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PROGRESS.

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MORE WATER REQUIRED.

AND THE CITY WILL SPEND THE MONEY TO SECURE IT.

One Hundred and Thirty-five Thousand Dollars Will put Down a 24 Inch Main From Spruce Lake to Carleton—Some Interesting Facts and Figures.

One hundred and thirty five thousand dollars more to be spent upon the West side!

This time it is for water and not for curves.

The people cannot live, and ocean steamers cannot steam out of St. John, without water, and the report is, that there is not enough in the winter time to supply all the demands.

So when the city fathers went into session this week, they took the question up with an earnestness worthy of the subject.

There is a 12 inch main leading from Spruce Lake to Carleton, but it is only of sheet iron, and has been under ground since 1859. It may last for some years yet and it may break at any time. So the supply is not a sure and certain one.

There is a population of 6250 on the west side to which water has to be supplied. Nine hundred and five of these people live in the parish of Lancaster. The consumption there at the present time is only 100 gallons for each of the population while on the east side the consumption reaches 137 gallons per head. This is accounted for by the fact that there are not as many manufactories using water on the west side as on the east; but on the other hand the ocean shipping has to be considered and it is calculated that these use 260,000 gallons each day.

Mr. Murdoch told some interesting things at the meeting of the committee. He came provided with information which the aldermen got as they wished. When the weakness of the present main was presented some one quickly asked what would be done if it bursted and it took a day or two to repair it. The reply to this was the reserve supply in the Carleton reservoir would last two and a half days for ordinary use, but if a fire took place in that time the reserve would be quickly exhausted.

Then came the report of the engineer and his recommendation. On the ground of economy he said he would recommend that an 18 inch main be laid down. The cost would be $92,000, and the additional supply would serve not only the proposed pulp mill of Messrs Cushing & Co., but 1200 more people. But if a 24 inch main was laid, the supply would be 2 840 000 gallons per day, and would be sufficient for 17,000 people, as well as the proposed new industry. This statement caught the attention of the aldermen quickly, and the questions that poured in upon Mr. Murdock would have confused a man not thoroughly up in the business.

The cost of laying a 24 inch main will be $135 000, or only $43,000 more than laying an 18 inch pipe. And it will give about two and a half times the surplus water!

These facts were new to many of those present, and the advantages of the larger main impressed themselves upon all of the aldermen. But there was no rush about the conclusion and the ground was carefully covered by all manner of questions. There was a doubt about the supply, and Mr. Murdoch was asked if there was plenty of water in Spruce Lake for such a main as proposed. He stated that even such a 24 inch pipe would not make any appreciable difference in the level of the lake. The fact was that the overflow from this chain of lakes, comprising Spruce, Ludgate and Mirage, is tremendous and served in times past to supply the big saw mill of Messrs. Jewett at Sutton. This mill is no longer a factor, but the overflow remains and is in fact much greater than ever because the locks in the dam have been repaired and the stream of water pouring down toward Boston is said to be tremendous. In fact it is of such magnitude that the statement was made that the Messrs. Jewett were looking into the project of a pulp mill at South Bay, the situation being in every way desirable.

So the question of supply seemed to be settled, though to make sure there was a good deal of questioning. The engineers statements, and perhaps an inclination to think that where nearly three million gallons of water were taken from even a lake every day, the supply might get hold out. But those acquainted with the water of the lakes could only believe all that was stated, and everybody was seemingly satisfied that the lake would do the engineer had stated them.

The question concerning cost next arose and it was the more interesting since it included the possible revenue from the pulp mill. The amount received at present is $5430.20 from Carleton and $3380 from Fairville or Lancaster parish. Of this the asylum pays $800 and Mr. Ready $400. The income from meter users is $400. So it will be seen that the income is about $8900 and if the future proved as bright as the people think it will and pulp mills arise to use all the water that can be supplied then then the investment of $135,000 will be a paying one.

Mr. Murdoch said that the estimate of $92,000 for an 18 inch main and $135,000 for a 24 inch main included $5000 for possible land damages. The route would not be the same as that of the present pipe but would be more direct, saving half a mile in the six and a half miles between the lake and the west side. There was no record of any land damages when the first pipe was laid and the city had no land on either side of the main but in his opinion there should be about 30 feet.

