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Playground Ass'n Executive Report

TO THE MEMBERS OF THE PLAYGROUND AND RECREATION ASSOCIATION OF ST. JOHN'S.

Ladies and Gentlemen:

At a public meeting called by the St. John's Rotary Club on the evening of Tuesday, August 26th, in the George V. Institute, the Playground and Recreation Association of St. John's was formed. Mr. Reuben Forwood, Chairman of the Boys' Fork Committee of the Rotary Club, was Chairman of the meeting and the following resolutions were unanimously passed:

"WHEREAS: It seems right and fair that children, young people and adults should have an opportunity to take the best possible use of their leisure time, and

"WHEREAS: We know that it is a wise city that provides places in which our future citizens may play throughout the year under intelligent and sympathetic leadership, therefore, we

"RESOLVED that we hereby join ourselves together in an association to be known as The Playground and Recreation Association of St. John's, with articles and by-laws to be prepared.

At this meeting the principal speakers were: Dr. J. A. Robinson, the Prime Minister, Hon. W. S. Monroe, Rev. Father Pippy, the Hon. W. J. Higgins, Minister of Justice, and Rev. J. Power.

A Provisional Committee was formed to draw up a Constitution. The committee consisted of: Messrs. Vincent Burke, C. J. Cahill, C. C. Duley, C. C. Outerbridge, P. E. Outerbridge, Joseph Peters, G. R. Williams, Hon.

W. J. Ellis, Hon. S. Milley, and Dr. William Roberts. They were empowered to draft Constitution and By-Laws, nominate an Executive, and submit same to another public meeting to be convened at as early a date as possible.

A meeting of this Provisional Committee was held in the Council Chamber of the Board of Trade on August 29th, a Constitution was drafted and fifteen names were suggested for the first year's Executive.

Another public meeting was then called and was held in the Chambers of the Board of Trade on September 5th. His Excellency the Governor and Lady Allardice, His Worship Mayor Cook and a fairly large number of citizens were present. His Excellency congratulated the Rotarians upon having started the movement for a Playground and Recreation Association, and stated that it had the approval not only of himself and Lady Allardice, but of every right thinking citizen in St. John's.

The Constitution and By-laws of the Playground and Recreation Association of St. John's, herewith attached, were then adopted and the following Executive were elected for the coming year, viz:—

Ronald Ayre, Edgar R. Bowring (Jr.), Vincent Burke, Cyril J. Cahill, C. C. Duley, Dr. John Grieve, T. V. Hartnett, Reuben F. Horwood, Chas. E. Hunt, J. F. Meehan, P. E. Outerbridge, John O'Toole (T. A. Club), George Peters, Dr. Wm. Roberts, Harold Mitchell.

The first meeting of the Executive was held in the Council Chamber of the Board of Trade on October 6th, at which the nomination and election of officers took place and resulted as follows:—

President—Vincent Burke.
1st Vice-President—George Peters.

2nd Vice-President—Cyril J. Cahill.
Secretary—Treasurer—P. Edmund Outerbridge.

WINTER ACTIVITIES.

The next meeting was held on December 10th and a lengthy discussion took place on the matter of providing recreation for the children during the winter months. A Committee was appointed consisting of the President, Mr. Ayre and Mr. Bowring to interview the City Council with regard to the possibility of providing rink and sliding places in Bannerman and Victoria Parks. This Committee met the City Council in session, were most courteously received and the Mayor and Council not only gave permission to the Playground and Recreation Association to provide sliding places in the Parks; but also most generously placed the services of the City Engineer at the disposal of the Association for this purpose, and eventually stood all the expenses in connection with the sliding places. The Mayor, the City Council as a whole, the Councilors in charge of the Parks and the Council's officials have been in all cases most courteous and helpful to the Playground Association, for which we desire to express our sincere thanks.

It was not found feasible to provide open air skating rinks, but the Directors of the Prince of Wales Rink very kindly came to the rescue, and placed the rink at the disposal of the Association for children of the city, two afternoons a week, free of cost; some citizens also made contributions of skates and many children were thus placed within the reach of healthy amusement and made happier.

The Rev. Bro. Ennis, Principal of Mount Cashel, and Mr. T. J. Bennett very kindly and thoughtfully gave their hands free of cost to the children during the free skating sessions at the rink, and to them the rink directors and other kind supporters we desire to express our grateful appreciation.

The Inspector General of Police was approached with a view to setting a few streets apart under the guardianship of the police for sliding; but he regretted he was unable to do so at the time as he was sending a couple of men for this duty would leave him short of men for the general city work. It is hoped, however, that the coming winter provision may be made for sliding. We feel there is something very wrong in a city where children are unable to engage in the healthy recreation of sliding, and that they should have to be arrested and brought before a court for doing that which all healthy children long to do and which every right thinking citizen wishes to see them do, is to be deplored. This problem must be satisfactorily solved in the near future.

SUMMER ACTIVITIES.

When making arrangements for the summer programme, it was unanimously decided that Mr. Barton be communicated with to see if he would accept the position of Playground Director during the summer. He accepted and seven other teachers, five ladies and two gentlemen, namely, Misses S. Smith and E. Smith, E. Snelgrove, E. Warren and M. Turk, Mr. A. Butt and Capt. O'Grady were employed during the whole or part of the season.

