival Tuesday.
March 5th. Through good management and attention to the wants of the patrons, Carnivals have again become very popular. Nine prizes, same as last carnival, will be given.

Mrs. Horace C. Brown will be at home to her friends Thursday and Friday, 26th Feb. and Mrs. 1st at her residence at Alexander St.

ST. JOHN'S MUNICIPAL HOME IS RUN UNDER PRISON RULES; STANDARD'S CHARGES PROVEN

Mentally Deficient, Seriously Diseased, Vicious Women and Depraved Men Permitted to Mingle Freely with Other Inmates, Including Many Children of Tender Age—Evidence Brought Forward at Opening of Enquiry Into Conditions in Municipal Home Shows Urgent Need for Reform—Startling Testimony by Former Inmate—May Be Investigation Into Financial Management and Other Questions Not Raised by This Paper.

The enquiry held last evening into conditions at the St. John Municipal Home was productive of a great deal of valuable information. Every criticism published by The Standard was more than sustained, and evidence along other lines submitted. That a great deal of interest is felt in this institution was shown by the very large attendance and by the eagerness with which every statement was heard. It was shown conclusively that many of the existing regulations are obsolete, that others are not enforced, and that a few at least are rather too strictly applied. In one instance it was proved that the commissioners themselves neglect their own regulations.

Matters other than those originally referred to by The Standard were brought up and kind words spoken of Mrs. Wood and Mr. Wood. The committee of the Municipal Council, which was composed of Mr. W. Wignmore, chairman; the city commissioners, Warden Golding and Councillors Stevenson, O'Donnell and O'Brien, J. King, Kelly, county secretary, was also on the bench, and the Alms-house commissioners, with Secretary Wignmore, were in attendance. Those present included some hundred and fifty leading men and women of St. John, representing various organizations interested in charitable and philanthropic work. The room was packed to suffocation.

Mr. Wignmore briefly explained that the finance committee had been requested to act by the board of Alms-house commissioners in enquiring into matters which formed the subject of newspaper discussion.

H. A. Powell, speaking on behalf of some of those present, said that those interested did not propose this evening to make charges against the management but to express their opinion as to the regulations and the advisability of having amendments made to the regulations. Mr. Rowan explained that the present board of commissioners was appointed July last. The mayor and superintendent have been acting all along under the regulations adopted many years ago. Conditions created by these regulations made the Alms-house very much like a prison and while it remains a prison to a very large extent, certain changes have from time to time been made. The buildings and land have been improved and the rules amended. The present commissioners being new have not done much as yet but if the people had come before the commissioners and asked what they wanted changes would have been made. The present regulations which Mr. Rowan read shut out religious visiting excepting by the chaplains provided; that no vagrant men or women be allowed to leave the grounds; that all letters to or from inmates must first be read by the superintendent; that no one but the magistrate and commissioners be allowed to enter the grounds without permit. These regulations all remain in force. Mr. Rowan also recalled the very disreputable condition years ago, expressed the opinion that the public do not understand the purpose of the institution, and spoke of many improvements which have been made of late years. He spoke of one occasion when a number of loose women had called to see through the poor house. Then a man tried to get a couple of women out of the home for immoral purposes. These incidents led to the adoption of certain rules now existing. The restrictions on mail were imposed by reason of certain letters formerly passing from inmates of bad character to friends in the city.

Mr. Wignmore asked for suggestions from any ladies present—not necessarily charges—but statements of their own knowledge. Mr. Powell thought that as the home is no longer a penitentiary, the drastic regulations formerly required are not now necessary, for, as Mr. Knodell says, the home is not now burdened with the class of characters formerly received. Respectable persons should not be kept out by such drastic regulations as now exist. However well designed the regulations may be, if intelligently applied. Deal more humanely with the unfortunate than.

Mrs. David McLaughlin suggested that women on the board would tend to improve the conditions of patients. It is hard to have letters read by others, as have such restrictions on visiting, and to treat as criminals those unfortunate enough to be forced to live in an institution which ought to be a home. Mrs. Lawrence recalled an effort previously made to have women added to all boards which concern women and children, which effort came to nothing. "It is a disgrace to the city," she said, "that there are no women on this board."

Miss L. McLaughlin told of securing a nurse to visit a former maid. She was shown to the bedside. Mrs. Wood sat beside them while they talked. She was permitted only one half hour's conversation and told that this was the rule. "It is very hard on you, Mrs. Wood, to have to listen to all the conversations," Mrs. Wood did not answer.

