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SEE OUR MARKET SQ. WINDOW

Market Square **W. H. THORNE & CO., Ltd.** King St.

FERRY WHARF IN DANGEROUS CONDITION

Large Sums Must Be Spent For Repairs

WHARFAGE RATES INCREASED

City Not Successful In Role of Landlord, Say The Commissioners—Accept Low Rentals For Lots Rather Than Take Over Properties

Several thousand dollars must be spent immediately in temporary repairs to the ferry float approaches on both sides of the harbor and the ferry wharf on the eastern side must be rebuilt as soon as possible. This information was given to the common council at the committee meeting this morning by Superintendent Waring. The superintendent was instructed to prepare detailed reports and estimates on the work which must be done.

The committee discussed the proposed increase in top wharfage rates and decided to recommend them to the council. It is estimated that this would produce about \$38,000 additional revenue.

Dealing with several applications for renewal of leases for city lots on which the rental is small, the commissioners agreed that appraising properties with the idea of taking them over would not be worth while, except as a guide to the assessors, and gave instructions for the issue of renewals.

Mayor Hayes presided and all the members were present. Commissioner Russell drew attention to the condition of the wharf on the northern side of the east side of the harbor and of the line between the ferry property and the Thorne Wharf property.

Superintendent Waring, in reply to a question, said that the piling of the wharf is in a dangerous condition and the whole wharf should be rebuilt. It would take from \$1,500 to \$2,000 to make temporary repairs.

If any expenditure was to be made, Commissioner McLellan said that it would be better to limit the temporary repairs and undertake the permanent work as soon as feasible. He thought the whole work should be rebuilt in permanent form as early as the work could be undertaken.

The superintendent remarked that the east side piling was costing about \$5,000 a year for repairs. The work of straightening up the wharf in the approach, which now are canted over, could be done in a week by working at night when the ferry was not running. On the west side about fifty piles were broken during the last big storm. He needed about \$5,000 for immediate repairs on both sides.

It was agreed that the superintendent should submit a detailed report and estimate to the council on Tuesday.

Top Wharfage.

A letter from Wm. Thomson & Company was read which it was said that St. John was the only port on the Atlantic coast charging top-wharfage, the railways either providing the facilities or absorbing the charges. They feared that an increase in rates might cause discrimination against the port. They also asked delay for a week or ten days while they consulted their steamship principals.

Commissioner Russell said that the marine department agent had consulted the deputy minister and the latter had expressed approval of an increase in the top wharfage rates but, after conference with the harbor master, Mr. Chesley advised against an increase in side wharfage rates, as this was fixed by law.

The chamberlain said the total top wharfage collected in West St. John last year was \$86,218.98 and the grain wharfage was \$4,800, a total of \$91,018. It was estimated that the new rates would increase the revenue on the same volume of business to about \$129,358.

The increased scale was recommended to the council for adoption.

City Leases.

Commissioner Russell reported on the lease on several city lots that have expired and on which the council had asked for a report. If the leases were not renewed, he said, the city would have to put on appraisers and either take over the properties or renew at the old rates. The properties affected were held as follows: A. S. Hart, Wentworth and Mecklenburg streets; Katherine G. Morgan, Duke street; Margaret Haley, St. James street; Mary A. Holland, Queen street; Ann O'Brien, Germain street; John Cusick, Winslow street; R. C. Bishop, St. John, St. George and St. John streets; Estate W. P. Bourke, Princess and Orange streets; Lydia A. Duffy, Rodney street.

After some discussion of the city's failure as a landlord, it was decided to issue renewal leases, at the usual increase of ten and twenty per cent.

On motion of Commissioner Russell, Fred Allan of the ferry service, was voted \$51.32, half pay during a period of illness.

The chamberlain asked instructions regarding a check tendered by the St. John Real Estate Company for lot rental at the old figures for a property on which the lease had expired. He was instructed to return the check until the matter was adjusted.

THE DRAFTED MEN OF CLASS A

Although there has been nothing definite received from Ottawa as to the date on which category A men will be called to don the uniforms under the Military Service Act, military officials in the city feel that December 10 will see a good number in barracks. Those men who have not reported, and through the military officials are rounded up, will be dealt with as deserters would be. Tomorrow morning the first two drafted men for the New Brunswick battalion will arrive in the city from Moncton. These two men gave themselves up. They were examined and found to be in Class A, and the military official, acting on advice from Ottawa, are bringing them to St. John, where they will be attached to this depot battalion.