After some discussion the committee agreed that the west side supply of water was insufficient and then if a pipe was laid that it was expedient to put down a 24 inch main.

With the discussion spoken of above the fact that Messrs. Cushing wanted 340,000 gallons of water daily for the manufacture of pulp was taken into consideration. In fact had not those gentlemen been so energetic in pressing this new industry upon the attention of the council and upon the people, through the press, it is doubtful if the aldermen would have given the question of more water for Carleton such speedy consideration. The chairman of public works, Dr. Christie, was the alderman who presented the case for Messrs. Cushing and certainly he had his facts and papers admirably arranged. The petition from the business men on the east side was a great argument in favor of making the expenditure and the council evidently thought so, for the names of the heaviest taxpayers were on the list. Mr. W. W. Turnbull evidently believes in the extra expenditure for he had his autograph to the document. There were some firm names conspicuous by their absence, but there was a large number who did sign.

The interesting fact was elicited that a number of other gentlemen besides Messrs Cushing & Co. were thinking of erecting pulp mills. Definite confirmation of this was given by the mayor and Alderman Macrae who spoke of a pulp mill twice the size of that proposed by Messrs Cushing. In connection with those new industries the names of Messrs Hilyard and Mooney & Sons were mentioned.

One cent per thousand gallons appears to be a ridiculous price to pay for water yet the Messrs Cushing could not see their way clear to pay so much. In Halifax the rate is 13 cents per thousand gallons, in Montreal it is over thirty cents and the Parks cotton mill on the east side of the harbour pays five cents per thousand gallons but the new pulp mill does not want to pay even one cent. And they will not, for the council made the charge $750 a year, and a cent per 1000 gallons for what they use over 340,000 a day.

Now other pulp mills will expect the same rate, and the argument that Messrs Cushing are pioneers in the business will hardly avail to give them any advantage over competitors.

The Newcastle Shooting Affair Revived.

A despatch from Halifax says that the death of Norman McKenzie of Newcastle who was shot in a hotel there last February by Dr. Baynon of New York is attributed to the wound he received at that time. The bullet lodged near the spine and was never extracted. Mr. McKenzie was in St. John a few months ago and seemed in the best of good health and spirits. He spoke of the incident of the shooting and did not seem to throw much blame upon anybody. In fact he would not have talked about the affair but to oblige some friends at his. It was a guest of the hotel and objected to some noise that was made in the adjoining room. He carried his objection to such an extent that McKenzie and Marquis resented it and the result was the Baynon sent his revolver and put a bullet into each of the Newcastle men. The jury did not find him guilty but the weight of evidence must have been in his favor.

THE WAGES OF THE LABORERS.

Some Facts & Figures Showing Why Some Are Alarmed at the Fact.

There have been two matters before the public recently with respect to local labor questions. One is the formation of a surveyors' protective union. The other is the reputed dissension in the ranks of the ship laborers union.

There are about a hundred surveyors about the city who tally the lumber cargoes that are shipped from the port. The shippers usually have certain surveyors who act in an equivalent capacity to that of the stevedores in relation to the ship laborers. They get say six or seven cents per thousand for tallying, and they distribute the work among the younger men at a less rate, making one or two cents per thousand themselves.

A surveyor can tally a hundred thousand a day which would bring in $5, $6 or $7, but there is nothing like steady employment, so that a good many are always idle, just as in the case of the ship laborers the shippers have to pay the men sufficient to reimburse them for the time they have nothing to do.

What the surveyors want to do is what all protective unions are organized for, to establish a uniform rate of wages and give every man his share of the work. Messrs. W. B. Dickson and Thomas Gregory are two of the movers in the scheme, and they are now getting organized in readiness for next spring's lumber business.

It has been reported that there has been dissensions in the Ship Laborer's Union but the report has been denied up and down by Messrs. Killen and Daley, two of the officers of the union. One version was that the West side men objected that they did not get their share of the work at Sand Point and that they intended to start an opposition union across the harbour. Another version was that it was a religious dispute; as far as can be learned however, there was little in the rumor and at least nothing will come of it. Some hot headed ones may have spoken rather freely under artificial influence but there is really no split in the union.

