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BLACK PONY COATS—Extra quality, large shawl collars and cuffs of Civit Cat. SALE PRICE \$95.00.

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HARDWARE MERCHANTS

Store Hours—8.30 to 6, Daily. Close at 1 p.m., Saturdays.

**MORE DISCUSSION
ON SALARY MATTER**

Motion That No Raises be Made Left Undecided.

Delegation From West Side Improvement League is Heard—Mayor Scores the Building Law—The Estimates.

To increase or not to increase, that is the question at City Hall. This morning's committee meeting of the Common Council was very largely taken up with a discussion of the question of salary increases and wage increases.

The time of adjournment a motion by Commissioner Wigmore, seconded by Commissioner Thornton, that no increase be given in any department in the City of St. John, had not been voted on and it was decided to allow it to remain on the table until the next meeting. It provided a great deal of discussion. Figures asked for from the school board showing the reason for the increase in assessment asked for were presented and will be considered later. A delegation from the West End Improvement League appeared in support of the request for a grant of \$2,000 to develop the West Side playgrounds and were heard. A building permit for repairs to the premises owned by the Mayor, and for which the city building inspector had refused a permit was dealt with by all the members of the Council and the Mayor denounced some of the provisions of the building law as unfair to property owners. Some of his remarks evoked warm response from Commissioner Thornton.

A delegation composed of S. G. Olive, W. Farren and P. J. Legge appeared. The latter said it had been an understanding thing that the land on the West Side should be developed as a playground. There seemed to be a feeling that because no delegation had appeared at the development was not wanted. This was wrong. He asked that the council carry out the understanding agreement at the time the land was bought. He was representing the West End Improvement League, of which he was secretary. The president, W. E. Scully, was unable to be present.

Mr. Farren made some explanation of the stand of the League, which, he said, was solidly back of the project. The delegation then withdrew.

Mayor's Building Matter.
Com. Thornton said with reference to the building permit for the building owned by the Mayor that he had a letter from the city solicitor to the building inspector. It said that the inspector's permit was as necessary as the Mayor's as anyone else. The Common Council had no authority with reference to the granting of permits. It lay with the building inspector to decide.

Commissioner Wigmore said there had been discussion on the building laws every year, and he thought something should be definitely settled and the laws revised.

Commissioner Thornton said it would be necessary to get permission to revise the Acts of Assembly. The city solicitor had recommended a revision of the building laws or the enactment of a new code. This was a difficult matter. He moved that no action be taken. The Mayor said this was a matter of great public interest. While the building inspector was under the law, the Council made the law. No consideration had been shown owners.

Commissioner Thornton said in the case of a building on the corner of Union and Dorchester streets had been permitted to be repaired because it was decreasing the fire hazard and it had been taken off. He said this in answer to a question from the Mayor. The Mayor said this was a parallel case to his.

The Council had proved it could act in that case. The City Solicitor had tried to show this could not be done; that the Council had no authority. He thought the building inspector had used very poor judgment in trying to influence the Council in this matter. Commissioner Thornton objected to this as unfair. His motion carried; the Mayor not voting.

Salaries and Wages.
Commissioner Frink moved that the section of the wage schedule of the Public Service Employees' Union relating to the Public Works Department be adopted. This was carried.

Commissioner Bullock made the same motion with reference to the ferry employees. Commissioner Wigmore said his department had a union of its own. He intended to recommend ten per cent increase. Unless the increases were general it was class legislation.

The Mayor said he had looked up some information on this score. It was not expected that the wage would be much reduction in taxable incomes including profits this year. His information came from the chairman of the board of assessors.

There was evidence of an increase in the tax rate this year which he hoped to escape. Last year it had been \$2.95. This year it should not be more than three and less if possible. There must be drastic economy. He thought there would be an increase of \$80,000 in the estimates. It might run to \$115,000.

School Board Report.
On motion of Commissioner Thornton the report of the school board showing the reasons for the increased amount asked to be voted was received and a copy furnished each commissioner. The figures submitted by the school board showed increases over last year of \$15,825 in teachers' salaries; \$870 in officials salaries; \$17,676 in rents. The total increase in 1923 estimates over 1922 was shown as \$20,165.34. There was an increase of \$500 in estimates for evening technical schools.

The Mayor thought that some means must be devised to cut down expenses, to cut out the non-essentials. Commissioner Thornton said business men had told him they expected little profits this year. He was glad the Mayor had come to this way of thinking. If things went on as at present the people would be clamoring for a change in Civic Government. The Mayor ruled him out of order. Commissioner Thornton moved that the ruling of the chair be not sustained. The motion was carried and Commissioner Thornton resumed. The Mayor, he said, had spoken of keeping the tax

LOCAL NEWS

POLICE COURT
Before Sitting Magistrate Henderson in the police court this morning, two men charged with being drunk were fined \$8 or two months.

LANCASTER FERRY MATTER.
The matter of the Lancaster and Indiantown ferry was one of the subjects to be taken up this afternoon at the meeting of the finance committee of the Municipal Council which met at 2.30.