FIRE SWEEPS AWAY HOUSES IN MILFORD

Four Burned In Onrush of Flames And Others In Danger of Going At Last Report

What it was feared would develop into a conflagration, started in Milford about noon today, when fire broke out in the home of Thomas Conway. It is supposed a defective flue was the cause, but the fire had got pretty well under way before seen. Fanned by a high wind, flames soon spread, and in a very short time the building was entirely destroyed.

Meanwhile sparks had been carried to the next house, occupied by Frank and John Murphy. By this time an appeal had been made to the Fairville Fire Department, but as no water was available, the equipment and engine were of no use, so the second house in a very few minutes also fell a prey to the devouring flames. The roar of the fire could be heard a long distance away, while flying cinders and live sparks rained through the air, making it dangerous for all houses in the neighborhood.

The next house, occupied by Thos. Summerville and others, was burning at one o'clock. There were said to be thirty-six persons in this building, and the Melanson family had a patient in bed with scarlet fever. No help had yet arrived, with the exception of volunteers who were working heroically to save what they could from the burning buildings.

A fourth house, across the street from the others, and owned and occupied by Robert Carrier, had also ignited about half-past one, and from appearances this house also was doomed.

Other dwellings in the immediate neighborhood were in danger.

LOCAL NEWS

DEATH OF CHILD.

Mr. and Mrs. George McAuley of 84 Water street, West St. John, have the sympathy of many friends in the death of their three-year-old son, Fred William.

THE BOYS CLUB.

There is keen competition on the boards at the Boys' Club this season. The game is to knock down nine pins with a pool ball, using a cue. The score is made the same as in a bowling alley. For three years the score has stood at 122, but recently Alphonse Moore made 141. Last week a prize was offered for the highest score, and Walter Northrup won it with 189. Miss Trentowsky and Miss Murdoch have contributed some fine books to the library.

WERE LOST IN WOODS.

Three young men from the city, accompanied by Thomas Martin of Chapel Grove, found themselves in a rather unpleasant situation while cruising through the woods near Chapel Grove on Sunday afternoon. They lost their way and thought they would have to spend the night in the woods but after tramping for several hours over the roughest country they came out at Summerville Landing, about five miles from their home.

NEW SCHOONER HERE.

J. Willard Smith's new schooner, the Kathleen Crowe, arrived safely in port last night from Annapolis county, N. S., where she was launched Saturday. An attempt had been made to launch her on Thursday, but she struck before she left the ways and was very slightly damaged. She is tied up at the Pettigill wharf and will remain there until her owners decide where to place her while she is being fitted up. Expert riggers are expected to arrive in the city tonight and as the sails, masts and other equipment are on hand she should be ready for service in the near future.

MRS. GILBERT GRAY DEAD.

The death of Mrs. Addie Gray, wife of Gilbert Gray, occurred on Sunday at her home, 68 Chesley street, after several years of illness. She is survived by her husband, three sons, Murray, Stanley and John, and one daughter, Bernice, all at home; six brothers, Edgar and Ernest Stone of this city, Louis of Fort Fairfield, Me.; James and John of Red Rapids, Victoria county, and Harry, in Scotland; and four sisters, Mrs. Wellington Logan and Mrs. William Weir of this city, Mrs. Ray Kipp of Fort Fairfield and Mrs. John Smith of Fredrickton.

TOM'S FLYING CORPS.

J. A. Ritchie, formerly of St. John in the Canadian Bank of Commerce, has joined the Royal Flying Corps in Toronto. He is a son of Charles D. Ritchie of Union street, this city, and is very well known here, having been a popular member of the Y. M. C. A. actively identified with its activities and his years with the bank here brought him into touch with many people. Mr. Ritchie was assistant accountant in the Peterboro branch of the Bank of Commerce. His people received word today that he passed all tests with flying colors and was sworn in to the flying service on Nov. 15.

POLICE COURT

Two prisoners, charged with drunkenness, were remanded by Magistrate Ritchie in the police court this morning. One was a returned soldier who has seen twenty months in the trenches. He returned to Canada only on last Thursday.

William Ward, charged with stealing an overcoat valued at \$18 from a fellow boarder at the Waverly Hotel, Charlotte street, was sent up for trial.

The case against Mrs. Kate Dobson for alleged attempted extortion was brought up. Evidence was given by the plaintiff, Walter Peterson, and Mrs. Peterson as to demand for money by the defendant. Mrs. Dobson pleaded not guilty. Burton L. Gerow is appearing for the defendant and Kenneth J. MacRae for the plaintiff. The case is not yet finished.

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