

SECOND SECTION

PAGES NINE TO SIXTEEN

ST. JOHN, N. B., SATURDAY, AUGUST 11, 1923

SECOND SECTION

SIXTEEN PAGES

PLAYGROUNDS DO MUCH GOOD IN 17 YEARS

FIRST PRACTICAL STEP TAKEN BY PROMOTERS IN ST. JOHN IN 1906 WHEN A FUND IS RAISED

Women of City Take Interest in Project Which Has Brought Much Happiness to Children of City—Great Expansion Made in Second Year of Association—Every Day Club Gives Assistance to Playgrounds—Many Kiddies Take Advantage of Amusements Offered.

(A. M. Belding.)

A little more than twenty years ago when the writer was editor of the St. John Star, which was then absorbed by The Times, he received a call one day from Miss Mabel Peters. The purpose of her call was to say she had observed that the Star was a strong advocate of playgrounds for children. She herself had been laboring in the Council of Women, writing letters to the press, and in other ways trying earnestly for several years to arouse public interest in this question, but without definite results. Neither the National nor the Local Council of Women was then as fully alive as now to the necessity for supervised playgrounds. Miss Peters felt that she was more or less regarded as the advocate of a mere fad. The editor could sympathize, being himself also under suspicion.

The result of that visit was a working agreement under which Miss Peters, from her wide store of knowledge, and what she observed in American cities and read in playground literature, furnished freely a wealth of information, which the writer was able to present to the public in terse form, along with his own views and hers of the needs of the local situation. Public opinion favorable to the movement was gradually developed, but there were still no practical results. The writer had in the meantime become editor of the newly established Evening Times.

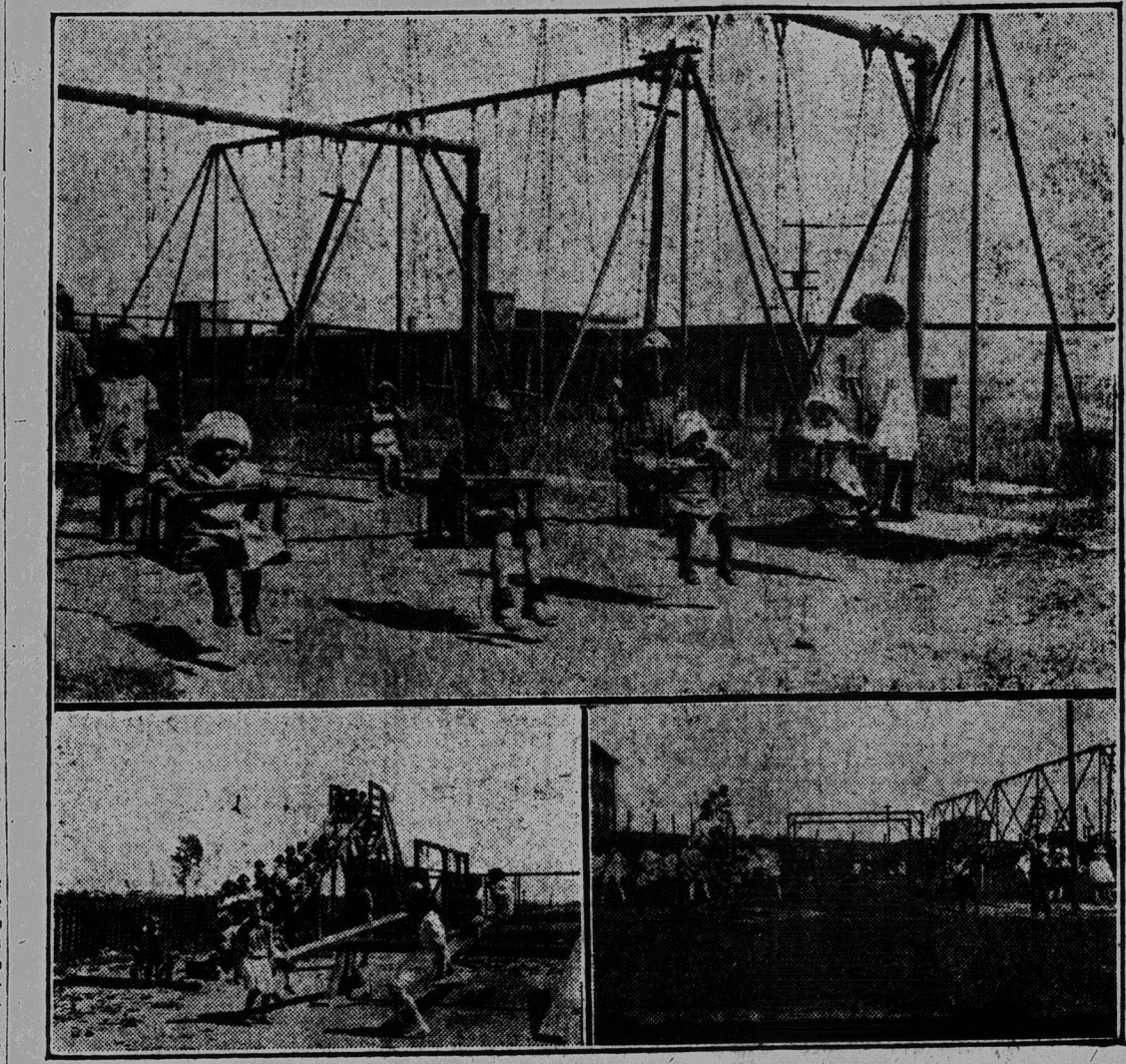
THE FIRST PRACTICAL STEP TAKEN IN JUNE, 1906.