On the occasion of the unveiling of "Peter Pan" in Bowring Park, your Executive sent a cablegram of appreciation to the generous donor—Sir Edgar Bowring. This beautiful and valuable work of art will be not only a delight to the city children as long as the city stands, but it is also an ornament to Bowring Park and a possession of which the city may be justly proud.

FINANCIAL.

In order to meet the necessary expenses for the carrying out of the summer's programme, arrangements were made whereby a Circus Fair operated under the patronage of the Association in consideration of which the Association received the sum of Eighteen hundred and nine dollars and forty cents (\$1895.40) and on account of it, the Association is today in a healthy financial condition.

We would strongly recommend that the money necessary for the carrying out of the Playground work be raised by annual subscriptions directly from the public. The work concerns the public and if the public wishes it to continue a much larger number of supporters will have to be found during the coming year. It would be a calamity if the work were to cease for lack of means and we appeal to the public, in the interests of the city's children, for the continuance of its sympathetic interest and for increased financial support.

EQUIPMENT.

The cost of equipment during the year including the splendid new apparatus installed in Victoria Park, was Three hundred and fifty-three dollars and fifty-three cents, (\$353.53). In this matter of equipment we got the very best that could be obtained, and it is as strong and durable as is manufactured. It was the unanimous decision of the Executive members that as far as they were concerned no accident would occur through faulty equipment and the best obtainable was secured, even though the cost was probably slightly greater.

The Executive has had under consideration also the providing of a swimming pool and extra playgrounds, somewhere in the centre of the city, as well as the possibility of obtaining from the proper authorities that parcel of land which adjoins Victoria Park, which in reality belongs to it; but which at present is surrounded by a fence belonging to another institution. This piece of land should be secured. There is a pretty little brook running through it, now filled with tins cans and other rubbish which could be removed, the brook made pleasant to the eye and the park enlarged to the benefit not only of the children but of citizens generally.

THE PUBLIC.

We would like to place on record our appreciation of the great interest manifested by the general public, several prominent citizens, and the Rotary Club, in the important matter of providing healthy recreation for the city's future citizens and for the financial help given, without which this work could not be carried on. The play needs of little and big children are very great and it is of the utmost importance to the welfare of the children that these needs be met. We have in this Playground and Recreation Association, with the sympathetic and financial support of the public, the instrument by which these needs may be met and the play hunger of the children satisfied to some of our pitiful little homes, and our overcrowded school rooms. Through the means of play the heart of the little child may be reached and moulded, so that it may never, never take the shape of the criminal's heart.

In conclusion, we would like to place on record our appreciation of the splendid services rendered by our Playground Director, Mr. Barton, whose report will be submitted for your consideration at this meeting and our appreciation as well of the zeal, devotion and efficiency of the playground instructors, whose names

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are mentioned above and who served the children of the city so faithfully, well and happily this summer.

On behalf of the Playground Association,

VINCENT BURKE, President.
P. E. OUTERBRIDGE, Hon. Sec.-Treasurer.

Park Apparatus a Gift

Editor Evening Telegram
Dear Sir—On behalf of this Association, I beg to tender you sincere thanks and appreciation for the considerable space devoted to the activities of the Association in last night's issue.

An error, however, (probably due to a typographical error) crept into the article wherein it is stated that the new playground apparatus purchased by the Association during the season just closed was supplied to Bowring Park. This new apparatus was supplied to Victoria Park. All the very considerable playground apparatus in Bowring Park was the personal gift of Sir Edgar Bowring to the children of the city.

Yours very truly,
PLAYGROUND RECREATION ASSOCIATION OF ST. JOHN'S.
P. E. Outerbridge, Hon. Secretary-Treasurer.

Negro in Death Cell

GRANTED HIS LAST REQUEST—A CHICKEN.

CHICAGO, Nov. 6.—(A.P.)—Campbell McCarthy, negro, who was to have been hanged this morning was not entirely filled with happiness yesterday when he received word of an eleven hour stay of execution until next month, while his case is taken to the Supreme Court.

"That's mighty fine," he smiled when the news reached him. Then, his face sobering, he added: "But, captain, I've got just one favor to ask. I want to stay here in the death cell until I get the chicken dinner they bring to all condemned men."

His plea was granted and in the death cell of the Cook County jail, McCarthy last night ate what was to have been his last meal—chicken with all the trimmings.

Ten cents for Pearlina—the finest washing powder. It's worth ten dollars.

Sachem in Port

S.S. Sachem, Capt. W. A. Westgarth, D.S.C., arrived from Liverpool at 3 o'clock yesterday afternoon, after having made a good passage. The ship



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left Liverpool on Wednesday, November 4th, and experienced fair weather. At times there were high winds and seas, but the ship's progress was not impeded as a result. She brought a general cargo and the following passengers:—Mrs. A. G. Allen, Henry Arnold, P. H. Cowan, Henry Davidson, E. T. S. Hoyle, B. A. R. Keel, John R. Noah, Mrs. Noah, T. G. O'Reilly, Miss Dorothy Robertson, J. C. Sapp, G. Stuart, G. Bulger, and the crew of the wrecked schooner Nancy Lee, as follows:—Captain J. Wiltshire, P. Boucher, T. Walters, J. Eastman,

N. Bonfield, L. Snowden. The following are on board en route to Halifax:—J. A. H. Stewart, Mrs. Stewart, E. F. Stewart, Miss V. F. Stewart.

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