TWIN GIRLS
The interesting news that twin girls were born to his wife in the Winchester Hospital in Winchester, Mass., was received today by D. J. Sullivan, 65 Park street, a member of the D. S. C. R. staff in this city.

LOCAL SPORT.
The Fredericton High School hockey team arrived in the city today to play the local high school team in a regular interscholastic League fixture.

The St. Johns left this morning for St. Stephen where they will meet the fast border town hockey team this evening in a regular league game.

IN HONOR OF MISS ETHEL PAR-
An afternoon tea was held at the home of Mrs. O. H. Tracey, 4 Carleton street on Saturday afternoon in honor of Miss Ethel Parlee, who is to leave for the United States in the near future to study singing. More than fifty guests were present. Mrs. May Parker presided and those who served were: Miss Edith Swetka, Miss Audrey Purchase, Miss Lena Hunter, Miss M. Morton, Miss G. Parlee and Mrs. N. A. MacLeod.

DEATH OF CHARLES J. WOOD.
Charles J. Wood died at his home, 6 Short street, yesterday after a lingering illness. Besides his wife he is survived by five daughters and one son. The daughters are: Mrs. Leonard Moore, Mrs. Frank McLaughlin, and Mrs. Clement Callaghan of this city; Mrs. H. Lester of Nauyasigauk, and Mrs. Cyril Moore of East St. John, and the son is John E. Wood of this city. He also leaves five step-daughters. The funeral will take place tomorrow afternoon at 8.30 o'clock from his late residence.

ARRIVE AT WESTPORT
The tug F. W. Roehling and the schooner Hiram D. MacLean are at Westport, N. B., according to word received by the local agents of the schooner today. They left here last week for Meteghan where the MacLean was to go on the marine railway for repairs following her running ashore early in the month on Libby Island, but were prevented from reaching their destination by drift ice which blocked the passage to Meteghan. They will stay at Westport awaiting orders.

EVERLYN MAY CRUSER
The death of Mrs. Evelyn May Cruser, wife of Wm. B. Cruser, occurred at her home in Jamaica, L. I., New York on Sunday, Jan. 21 from pneumonia. Mrs. Cruser was daughter of Mrs. Mary and the late Samuel L. Clark of Darling's Island, Nauyasigauk, N. B. and leaves to mourn, besides her husband, six children, five children, Mrs. Fred H. Ford, Gladys M., Wm. B., George L. and Medora E., all of Jamaica, L. I.; also two brothers, G. Leonard Clark of London, Eng., and Amos LeB Clark of Nauyasigauk, and two sisters, Mrs. Margaret S. Fowler, French Village, N. B., and Mrs. Andrew M. Foster, Nauyasigauk. Burial was at Jamaica.

TOO MUCH SNOW IN WOODS.
Fredericton, N. B., Jan. 28.—Certain lumber crews engaged in operations in the woods in the Fredericton district for one of the largest lumber companies in Eastern Canada, will be compelled to close down because of the excessive amount of snow unless conditions are changed by the first of the week, according to a well known local lumberman. There is too much snow in the woods now for cutting and yarding and hauling off the yards will have to await more favorable conditions also.

rate down. On the head of this he recommended no increase in his department. When the thing came up the men of his department had shown that they expected increases. His estimates would go up \$10,000.

Commissioner Wigmore spoke of the salary of \$2,000 asked for the secretary-accountant by the hydro commission. He understood he was getting less where he was now. There were men in the city service for many years who were getting less. He moved that no increases in salaries be given in any department in the City of St. John.

Commissioner Thornton seconded this. Commissioner Bullock said no civic official was overpaid.

Commissioner Frink said men should be paid for what they were worth. Commissioner Thornton had secured an increase for Detective Biddiscombe. It had been a matter of keeping a valuable man. There was no objection to offering to cut \$5,000 of his estimates for snow removal and take a chance. He thought Commissioner Wigmore should amplify his motion.

Commissioner Frink thought the Mayor should take the matter up and, if necessary, secure the services of an expert to go into the whole matter of salaries. Every up to date city did this. Commissioner Bullock opposed getting an expert for this matter. He thought a few should be recognized in all departments.

Commissioner Thornton said rates for policemen and firemen had been set by council.

Commissioner Frink moved in amendment that the motion lie on the table until next meeting. This was carried and council adjourned.

HYDRO CONNECTED WITH MONCTON TRANSFORMERS TODAY
Moncton, N. B., Jan. 29.—Hydro electric power from Musquash waters was connected with the new transformers and switchboards of the Moncton Tramway Electricity and Gas Company at 12.25 o'clock this morning.

The work was done under the supervision of Gordon Kribbs, electrical engineer of the provincial power commission at Musquash, Blair Bain, of this city, instrument man of the power commission, and H. E. Redmond of the General Electric Company, Halifax, who has been in the city since October 1 installing the new switchboard which was purchased by the tramways company to carry out the distribution of hydro current.