David Russell was then the owner of the Telegraph and Times. He lived in Montreal. Noting that one of the Montreal papers raised a Fresh Air Fund to send poor children into the country, he wrote to his brother, John Russell, Jr., who was managing director of the Telegraph and Times. The writer took the liberty of pointing out that we advertised our delightful summer home, and that to suggest we had to send our children out of town to get fresh air would be a great opportunity for this was too good an opportunity to be lost.

Mr. Russell very heartily concurred, and on June 4, 1906, the Telegraph and Times opened a fund, each with a subscription of \$100. In making the fund, the evening before, and there was a helpful interview with Mrs. Robert Thomson, local delegate to the National Council of Women, and from Miss Mabel Peters as convener of the Council's committee on vacation schools and supervised playgrounds. The Times next day recorded the following subscriptions:—Mrs. Robert Thomson, \$200; Hon. William Pugsley, \$25; A. P. Barnhill, \$10; J. A. Sinclair, Lockhart and Ritchie and A. W. Macdonald, \$5 each. The next day's list included Mrs. T. H. Estabrooks, \$25, and Senator Thorne, \$10. The response continued from day to day, with substantial checks from some of Mr. Russell's friends in Montreal. Among letters of appreciation received by the writer was one from Miss Marshall Saunders, the famous Canadian authoress, then living in Halifax and seeking to arouse interest in playgrounds in that city.

Early in July the fund was closed, with about \$1,000 paid in, and already the first supervised playground for St. John was filled with happy children. The Times of July 7, a little over a

Pictures Illustrate Saint John Playgrounds



ABOVE—Baby Swings on Allison Playground. BELOW (left)—Slide and Teeters, East End Improvement League Grounds. Below, right—Another view on Allison Playground.

ous labor by the women who had so willingly set their hand to the task; and of better equipment and better trained supervision on the grounds. There were still prejudices to overcome, and critics to disregard, because their criticism was not based on knowledge. We pass on, however, to the next great step in the movement. Miss Peters and her committee realized that the work they had undertaken was not a matter for the Council of Women, but for the whole city. They rejoined to have been able to inaugurate the movement, but there was now need of a Playgrounds Association.

Thus it came about that on June 19, 1906, in the City Council chamber, Mayor Frink in the chair, the St. John Playgrounds Association came into being, with the following officers: President, Miss Mabel Peters; Vice-President, Walter C. Allison; Secretary, A. M. Belding; Treasurer, Dr. Margaret Parkes; Auditors, Dr. B. Jones and Miss Grace Leavitt; permanent members of executive, the Mayor, Commissioner of Schools, Chairman of School Board, President of Y. M. C. A., additional members of executive: George H. Watson, H. H. Brown, George E. Day, Mrs. George L. Wetmore, Mrs. Philip Grannan, Miss Bertie Heggin, Miss Mabel Peters, H. H. Hickox, Walter H. Golding, Frank B. Ellis, Rupert E. Walker, R. G. Haley; honorary member, Joseph Allison.

In her first annual address, at the close of that year's work, Miss Peters was able to report on wonderful work done. The president reported that the National Council of Women, writing all provinces to establish training schools for playground supervisors. She also advised the opening of school houses as social centers, which the Evening Times had likewise vigorously advocated. The president also reported that she was endeavoring to stimulate interest in a National Association, and made a strong plea for a playground association in every city and town.

THE YEAR'S WORK MADE A NOTABLE RECORD.