Probably the shippers and others would be glad if there were a split, or something that would bring ship laborers' wages down. In winter they get $3 per day on steamers and in summer $4 per day. In summer they get $3 per day on sailing vessels. This is a pretty high rate of wages and is probably greater than in most towns in comparison with the purchasing power of money in those towns. It is greater than in Halifax, for instance.

Previously, there was an excuse for this high rate, owing to the fact that there was little doing in the winter and they had to make enough in the summer to keep them going all winter. This same argument, however, might have applied to the workmen in the sawmills. They, particularly the deal piers, do as hard work as the ship laborers but at half the rate; of course they get nearly constant employment all summer. Anyhow, the argument does not apply now, for the freight steamers give them constant work all winter and they are all earning money all the year round. There are between 500 and 600 ship laborers, but every man has something to do each week with the big crews laboring at each steamer. Each man has his turn and earns his $5 or $10 as the case may be. If the rate could be reduced it would be a benefit to the port.

There is a variety of ship laborers' work, a new variety created by the winter port business, in which the laborer is certainly worthy of his hire, and no one who has seen the men at work would begrudge them all they could get. It is that of the trimmers on the grain cargoes. He enters the hold and then the grain comes pouring in from the spout of the elevator, some in vessels unless filling the hold with the dense flow from the grain. The trimmer has to level off the hulls and stow it away to the sides of the ship in readiness for more. The dust is stifling. He has his eyes, nose, throat, ears, lungs, and some have to wear bandages on their mouth and nose and they pour out perspiring and choking. Last winter a man was nearly smothered to death in the hold of a steamer on a grain cargo in spite of the water, rubber boots, insurance men and everything else. Some men have been engaged in the business for years and they tell the story of the men who fell in their tracks and died from the effects of breathing the dust. Only last week one of the men lost his life there. He had been working steadily and daily for months among the grain and finally he was found dead in the hold. The men say he died from the effects of breathing the dust. The men say that the work is killing work and that they should be paid more than men who do easier work for the same money. The men say that they are not paid for the time they are waiting for the vessels to come to the wharves and that they have to be ready at all times. The men say that they are not paid for the time they are waiting for the vessels to come to the wharves and that they have to be ready at all times. The men say that they are not paid for the time they are waiting for the vessels to come to the wharves and that they have to be ready at all times.

MRS. NASH HAS A FRIEND

WHO CALLS HER A VIRTUOUS AND HARMLESS WOMAN.

Mrs. Leary Gets Her Case Before the Police Court and Gets Her Husband Into Trouble—Mrs. Nash Says Mrs. Leary Stole Brooms, Mops and Carpets—A Warm Case.

Mrs. Leonard Nase is before the public again. The only reason she was not in the police court last Saturday was that the magistrate accepted the excuse of illness that she sent.

She has a companion this time in the person of Mrs. Leary who did come before the court and answered to the charge against her.

There were no broom sticks, floor cloths mops and carpets flying through the air this time but—just words. And how they did fly. In vulgar parlance the air was blue with them. Mrs. Nase comes out in a new role according to the evidence. She can talk like "a house on fire." Such an accomplishment is not to be despised if a lady belongs to the woman's council or seeks to impress the rights of her sex upon mankind from the lecture platform, but Mrs. Nase does not use her tongue for such excellent purposes.

According to plain John Smith she uses her tongue to abuse him and his family. Smith is a plain sort of a man, in keeping with his name, but if he has the name among all the people of being a most excellent citizen, mild and inoffensive in his manner, he at least knows to what extent his rights as a citizen extend and he does not fail to invoke the protection of the law when the occasion demands it. Mr. Smith's wife is an aunt of Mrs. Nase's and they live in such close proximity that they can glare and make faces at each other from their back doors or windows. Only a short time ago this sort of harmless warfare became too tame for these female representatives of the families of Smith and Nase, and a war of brooms and mops and carpets and such like followed as a grand wind up. No evidence came out as to who was the actual victor in the fracas, but as Mrs. Nase's husband had to pay Mrs. Smith $300 it is presumed that the aggressive Queen who reigns over his home came out with honors.

