

INTERESTING EVIDENCE AT FIRE INQUIRY

Investigation into Blaze in
Magnes and Riley Mill
Continued Yesterday Af-
ternoon.

In the police court yesterday afternoon further evidence was taken in the fire investigation. The inquiry was begun at 2:35 and lasted until 5 o'clock when adjournment was made until next Tuesday, when among other witnesses, Mrs. Geldart will be called.

A. A. Wilson was present in the interest of J. Harvey Brown and E. P. Raymond acted for John Maynes. Recorder Baxter was present in the interest of the city.

Six witnesses were examined, but the evidence given failed to explain fully the reasons for suspicion in each case and the court adjourned until Tuesday at 2 o'clock when the matter will be further probed.

The first witness, sworn yesterday, was Mrs. Quilly, who at the time of the fire was nursing at the home of John Maynes. She said: "I was nursing at the house for three days. I was in the house on the night of the fire and between 9 and 10 o'clock that evening I went to call Mr. Maynes, telling him there was a fire. He was in bed with two small children."

When questioned, Mrs. Quilly said Mr. Maynes was not left of the house between 9 and 11 o'clock on the evening of the fire, for she had seen him frequently about the house during that time.

Mr. Wilson—"What time did you see Mr. Maynes?"

Ans.—"It was not dark. I should judge about nine o'clock. He went out with Mr. White a few minutes before that. When I told him of the fire he called central and asked where the fire was, but he did not go out an hour or more after I called him. He went out after his uncle, William Maynes, came home. It was then after twelve, William Maynes was in the barn when the fire alarm rang."

William White was then called. He testified that he was with Mr. Maynes until nine o'clock that evening. When questioned as to what they had been doing that evening, he said they had spent most of the time inspecting the boiler plant in Riley's mill, near the corner of Haymarket Square, and City Road. He said: "I left him at nine o'clock going into his house and I went to the corner and took a street car."

Miss Geldart was called to give evidence and said: "I reside on Johnson street. On the night of the fire I heard a crash of glass and went out and saw a man break the window in the mill. I saw him through the window. He had some sort of a light which he flashed about. He came out after a few minutes and went up the track towards the depot. After going a short distance he took off his coat and brushed it."

"He came back and after looking in, went in again. When he came out that time he again removed his coat and brushed it and went down towards Stanley street."

Recorder Baxter—"What height was he?"

Ans.—"He was short for his build." Here, at Mr. Baxter's suggestion, both Mr. Maynes and Mr. Brown were requested to stand up, and the witness declared that neither of the men resembled the man she described in her evidence.

Questioned by Mr. Baxter the witness said the light was insufficient to discern whether or not the man was wearing a moustache.

"I was alone when I heard him and woke mother, who went out to see if she could get some one to ring the alarm."

When questioned if they had any person under suspicion, witness said that they believed a certain young man was the guilty person, but while the fire was still in the building Mr. Geldart encountered the young man on the street, and he was one of the first to whom she told of the setting of the fire.

Referring to the man seen in the building, witness said: "He was barely out of my sight when I was breaking out of the roof and the alarm was then ringing in."

Fred Forester was next called. He said: "I was at my home in Bruce street at the time of the fire, and did not go out. Some time before the fire Mr. Maynes said that he was offered \$2,000 to burn the mill before he sold it. I had learned that he had mentioned my name in court and went to see him. He said he would talk with me in private. I spoke of his telling me about the \$2,000, and his uncle said that was no secret."

William Maynes, who was then called, said: "After visiting my brother, near Rutherford, I arrived home about 10:30 o'clock on the night in question."

Mr. Raymond—"Have you ever suggested to anyone to burn the mill?" Answer—"No."

Asked what he was doing about the premises some time before the fire, witness repeated his previous statement that he was simply examining a concrete wall.

When questioned by Mr. Wilson the witness admitted that within a week after selling the mill he asked to be released from his obligation and sought to repurchase the plant. These negotiations, however, he said, were carried on by him to ascertain what Mr. Brown was going to do with the mill.

As there were no other witnesses present, court was adjourned, to be resumed next Tuesday, when the evidence of Mrs. Geldart will be taken.

MAY ATTEND THE ORANGE CONVENTION

Main Body of Delegates Arrived at St. John's. Newfoundland, Yesterday, after Pleasant Trip.

St. John's, Nfld., July 29.—The Orange convention opened here yesterday. The main body of delegates arrived at Placentia Bay on the Reid steamer Littore, Sunday, at midnight after cruise along the south coast whence they were brought to St. John's Monday morning by special train. On arrival here they were officially welcomed by Mayor Ellis and Premier Morris, both of whom are Roman Catholics. The incident made a very favorable impression.

During the afternoon the delegates motored and drove about the suburbs. The Grand Black Chapter met at 8 o'clock, with 32 members and 95 visitors. The annual reports were highly satisfactory. The membership for the past year showed an increase of 1,406, and there was a corresponding increase in the funds. Addresses of welcome from the provincial presidency were received, and a proffer of hospitality from the Masonic Club.

The weather is fine and the delegates are highly pleased and greatly enjoying their trip so far.

Among the notables present are MacKenzie Bowell, Mayor Hocken, of Toronto, Grand Master Scott, Walkerton, Ont.; Col. Armstrong, St. John, N. B.; Col. Bruce, Brandon; Rev. Mr. Saunders, Montreal, and Rev. Canon Walsh, Toronto.

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COMMISSIONERS TRANSACTED MUCH BUSINESS YESTERDAY

May have Sacred Band Concerts at King Square on
Sundays — Mill Strike Matter Gets Another Set
Back—\$500 Granted Trades and Labor Council
for Demonstration.