**TUG NEPTUNE IS
DAMAGED BY FIRE**

Blaze Breaks Out as She is Towing Steamer to Wharf—Captain Shows Coolness Under Difficulty.

The Furness, Withy Co. Ltd. tug Neptune will be out of commission for some time as a result of a fire which broke out under her boilers this morning while she, with the tug Margaret Hackett, was docking the Manchester Brigade at Pettigall wharf. Captain William Hurley earned a great deal of credit for sticking by the wheel of his ship until he had brought her in to the docks. An alarm was rung in from Box 81 and the fire department quickly responded.

At about ten o'clock the two tugs were towing the Manchester Brigade and had got her almost completely docked up when the fire broke out. The engines were going at full speed ahead and were left that way as the engineer, fireman and cook were forced to hasten to the deck of the tug. They and a very narrow escape from suffocation.

Captain Hurley, who was steering from a post in the wheelhouse, stuck to his position and kept his line aboard the steamer until he was able to work the tug in to the wharf. The Margaret Hackett, the St. John Drydock and Shipbuilding Company tug, came to her assistance and tied up alongside to render any possible help. A line of hose was put aboard the Neptune from the other tug and water pumped in.

In the meantime the alarm had been rung in. Three lines of hose were put aboard the tug from the wharf and operated under the supervision of Chief Blake. A blaze which broke through into the wheel house for a few minutes was quickly extinguished. So much water was pumped into the tug that it was feared she might sink and was towed to her own berth at Turnbull's wharf and tied up. By about one o'clock the fire was well under control.

It was said today by an official of the Furness Withy Company that the damage would be fully covered by insurance.

The Neptune was one of the best known tugs in the harbor and her captain, William Hurley, is a prominent figure in many maritime activities. Captain Hurley showed a great deal of coolness in the sudden emergency and used his presence of mind to good account. Besides the captain there were five other men, the mate, engineer, deckhand, cook and fireman. The Neptune was a tug of 118 tons gross and was fast and powerful.

**OPPONENT'S SING
REQUIEM FOR
MAYOR MARTIN**

Montreal, Jan. 29.—In the noisiest meeting of the electoral contest here, held at St. Laurent yesterday afternoon, Hon. E. L. Patenaude and J. A. S. Ashby, Conservative and Liberal candidates respectively for the St. Laurent division, the latter supported by Mayor Mederic Martin, clashed, with the result that Liberal speakers, according to reports, were unable to obtain a hearing, while Mayor Martin was not only howled down, but a funeral hymn chanted, with cries that his political funeral had come.

**FEAR NOVA
SCOTIA BOYS
ARE DROWNED**

Guyaboro, N. S., Jan. 29.—Alvin Scott, 14, and Gordon Hart, 15, have been missing since Friday and it is feared have been drowned. They were shot in the vicinity of Long Beach and when it became time to return to their homes on the south side of Guyaboro harbor they were unable to get across to their small boat on account of ice which drifted in. They were seen to return to Long Beach. Since then they have not been heard of.

Alvin Scott was the son of the late Capt. Joseph Scott, and Gordon Hart was the son of Levi W. Hart, and both lived in this vicinity.

**SIR HENRY OPTIMISTIC
ON RETURN TO OTTAWA**

Ottawa, Jan. 29.—After an extensive trip of ten thousand miles covering the national lines from coast to coast, Sir Henry Thornton returned to Ottawa last night, to use his own words, "as optimistic as ever."

MARRIED IN DETROIT.

Word has been received announcing the marriage at Detroit, Mich., on January 15 of Miss Anna Hilda Allen, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John F. Allen, of Pokok, York County, and John Edward Akerley of Detroit, son of Mr. and Mrs. B. W. Akerley, of Southampt. Mrs. Allen, mother of the bride, accompanied her to Detroit.

DIED ON SUNDAY

Fredericton, N. B., Jan. 29.—Charles S. Courser of Queensbury, died Sunday, aged sixty-nine years. He is survived by his widow, one son, Lee, who made his home with him and Mrs. George Dougherty of St. John. He had been ill a short time. He was a native of Prince William, York County, but for some years farmed at Grand Bay, removing to Queensbury.

Refuses to Ask For Life.

Wataw, Jan. 29.—Nicuadamski, the artist who assassinated President Narutowicz, has refused to appeal for a pardon from the death sentence imposed upon him.

MACHINISTS' HIGH GRADE TOOLS

SCREW PLATES

Green River, Lightning, Full Mounted and Reece's

Hack Saw Frames and Blades; Breast Drills; Hand Drills; Machinists' Ratchets; Chain Drills; Post Drills; Twist Drills; Vises; Bench, Pin and Hand; Steel Scales; Wire Gauges; Steel Letters and Figures; Plyers of all kinds; Engineers' Straight Edges; Machinists' Hammers, and

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Heavy Dark Grey WORKING PANTS
Extra Special

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They're named because of the delightful variety of colors, \$16.50, \$24.00 and to \$35.00

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