

AROUND THE CITY

Arriver on Other Side. The Allan liner Tunisian arrived at Liverpool yesterday and the C. P. R. steamer Mount Temple arrived at London from this port.

Married Last Evening. A quiet wedding took place last evening at the home of the officiating clergyman, Rev. Miles McCulloch, when John W. Scribner and Mrs. Mary Gormley were united in marriage. The couple were unattended. They will reside at 45 Brussels street.

To Hold Benefit Ball. On Tuesday morning a number of ladies met at the home of Mrs. F. J. Sayre and discussed the best methods to add to the funds of the Playgrounds Association. After consideration it was decided to hold a benefit ball in Keith's assembly rooms on the Wednesday following Easter.

Not Dead, But Sleeping. There was a flutter of excitement at central police station last night when a telephone message was received that a dead man was lying on the Marsh Road near the I. C. R. round house. An officer was sent out to investigate and learned that the man was not dead but sleeping off a drink and had been hurled into a team and hauled away before the officer arrived.

Purchasing Farms. Members of the Farm Settlement Board are scouring the country looking up farms with which to meet the demand of new settlers in the spring. Mr. Hay is looking over vacant farms in Gloucester county. Mr. Butler and Mr. Wilnot are touring Charlotte county. Today Secretary Gilchrist leaves for a trip to Westmorland county to look over some farms there with a view to purchase.

St. John County L. O. L. The St. John County L. O. L. met in annual session last evening when after the routine business was transacted, the officers for the year were elected as follows: Harry Sellen, master; G. Earle Logan, D. C. M.; George Corbett, chaplain; W. H. Sullivan, recording secretary; N. J. Morrison, treasurer; W. Williams, F. S.; Herbert Nickerson, lecturer; George E. Chase, deputy lecturer; H. Milley, deputy lecturer; John London, Tyler.

Checkers Elect Officers. A meeting of Local Union 825, Marine Warehouse Checkers, was held last evening in their rooms on Mill street with president John E. Moore in the chair. After the initiation of new members and routine business had been dealt with, the following officers were elected: President, John E. Moore; senior vice-pres., J. L. Haley; junior vice-pres., R. E. Coleman; recording secretary, Harold Stears; financial secretary, Samuel Maxwell; marshal, William Frizzell; trustees, J. E. Fitzgerald, John Owens, Gilbert Ring.

Power Boat Club Smoker. There was a large attendance at the smoker held in the St. John Power Boat Club house last evening and a general good time was spent by all. Commodore S. P. Gerow presided and the programme consisted of vocal solos by Robert Carrigan, J. Noakes, T. Kirby, Fred Ramsey and Fred T. McKean; reading, A. McCluskey; tambourine solo, John Tongue; piano solo, Thomas Roberts; comas sketch, Bailey, Bond and Carson. There was also a number of selections by the club's orchestra. Refreshments were served and the happy gathering was brought to a close by the singing of the National Anthem.

Will Hold Investigation. At a meeting of the governors of the Boys' Industrial Home yesterday afternoon it was decided to conduct an investigation in connection with the escape of the boys from the institution. The governors are at a loss to understand how the boys effected their escape so easily, and will make a thorough enquiry of the reasons that induced the boys to break out and the way they got to short lived liberty. It is believed that the conditions which seem to favor the escape of the boys should be changed as it is believed to be wrong to place too much temptation to escape upon the young sinners.

The Sugar Refinery. F. H. Anson, of the Atlantic Sugar Refinery Company, arrived in the city yesterday and is at the Royal. The purpose of his visit is to meet the engineers of the company who are to carry on the construction work on the proposed building. Mr. Anson said it is hoped to begin work on the substructure as soon as the engineers have made their examination of the tests which have been made. With the continuance of good weather considerable progress will be made before summer, and if questions of labor and of material can be satisfactorily arranged, work will be carried on rapidly. The head tax on incoming labor, Mr. Anson pointed out, may have an effect on construction work.

A Great Entertainment. The entertainment last evening in the Seamen's Institute by the Lake Erie Emerald Troupe was first class in every particular. The performers showed marked ability and the items were of a high class order. The large auditorium was crowded and every one seemed to enjoy every minute of the performance. The singing was good. Messrs. W. E. Taylor, G. Wise, and H. Hammond were very happy in their selections and had to respond to encore. Messrs. Spadoni, Tyson created roars of laughter with their comic songs. Messrs. Apsey and Cees appeared in a sketch, "Our Wedding Anniversary" which was greatly enjoyed. The following gentlemen also took part and were deservedly popular: J. Sweeney, R. Lawrie, J. Garvey, P. Rafferty and M. Harvey. Mrs. Riley accompanied the singers and proved an excellent pianist.