The secretary's report for 1912 noted the fact that when the Association was formed the Women's Council Committee and the Every Day Club had turned over their equipment and their grounds for the current year. Three playgrounds were conducted. One of these, in the south end of the city, was prepared, fenced, provided with a pavilion and complete outdoor playground equipment by Walter C. Allison, at a cost of \$6,777. He also paid the cost of supervision for the season. A brass tablet on the pavilion bore this inscription:—

The Harriet Ringen Allison Supervised Playground. Established as a Memorial July, 1912. The Property of The St. John Playgrounds Association.

This playground was formally declared open by Mayor Frink on July 11th. It was kept open during the Exhibition that year, to illustrate to thousands of visitors what a supervised playground meant in the life of children, and to be an object lesson for people from other towns and cities.

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A DAY WITH THE NEW PRESIDENT

(Special to Boston Herald)

Washington, Aug. 6.—With President Calvin Coolidge today at the "temporary White House" in the New Hotel, a day with the new President was a day with the new President.

6:40 a.m.—Shaving over.

6:40 a.m.—Dressed.

6:40 a.m.—Morning papers.

7 a.m.—To 9 a.m.—Correspondence and talks with Frank W. Stearns and Secretary Edward T. Clark.

8 a.m.—Breakfast with Mrs. Coolidge—orange and cream.

9 a.m.—Received Commissioners Oyster, Bell and Rudolph, of District of Columbia.

9:10 a.m.—Received Samuel Gompers, president, and Frank Morrison, secretary, American Federation of Labor.

9:35 a.m.—Received John T. Adams, chairman, Republican national committee, and William M. Butler, Republican national committeeman from Massachusetts.

10:05 a.m.—F. E. Scobey, director of the mint.

10:10 a.m.—Dr. R. Crisinger, chairman, federal reserve board.

10:25 a.m.—E. P. Farley, chairman, United States shipping board.

10:45 a.m.—Former United States Senator Kellogg of Minnesota.

10:55 a.m.—Michael Gallagher, Ohio railroad man, personal friend of Harding.

11:15 a.m.—Edward F. Collahey, Re- publican national committeeman from New Hampshire, Cameron of Arizona, and Spencer of Missouri and Joseph Keating, Republican national committeeman from Indiana.

12:20 to 2 p.m.—Luncheon with Mrs.

France Endorses Composite Fuel Break Monopoly

Paris, July 9.—(A. P. By Mail).—Alcohol and gasoline, mixed in equal quantities, will be put on the market as the French "national fuel" in October.

Long tests and a multitude of scientific sessions finally evolved this mixture as better than straight gasoline and a great forward step in "freezing" France's foreign petroleum domination, a phrase often used in parliament.

France produces much alcohol, used largely in poor country homes for their limited cooking, and in industry. This Government hopes eventually to watch the work of the new fuel on distillated motors in the clouds.

Coolidge and Mr. and Mrs. Stearns in suite.

2 p.m.—Carmel Thompson of Ohio, one of late President's closest friends.

2:10 to 3:15 p.m.—Correspondents and conferences with officials in charge of handling funeral arrangements.

3:15 p.m.—Secretary of War Weeks.

3:30 to 3:45 p.m.—Dinner with Mrs. Coolidge, and then rest.

3:45 p.m.—Senator Lodge.

3:50 p.m.—Automobile ride with Mrs. Coolidge and secret service agent.

10 p.m.—Last smoke.

10:15 p.m.—Bed.

CITY BILLS FOR JULY; MAIN ITEMS

Checks Issued at City Hall Reached a Total of \$181,586.

INTEREST HEAVY

Overdraft and Matter of an Earlier Collection of Taxes.

The amount expended by the city during the month of July, 1923, according to the report to the council, is \$181,586. The item for the month of interest on overdraft shows the cost to the city of having the taxes not collected until the latter part of the summer and what could be saved if some scheme could be devised to have them in by the first of May or earlier.

Among the larger items on the list are \$17,599.11 for the Civic Power Commission; \$8,718.51 for the new ambulance; \$9,756.30 for the school board; \$7,616.94 for the hospital and \$5,572.84 for interest on overdraft at the Bank of Nova Scotia.

