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AN EARLY SPRING

Has begun at our store. Our new Spring Clothing has opened up, and more opening up every day.

FRASER, FRASER & CO., CHEAPSIDE. 40 and 42 King Street, St. John, N. B.

THE M'AVITY BILL.

Public Accounts Committee Investigation Adjourned.

The Resolution Moved by Mr Sumner at Asylum Supplies.

FREDERICTON, March 9.—The public accounts committee met at 10 o'clock this morning. In view of the anticipated appearance of representatives of Messrs. McAvity & Sons, to explain alleged overcharges in the lunatic asylum hardware accounts, there was quite a number of spectators present, and no less than four newspaper reporters.

As soon as this had been shown to Mr. Dibble, the former manager of the asylum, died during October last, for which he disclaimed any responsibility.

Mr. McAvity then proceeded to take up the several items of spikes, nails, tacks, putty, etc., that had been quoted in the newspapers. Upon the nails, all members of the committee acknowledged that the prices were satisfactory.

Dyking spades were charged at \$1.35 each. Although Mr. McAvity claimed that the quality supplied to the asylum were much better than the market rates, but Mr. McAvity contended that the spades sold by him was far superior to any other.

Mr. Sumner moved and Mr. Dibble seconded the following amendment: Whereas, reference has been made in this committee and in the press to certain charges for nails furnished by Messrs. McAvity & Sons to the lunatic asylum in the account for 1897, as being excessive, and in view of the examination of the accounts for 1897 and 1898, and the statement that the nails were furnished in 1897 and not paid for until 1897, and the statement that

the charges for said nails were excessive as being paid for the price prevailing in 1897. Resolved, that this committee, not wishing to do any injustice to Messrs. McAvity, are hereby authorized to call attention to the fact that the price charged for the nails is fair and reasonable, but that the committee feel bound to call attention to the fact that the price charged for the nails is fair and reasonable, but that the committee feel bound to call attention to the fact that the price charged for the nails is fair and reasonable.

Quarter inch bar iron being charged at twelve and one half cents per pound, the price of which is three cents per pound retail, or 2.50 wholesale. Three eighth inch iron charged at seven cents per pound, the price of which is three cents retail, or 2.50 wholesale.

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changes, and that I know nothing whatever of them, except what has been made public in the columns of the committee through the press. I would not make charges against any man, unless I had some evidence, in an understanding and mean way, and in an effort to expect similar treatment from others.

FATAL NEW YORK FIRE.

The Bowery Mission Lodging House Badly Damaged Sunday Morning.

NEW YORK, March 15.—A thorough search of the premises at 106 Bowery which was partially destroyed by fire at an early hour this morning, discloses the fact that eleven persons had been burned to death. At first it was rumored that the loss of life was much greater, but after searching the ruins very carefully the police and fire escape men discovered eleven charred bodies and removed them to the morgue.

No. 106 Bowery was one of the best known lodging houses on that thoroughfare. It was called the Bowery Mission lodging house, and was conducted by the Christian Herald. In the basement of the building there was a cheap restaurant, while on the ground floor gospel services were held daily for several years.

The four upper floors were fitted up as a cheap lodging house, with accommodations for one hundred and fifty males. Last night almost every bed was occupied. At half-past one o'clock this morning one of the lodgers discovered flames coming from a washroom on the third floor, but before he had time to alarm the house the fire was noticed by passers-by on the street.

Several of the most destitute were brought to the station house in patrol wagons and on their arrival there were partially clothed by members of the fire and eleven bodies in all were found. Some of these were discovered in the small rooms they had occupied, while others were found in the hallways and on the stairs of the fourth and fifth floors.

After the fire had been extinguished sufficiently the police and firemen entered the building and the work of searching for the victims was begun. Several bodies were found near the front of the building, where they had been struck down while attempting to make their way to the fire escape. So many bodies were found in the early stages of the search that it was estimated that over forty persons must have been killed.

Advertisement for the Weekly Sun.

CITIZENS PROTEST

Against Mr. Fowler's Resolution to do Away With the University.

The Meetings in This City and Fredericton on Saturday Afternoon.

In response to the notices in Saturday morning papers there was held in the equity court rooms in the afternoon a large and influential meeting of graduates and well wishers of the university to discuss and take some action upon Mr. Fowler's resolution in the provincial assembly, having for its object the abolition of the university grant.

On Monday Mr. Fowler withdrew his resolution. The feeling of the meeting was most enthusiastic and that instead of the withdrawal or decrease of the grant, the time was at hand when the government must increase the allowance to this time honored institution.

ACROSS THE WATER.

Lord Salisbury Seriously Ill and Has to Retire for at Least a Time.

LONDON, March 15.—During the discussion of the colonial estimates in the house of commons, the secretary of state for the colonies, Joseph Chamberlain, said he was unable to make a statement on the subject of the crisis in the West Indies, but he added that he was in communication with the respective governments of the United States and the West Indies.

THE LATE JOSEPH SEELY.

St. Stephen's People Present the Widow With Over Two Hundred Dollars.

ST. STEPHEN, March 15.—The remains of Joseph Seely, the share broker, who was injured on that road on Friday and died while the surgeons were amputating his legs, were sent to St. John on Saturday.

Among those who formed the delegation were J. D. Hazen, Judge McLeod, Dr. Bridges, E. H. McAlpine, Dr. T. D. Walker, Rev. J. deSoyres, Dr. W. White, C. J. Milligan, Isaac Burpee, C. U. Hay, and Dr. S. Skinner.

THE FEELING AT FREDERICTON.

FREDERICTON, N. B., March 15.—It was an enthusiastic meeting that gathered in the assembly hall of the High School building Saturday afternoon to enter a protest against the threatened withdrawal of the provincial grant to the university.

This was seconded by Canon Roberts and supported with patriotic speeches by Mr. O'Connor, Mayor Vanwart, Col. Marsh, Dr. Harrison, Wm. Wilson, A. A. Davidson, M. P. P., Rev. F. W. deSoyres, H. C. Henderson, Dr. Bailey, Eldon Mullin, O. S. Crockett, Dr. Davidson and others and carried unanimously.

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ONTARIO AND QUEBEC.

OTTAWA, March 15.—The death of Mr. Dupont is sincerely regretted by members here. He was a rather striking personality in the house, and stood in the front rank among the French members. It was commonly remarked that in the event of the return of the conservatives to power he might have a portfolio.

The two Prince Edward Island delegations have had some informal meetings with the ministers. The government delegation is asking for a readjustment of the financial relations of the province with the dominion, and the Charlottetown board of trade wants better steamship connection with the mainland, and the cold storage steamship service between Charlottetown and Liverpool.

Some absurd paragraphs have been printed in the government press respecting the position of Hon. Mr. Costigan, Mr. Hale and Mr. Blanchard respecting the Yukon railway bill. Even the Montreal Star intimates that Hon. Mr. Blair has exercised some influence over them.

Mr. Oglivie said that the Yukon railway would require one hundred thousand men for several generations to thoroughly test and examine its resources. He does not discourage individuals from going to the Klondyke, but points out the hardships and dangers, and thinks that the exploration work can be better carried out by companies.

From Pamblico, to Deep Cove, N. S., a distance of twelve miles as the crow flies, there are no less than seven lobster canneries.