MINSTREL MAIDS AND LADIES' ORCHESTRA THURSDAY. The Opera House is offering something new in Marcus's Merry Minstrel Maids, a company of pretty girls and two men, in a minstrel circle and musical comedy in miniature. It is a refined girl show including a clever ladies' orchestra.

Y. M. C. A. BILLIARDS. In the Y. M. C. A. billiard tournament last evening Spedding defeated Woodley by a score of 250 to 243.

HIGH RENT PROBLEM WHICH CITY MUST FACE

Question of Get Together Movement Now Among Tenants— Re-created Board of Trade Might Well Grapple at Once with Unwarranted Increase in Residential and Business Rents.

So serious has the rent problem become in St. John that there is talk of a get-together movement on the part of tenants with the object of forming an organization to protect their interests.

One of the chief topics of conversation about the streets for the last few days has been the advances in rents scheduled to take place on the first of May, and there seems to be a pretty general feeling that the increases are not warranted by conditions in St. John. In many cases those on salary, or wages, will find it difficult to meet the additional total demanded by the landlord.

It is a well known fact that, generally speaking, both salaries and wages are lower in St. John than most other cities of similar pretensions, and while there has developed some tendency to increase salaries and wages there have been no advances corresponding with the increase in rents and the cost of living generally which has taken place in recent years. In the past there was, no doubt, some ground for the impression that the lower earnings were offset by the lower rentals and prices here, but at the present time rents as well as the prices of many commodities in St. John are as high as in cities of similar size, and even in a large city like Montreal. A glance at the To Rent ads in Montreal papers shows that flats with good accommodations are being offered at very reasonable rents, also compared with the charges made for similar accommodation in St. John.

Board of Trade Should Act. Very frequently one hears on the street the remark that the recreated Board of Trade ought at once to take up the problem of housing in St. John. When here Mr. Chase, the Town Development expert, stated that if a city wanted to attract new industries it must have housing conditions that appeal to its workers; that when manufacturers were looking about for new sites one of the matters they always looked into was that of the kind of housing available for their employes.

In fact it seems that the problem deserves consideration in St. John, if valuations in western cities are anywhere near right," said Commissioner Schofield yesterday. "I have been looking into the valuations of some western cities for assessment purposes Calgary had about 1100 more people than St. John at the last census. The assessed valuation of property in Calgary is one hundred million dollars more than in St. John. That is a tremendous difference. If St. John's valuations were as high as in Calgary we could cut the tax rate in two and still raise money to carry on a big programme of public improvement. The total assessment of St. John last year was \$29,000,000. A curious fact about the present situation is that the assessed valuations of improvement and land in the old city are not as high as before the big fire of 1877."

It is understood that the city commissioners have decided to give the whole assessment system of the city a thorough overhauling, and that they are seriously considering the advisability of bringing on an expert to introduce the Somer system of fixing assessment valuations of a number of papers claim, it is simply a question of supply and demand then it might still be advisable for the Board of Trade to try to solve the problem of securing a surper supply of houses, since if rents are maintained at present levels the business men who compose the board will have to face the question of paying higher wages.

The idea of the board is to get more people to come to St. John, but this result is not likely to be attained in a hurry unless something is done to solve the rent problem. It is a well known fact that quite a number of people attracted here by the story of St. John's development have gone away again because they could not secure decent housing accommodation at reasonable rentals.

Other cities have in a period of expansion, been obliged to face a similar problem. In some cases the civic authorities have felt impelled to go into the business of building houses; in others business organizations of various kinds have undertaken to supply houses at rentals yielding only a fair margin of profit. Where no such action has been taken the result, as in Glasgow, has usually been to make the landlords more reasonable.

At the regular meeting of the Natural History Society last evening, Dr. G. U. Hay gave an interesting resume of the progress of his historical research which has marked the past half century in New Brunswick. The lecture proved very interesting, and was well attended.

The annual business meeting preceded the lecture, Dr. Hay, vice-president presiding. An important incident of the meeting was the presentation of a number of valuable gifts for the society's museum included in the list of donations were two volumes of the writings of famous authors, both volumes being written in the year 1705. Another interesting gift is a mummy's foot. Beside these, several articles of particular interest are among the gifts. A large assortment of souvenirs of South Africa are to be found in the collection presented during the meeting.