Miss Godsoe told of a friend whose husband was ill in the home. His board was paid. The wife went to see him time and again and never once had opportunity of speaking to him privately until the day of his death. She frequently complained to friends about never seeing her husband, without having someone beside her. The name was O'Dell.

Mrs. Wood told that she had a very grateful letter from Mrs. O'Dell touch-

ing the treatment accorded her husband.

Mrs. Hugh MacKay told of her experience on a cold, wet day in March. She stood at the gate for a long time while a feeble old man went inside with the permit. Mrs. MacKay enquired of the custom in other places and found no restrictions anywhere. Surely the Alms-house people can distinguish white-cloves from gentlemen and ladies of St. John. "So many of us want to do so much for the helpless women and children out there, and there is so much to do, but it is impossible to accomplish anything in the face of restrictions now existing. None of us know when we may be forced by unforeseen circumstances to go there, and we should make it as pleasant as possible for those in our care."

Mrs. McKenna spoke strongly in favor of having women on the board and recalled that on previous occasions the name of a woman had been mentioned on the board "who would not give us any trouble."

A young woman named Valma Surette, French, from Yarmouth, spoke under oath rather wildly of her treatment at the Alms-house. She had had a child there, but remained only four months and then ran away taking the child with her. The food, she said, was poor and Mrs. Wood was insulting. She, however, had plenty of nourishing food, but there were worms in the soup and in the cabbage.

On being questioned by Mr. Powell witness said she did not know the meaning of "nourishing."

For breakfast I had a cup of tea and two slices of dry bread, for dinner meat and soup, and for supper a bowl of porridge. There was always dirt in the cabbage in the soup. Mrs. Wood used to punish the girls by taking away their clothes, by keeping their butter and molasses. Some wore boots that had to be tied on with pieces of rope.

"Father Young of the Mission church testified of the very unkind treatment accorded the inmates of the home by Mrs. Wood. He had found from some of his people that the food was just as the girls said. The witness had testified. The children were suffering terribly from the cold, their little hands being blue, while playing on the floor. And as punishment they are put in the 'black hole.' "I understand," said he, "there are two such holes, one for males and the other for females, and that children are terrified when put in this place."

The speaker saw no reason why the poor should not be treated with a little kindness.

Warden Golding explained that the "black holes" are two cells, without light, heat, chairs or bed. Those accused of any offences are put in there for varying periods.

Mr. Powell read a schedule showing that out of one hundred and eighty-three inmates there were eleven blind, twenty-two mildly insane, three maniacs and twenty-seven ill. Among the fifty-four children are thirty of school age and seven under one year. Mrs. Burrington Hamm, national secretary Y. W. C. A., said she had been asked to investigate two cases arising in the St. John Municipal Home. Two girls, one possibly on the border line, the other bright and intelligent, are under consideration. The latter got into trouble in the Municipal Home. "Rather than investigate these cases myself," said she, "as I am now going out of the city, I would like your board to carry it on. I am looking for the best in the worst. I want to know if these two girls who are still in the home are having the best done for them. Why are they still in the home, if there is anything better that can be provided for them?"

Mr. Kelley explained that in the case of one of these girls, the father is in the asylum, the mother should be there, and application had been made for this girl. This girl stole away from the home, went to a bawdy house—being induced by uncensored letters—remained there for some time and was brought back by the police. What would Mrs. Hamm do in that case?

Mrs. Hamm—"Prevent this occurring in the home. You make sufficient restrictions shutting out people. Why keep on a guard once and withdraw it in other instances? If you require a guard at the bedside of a dying man, you surely need one to keep these girls in the home. If there is nothing wrong going on in the home, there is no need of censoring letters. If wrong exists in the home then censor the letters, but what difference does it make when you have the guard of which you are so proud. This girl got into trouble while divine services was going on."

Miss Haley asked why the home should have to take care of demented people.

Mr. Rowan replied that the asylum would not take them. They mix with the other inmates. There is no paid help to look after these people. A person apparently has to be violent before getting into the asylum.

Mrs. McLaughlin asked if children are ever put into the dark hole.

Mrs. Wood replied that they are not.

Com. McLaughlin said he was glad he did not get the Municipal Home—

surprised to learn of the food furnished. We pay enough to furnish good food there, and if dry bread, soup, and porridge form the bill of fare, let me say that I will start an investigation of my own into the accounts of that institution. I know what we are spending there and I have a fair idea of what we should be getting.