Following are other details:

Ferry Dept., half month's payroll to June 30, 1923, \$1,616.15

Official payroll, half month's payroll to June 30, 1923, 2,185.98

Sundry Dept., half month's payroll to June 30, 1923, 1,500.18

Market Dept., half month's payroll to June 30, 1923, 909.85

Police Dept., half month's payroll to June 30, 1923, 2,678.98

Thos. J. Coughlan, commission on city and county taxes collected June, 1923, 131.12

Andrew Gammett, commission on city and county taxes collected June, 1923, 145.90

Robert Harris, commission on city and county taxes collected June, 1923, 148.81

H. E. Huettis, commission on city and county taxes collected June, 1923, 207.83

Percy Moore, commission on city and county taxes collected June, 1923, 161.90

Francis McElrath, commission on city and county taxes collected June, 1923, 148.50

H. Sparks, commission on city and county taxes collected June, 1923, 154.21

Thos. J. Coughlan, commission on city and county taxes collected June, 1923, 184.90

Thos. J. Coughlan, commission on city and county taxes collected June, 1923, 153.99

H. E. Huettis, commission on city and county taxes collected June, 1923, 84.90

Robert Harris, commission on city and county taxes collected June, 1923, 50.00

H. E. Huettis, commission on city and county taxes collected June, 1923, 166.24

Power Commission City of St. John, H. M. Hopper, line material per C. C. O., June 5, 1923, 892.40

Indian town and Lancaster Perry Commission on payment for month of June as per C. C. O., May 11, 1923, 158.83

One year to July 1, 1924, London Guarantee & Accident Co. of Can., Ltd., premium on policy No. 246406—am- bulance, Amount, \$8,000, 80.00

One year to July 1, 1924, London Guarantee & Accident Co. of Can., Ltd., premium on policy No. 246406—am- bulance, Amount, \$8,000, 78.40

One year to July 1, 1924, Westchester Fire Ins. Co. of New York, premium on policy No. 18554 on cottage at Spruce Lake, Amount \$500, 9 years to July 2, 1926 N. B. Post Co., electric light for Stmr. Governor Carleton at Rodney Wharf from Nov. 16, 1922, to June 1, 1923, 40.17

Public Works Dept., labor payroll, 2 weeks, July 8, 1923, 7,244.61

Harbor Dept., labor payroll, 2 weeks, July 8, 1923, 3,752.25

Water and Sewerage Dept., labor payroll, 2 weeks, July 8, 1923, 608.53

Ladies of Baxter Lodge, L. O. B. A., enjoyed an outing at MacLaren's Beach yesterday afternoon and evening. Mrs. J. M. Chapell, of Fredericton, was present and was enthusiastic concerning the scenery of the locality.

82, She Defies Police To See Funeral Train

Chicago, Aug. 11.—A little, stoop shouldered, gray haired woman was among the first arrivals at the Kinzie avenue station when the body of the late President Harding passed through, and refused to give up her position when the police attempted to clear a space on the platform.

"I saw Lincoln's body lying in state," she said. "I have been here since 7 o'clock this morning and I'm not going to move for any policeman." She gave her name to the police as Mrs. Jane White, 82 years old. She was allowed to remain on the platform.

LONG BEATS POLICEMEN MUST GUARD

The St. John Force is Divided Into Three Divisions.

SYSTEM OF PATROL

Bond's Alley Dividing Line Between the North and South.

Meeting a lone policeman in the street late at night the pedestrian usually hurries by with a curt "Night Officer" and hastens to his warm bed. Very few stop to think of the responsibility which rests upon these blue-coated and brass-buttoned guardians of the civic peace on the system by which they are distributed about the city and the manner in which they perform their work.

Three Divisions.

For purposes of police protection the city is divided into three divisions: Southern, Northern and Western. The Southern Division takes in the main part of the city; the Northern Division includes the area from Millville, Indian town, Douglas avenue to the suspension bridge, out toward the One Mile house, along Rousley avenue to the line where the boundaries of the Southern Division meet it; the Western Division takes in that part of the city on the western side of the harbor running from the Marsh road to City Line. The Northern Division takes in the area between City Line and the suspension bridge, out toward the One Mile house, along Rousley avenue to the line where the boundaries of the Southern Division meet it; the Western Division takes in that part of the city on the western side of the harbor running from the Marsh road to City Line. The Northern Division takes in the area between City Line and the suspension bridge, out toward the One Mile house, along Rousley avenue to the line where the boundaries of the Southern Division meet it; the Western Division takes in that part of the city on the western side of the harbor running from the Marsh road to City Line.

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At the head of the detective department is Sergeant-in-Chief, John J. Smith. There are some forty-three patrolmen. At the head of the detective department is Sergeant-in-Chief, John J. Smith. There are some forty-three patrolmen. At the head of the detective department is Sergeant-in-Chief, John J. Smith. There are some forty-three patrolmen.

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