At the meeting of the city council yesterday afternoon it was decided to give bands, willing to volunteer their services, permission to occupy the bandstand on King's Square between 3:30 and 5:30 o'clock Sunday afternoons and render sacred music.

A grant of \$500 was made the Trades and Labor Council for the purpose of assisting the labor day demonstration here this year, and the request that the city follow the example of the federal and provincial governments and other cities and adopt a fair wage schedule was considered, but definite action was postponed.

In opening the meeting the Mayor stated that he had, in accordance with the resolution of the council, written the mill owners as follows:

Dear Sir: At a meeting of the Common Council held today a petition signed by the majority of the leading merchants and business men of the city was presented, requesting the council to look to the cessation of the strike by the millmen in the city and county of St. John, and the resumption of work which is of such vital importance to the city. This petition asks for a meeting composed of representatives from the mill owners and mill workers. The undersigned and the commissioners have been requested to take such steps as may be expedient to hasten this meeting, and to do all things which may bring about a clear understanding and the exposition of all facts, so that a determination may be reached on the merits of the whole matter for the benefit of the whole community.

I have been instructed by resolution to communicate with you and if you are disposed to open negotiations I would appreciate an early acknowledgment of this letter.

I trust this appeal will be favorably received and that you will consent to such a meeting as requested.

Yours very respectfully,
JAMES H. FRINK, Mayor.

The following reply was received: St. John, N.B., July 29, 1913. James H. Frink, Esq., Mayor of St. John.

Your Worship: On behalf of the mill owners, I beg to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 28th inst., and am instructed by them to reply.

All the mills at St. John and vicinity are engaged in public contracts for the labor of the city. It was pointed out that the rate of wages was being paid less than 25 cents.

Some question arose as to whether the fair wage schedule should apply to the labor of the city, and the matter was sent back to the Trades Council, in order that a light might be thrown upon the question.

Some of the conditions the labor men want inserted in city contracts are as follows:

Carpenters, 8 hours, \$3 a day; bricklayers and masons, 8 hours, 55 cents an hour; painters, 8 hours, \$3 a day; machinists, 9 hours, \$2.75 a day; boilermakers, 9 hours, \$2.50 a day; blacksmiths, 9 hours, \$2.50 a day; laborers, 9 hours, \$1.90 a day.

The labor delegates said the object of their request was to protect the fair employer of labor, and assure the workers engaged on public contracts fair conditions. It was pointed out that the rate of wages was being paid less than 25 cents.

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TO ADVANCE ALFAFA IN THE PROVINCE

J. B. Daggett, Secretary
for Agriculture, has
Agreed to Five Year Test
—To Assist Farmers,

An important conference was held yesterday morning, attended by J. J. Daggett, deputy commissioner of agriculture, Mr. A. McLeod, editor of the Maritime Farmer, Sussex, and J. D. McKenna, of the Sussex Record, at which Mr. Daggett pledged the support of his department in an active campaign to encourage the cultivation of alfalfa in this province. That alfalfa can be successfully grown in New Brunswick was demonstrated several years ago by W. C. MacDougall, dairy superintendent for the province. Mr. MacDougall not only succeeded in securing a healthy alfalfa plant, but also ripened the alfalfa seed, and later proved that it would germinate satisfactorily. The result was that a later crop was raised from a New Brunswick grown seed. This proves beyond doubt that with a little effort a seed climaxed to New Brunswick can be produced, and when this goal is attained, the question of the production of alfalfa should be in a large measure solved.

Mr. Daggett is very enthusiastic over the prospects of alfalfa in New Brunswick, and is willing to give it a five year test. The proposal is to appoint Mr. MacDougall to supervise the laying out of alfalfa plots in various parts of the province, and to oversee them from time to time. It is anticipated that with such encouragement the farmers in many sections of the province will overcome some of the difficulties heretofore encountered, and will be placed in a position to profitably produce this widely advertised plant.

Mr. MacDougall will also devote his attention to evolving a seed which will stand the rigours of the New Brunswick winters. The department of agriculture is prepared to stand behind such an experiment. It is also proposed to buy pure alfalfa seed, provide alfalfa culture, and otherwise advise those who care to undertake the raising of this valuable seed.

That alfalfa is one of the most valuable fodders that can be grown, has been proved beyond question by many of the middle and western states. Whole territories which have been estimated of little value have been changed into choice dairy and beef sections by the introduction of alfalfa. In this province, where hundreds of acres of alfalfa are being raised each year for feeds of various kinds, the solution of alfalfa growing would mean an immense saving to the farmers of the province.

In connection with the campaign which is to be carried on, it is quite probable that the matter will have formed at different points so that the members may be in a position to exchange ideas and give each other the benefit of their experiences. The department has already taken steps to arrange to secure seed from a large plot now growing in this province, and it is expected that these will be used next season in the seeding down of test plots to be established under the supervision of Mr. MacDougall.

It is interesting to note that in the provinces of Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba large future prizes have been offered by the several governments in order to encourage alfalfa raising. In Saskatchewan a prize of \$5,000 in cash is to be awarded in the year 1915 for the best piece of alfalfa of a fixed acreage. The province of Ontario has done much to encourage the development of alfalfa, and in this way has, to a very large extent, solved the difficult question of supplying sufficient feed for the stock owned there. Quebec will, during the present year, spend \$5,000 in a special campaign on alfalfa. New Brunswick is now falling in line, and those who have the matter in hand will have the best wishes of those who have the interests of agriculture in this province.

Should Mr. Daggett succeed in giving to New Brunswick an alfalfa growth which can be economically handled, he will have conferred on this province a blessing which future generations alone will be able to appreciate.

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