A number of new names were voted on for admission to membership. When the regular business had been disposed of, R. B. Emerson took the chair and introduced the lecturer of the evening. Dr. Hay's lecture proved instructive to his hearers, and was heard with appreciation. After a brief resume of the progress made in the world generally, in the field of botanical research during the past 50 years, and especially in economical botany, or botany applied to agriculture, the lecturer discussed the question from the point of view of the province.

He spoke of the earlier research work as carried on, referring to the work of Luther Burbank and his system. He touched upon the results achieved by Prof. Robb, a professor in the U. N. B., and for a time secretary of agriculture for New Brunswick, of Prof. Fowler, who published the first really important list of New Brunswick plants, of the work of Dr. G. F. Mathew and others. The lecturer modestly refrained from mentioning his own share in the progress, although he has done much, and at the present time a revised list of provincial plants classified by him is in the printer's hands at Ottawa and will probably be used by the Dominion department of agriculture.

At the close a vote of thanks was tendered Dr. Hay. PERSONAL. Mrs. Henry G. Marr left recently for New York where she is visiting friends. The many friends of H. H. Pickett are pleased to see that he has recovered from his recent severe illness and is able to be about again. G. S. Mayes, who has been confined to his home by an injured foot, will be able to be out today. T. F. Charlson and E. E. Charlson, of Ottawa, arrived in the city yesterday. E. Tiffin and Mrs. Tiffin came to the city last night and are at the Royal. His Honor Lieut. Gov. Wood passed through the city last evening en route to Fredericton to attend the meeting of the government. Rev. George Steele of Shediac is in the city. Change in Rosary Service. The Cathedral congregation are greatly pleased over the change effected by Bishop LeBlanc. Formerly the congregation were compelled to attend the rosary service at 5:30 o'clock in the morning and Bishop LeBlanc has changed the time to 7:30 o'clock, which is found by the congregation to be much more convenient.

Whitewear Sale at M. R. A.'s. This is a clearance of garments that have become a trifle mused or soiled while being shown in the department and they have been placed at low prices to close them out. Ladies will be able to choose some desirable bargains from the lots offered. The sale will start this morning at 8:30 in the whitewear department. Funeral Notice. The members of Division No. 1, A. O. H. are requested to meet this afternoon to attend the funeral of their brother member, Thomas Campbell, which will be held from his home 24 Harding street, at 2:30 o'clock. Sir Thomas Tait Here. Sir Thomas Tait arrived on the Boston train last evening. Sir Thomas was seen by a Standard reporter who stated that work on the Mirto to Gibson Railroad would be started soon.

ASSESSMENT SYSTEM WRONG

Commissioner Schofield Discusses Great Difference Between St. John and Calgary— Will Overhaul the Local System.

There is something radically wrong with the assessment system of St. John, if valuations in western cities are anywhere near right," said Commissioner Schofield yesterday. "I have been looking into the valuations of some western cities for assessment purposes Calgary had about 1100 more people than St. John at the last census. The assessed valuation of property in Calgary is one hundred million dollars more than in St. John. That is a tremendous difference. If St. John's valuations were as high as in Calgary we could cut the tax rate in two and still raise money to carry on a big programme of public improvement. The total assessment of St. John last year was \$29,000,000. A curious fact about the present situation is that the assessed valuations of improvement and land in the old city are not as high as before the big fire of 1877."

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Special For This Morning From 8:30 to 12. Ready Hemmed Bleached Cotton Sheets, 2 yds. wide, each 65c, 2 1/2 yards wide, each 75c. Hemmed Pillow Cases 40 in., pair 28c., 42 in., pair 29c.; 44 in., pair 32c.

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This is an offering of garments a trifle soiled from handling while being shown in the department, but which laundering will make like new. They are to be disposed of at low prices and the bargains will be well worth coming for. Ladies' Night Dresses, well made of good materials. Sale prices 75c., \$1.00, \$1.50 Ladies' Skirts, lace and embroidery trimmed, exceptional values. Sale prices, 75c., \$1.50, \$1.75, \$2.00 Ladies' Drawers, lace and embroidery trimmed. Sale prices 49c., 50c., 70c., 75c., \$1.00, \$1.25 Children's Skirts, in white cotton, trimmed with embroidery and lace. Sale prices, 25c. up Ladies' Long Kimonos, pretty floral designs. Sale price \$1.50 Sale Will Start at 8:30 in Whitewear Dept.—2nd Floor.

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