"The people in the home are, on the whole, a bad class to handle. But there is one paucity for conditions existing today. Let the warden call a meeting of his council and take immediate steps to secure such legislation as will relieve the Municipal Home of several classes of persons now inflicted upon it, who are not only troublesome but who are a danger to others."

"Let us go at once to the fountain-head for while we wait in the way of reform. Let us ensure no one without all the evidence. Let us have a Municipal Home in the truest sense, not a workhouse, a penitentiary, an asylum combined. Let us provide comfort for the unfortunate inmates. Let us correct the present purpose of that institution and make it a real home."

"I am told that an elderly couple now in the home are separated although permitted to see each other through the day. Is it humane to separate an elderly couple who have lived together for many years and have grown to live in each other's happiness. Let us set apart a section of that home for such people and let us—for surely we are his enough—do away with the penitentiary-asylum features and provide a true home. I have in the past objected to the presence of ladies on public boards. I have changed my mind. It will be a great benefit to have ladies on this board. I will undertake to present at the next meeting of the council a resolution seeking legislation to provide for female representation on this board."

Mr. Rowan said the commissioners hoped to secure funds sufficient to provide quarters for such couples as may be there.

In reply to questions by Mr. Powell Mr. Wood stated that no children are sent in the black hole, but those others who are put there are fed on bread and water. Mr. Powell pointed out to Mr. Wood that although the grammar in the regulations was as bad as the legislation itself, this punishment was confined only to those guilty of highly criminal conduct. When asked if he had confined himself to punishing only those guilty of highly criminal conduct Mr. Wood said he did. The last offender was put in for sweating; another was put in for indecent conduct.

Mr. Powell found another section which permitted the commissioners to inflict punishment. Mr. Wood admitted that the commissioners did not sit in judgment on offences as required, and that they thus ignored their own regulations. As regards food, Mr. Wood gave a more elaborate menu than had been stated by previous witnesses, but his bill of fare rather made the audience laugh, and Father Young remarked that in Dorchester the fare was better.

Mr. Powell was put under oath and in reply to Valma Surette's evidence said she had exaggerated. "She is not telling the truth," Mr. Kelley and Mr. Golding tried some of the soup. That girl is not telling the truth. The question of prostitution in the home. They mix with all the others. There is no separation of classes.

Mrs. Wood, the matron, denied ever calling the Surette girl or anyone else a liar. She had directed all the inmates right. "Half the people here have not been through the institution. (Cries of we can't get through) and they don't know much about it. I am surprised at Father Young. He should not speak to me as he did. I was never unkind."

Mrs. T. Carleton, Lee endorsed every word Father Young had said—most emphatically. W. E. Scully suggested that the next meeting be held out at the home. "This," he said, "is a new board seeking to learn how to run the home, and all information will be welcomed. The question of putting laws on the board is beyond the power of this board."

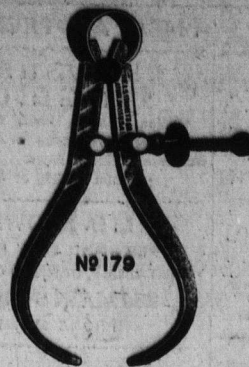
Rev. A. J. O'Neill wrote to say that in his sixteen years as chaplain he had heard no complaint from inmates, that he knew of no home where better treatment is given, and that he has everything good to say of the management. Miss Maher spoke through many years acquaintance of Mrs. Wood's kindness to the inmates of the home. She had never seen any unkindness whatever on the part of the management.

The teacher, Miss McGuire, in nine years had never seen any harsh treatment accorded the inmates. She endorsed all that Miss Maher had said. Councillor Golding and Mr. Green spoke, the latter inviting an investigation of the accounts. To this Commissioner McLaughlin responded that if, as stated by the secretary, it costs \$3.00 per head per week to run that home, and if they get dry bread, soup and tea, he stated, then he will very promptly investigate the accounts himself.

Mr. Scully also urged an enquiry, and asked that it come quick. Discussion grew warm for a few moments, until the meeting was adjourned by Mr. Wignmore. Time and place of the next session will be announced. He complimented speakers on suggestions offered, and freely admitted that there was room for improvement in the regulations and the personnel of the board.

On motion of Mr. Powell a committee was selected to look into matters at the home and further advise the commissioners. Every facility will be afforded for investigation. This committee consists of Mrs. H. A. McKenna, Mrs. E. C. Elkin, Mrs. David McLaughlin, Mrs. Lawrence, H. A. Powell, Father Young and Judge McInerney.

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