And then the war went on with words, and Mr. Smith sought the protection of the court against the tongues of Mrs. Leary and Mrs. Nase. The evidence that was given was in the Leary case. Mr. Smith and Mrs. Smith and the Misses Smith swore that Mrs. Leary had called Mr. Smith an old liar. Then to give a little variety to the charge Miss Smith said that effigies of her father and others of the family had been set up by the Leary's in their wood house.

Then the defendant took the stand. Mrs. Leary is, like Mrs. Nase, rather prepossessing in appearance and gives one the impression that apart from her alleged volcanic tongue she might be an angelic household genius. She came from the country like others of her neighbors and seems to have a preference for those who know the green award and hill tops before they tasted of the pomp and vanity of a wicked city. Her evidence was not as favorable to Mr. Smith. She does not agree that he is of the same easy and amiable temperament as the general run of people think him. In fact she says he acted like a crazy man since the case with Mrs. Nase was settled and had at different times spoken of her and Mrs. Nase in very uncomplimentary terms. In truth these ladies seem to have given Mr. Smith more trouble than the law allows. The court was crowded with people who had come to see the fun and they were not disappointed. The women had their say and Mr. Smith had his say and the court had its say and when Magistrate Ritchie took his seat he had to fine one of these hundred curious people who wanted to hear the evidence and see the fun. There was trouble in his eye as he said that the next person before the court was fined $10 or 1 month.

"Are the parties ready for trial" he demanded.

No one replied.

"Let the case be dismissed" was his ruling, adding as he left the bench. "Take the order Doolan of fine and at once another happy case.

THERE WAS NO FAILURE.

Mrs. Nash Wants Her Husband Released from Custody.

Andrew Gregory and Robert Johnston had a narrow escape from death on Saturday last. They are employed by the Lake Champlain Lumber Company, and were accustomed to drive to the mill every morning. Saturday they had an accident and though they were driving out into the mill yard when the runaway Flying Yankee passed they were not on the line of tracks they were approaching a dangerous crossing where the road crosses all the lines of the road. The train struck the horse, killing it instantly and the men escaped with the loss of their horse and sleigh. The horse was valued at $150 and was insured in the Provincial Insurance Company for $100. The sleigh was a total wreck. The men were not injured.

THERE WERE TWO BANDS.

Some Good Watching Has Led Some Into Alleged Error.

Mr. Blizzard has tried the experiment of bringing a big musical organization here, and his experiment has cost him something. He says that he won't do it again.

The Leinster Band is an excellent organization in its line of music, but such bands as Sousa's and Gilmore's play a higher class of music; such classical selections as the compositions of Mendelssohn and other great composers. The concerts were much enjoyed, but there were not enough people there for the enjoyment of the promoter of the concerts.

During the first concert Mr. Blizzard made a short speech in which he appealed to his hearers on the ground that he was a St. John boy, and expressed the hope that they would give him better patronage the second night. It was his first experience, he added, in this line, and it would be his last.

The audience was somewhat larger the second night, but the expenses were also larger owing to the cost of bringing the Sussex band here, and also the Infantry band from Fredericton.

Mr. Blizzard announced the first night that his expenses were $1000. His receipts could not have been more than half that amount.

Had he gone into the matter more closely, and found out how previous bands made out financially in coming here he might have been more chary about bringing the band here, especially at this season of the year when people are engrossed with business, when the stores are filled with customers at night, people in their homes are busy with Christmas preparations and few have time to think of anything else. Moreover, it is a poor time to bring excursions from outside places and another drawback was the fact that Mr. Blizzard did not begin to boom his entertainment early enough.

Those who have had much to do with such big undertakings as these, especially those of a musical character, know the value of printers' ink and plenty of it. Mr. Fred Spencer promoted three big concerts the year, the two Clary concerts and the Williams concerts, and made a financial success of every one. He boomed them and kept them before the public for months ahead.

But when one looks into the success of the great bands that have come to St. John there is a different tale to tell. Mr. Murray McLaughlin brought three bands, the Salvation Cadet band for three days at $200 per day guarantee, Gilmore's band three days at $500 per day guarantee, and Sousa's band for two days at $1,000 per day guarantee. He did not much more than come out, even on his whole three engagements, and did not get a return equivalent to his own personal expenditure of time and labor.

The other trips were made by bands on their own account, Brooke's band and Sousa's band, both last year, and they lost many hundreds of dollars on their expedition.