

silver bears an engraved plate, and is the only relic public preserved of the Volunteer Fire department, which was one of the most useful organizations the city ever had.*

Four years the Library continued to grow in usefulness, but was only open three days and three evenings in the week. Large additions were made and the hopes of those who had to do with starting the Library on its career of usefulness were fully justified. It was now a recognized institution and was being patronized by every class in the community. The small amount of money at the disposal of the Commissioners hardly warranted a reading room, but the leading periodicals of the old and new world were on file and were frequently consulted by patrons of the Library, and eventually led to the establishment of a free

*The history of the trumpet is interesting. After the organization of the Volunteer Fire department in 1849 the various companies of the city turned out at all fires in the then Parish of Portland, as the fire department in that district was not organized until some years later. At one fire the local department resented the presence of the visitors, and cut several joints of their hose. The result was an indignation meeting of the St. John firemen, at which a resolution was passed unanimously, that thereafter the St. John volunteers would not attend fires in Portland. Several members of No 5 were employees of the great lumber firm of Robert Rankin & Co., and they made an exception to fires occurring in the neighborhood of Rankin's wharf, which endangered the property of that firm. Not long afterwards a fire which threatened the lumber piles on the wharves surrounding Rankin's warehouses did occur and the good work done by the men of No. 5 prevented the destruction of about two cargoes of lumber all ready for shipment. As a recognition of their services the trumpet which was procured from London, and was the handsomest in the department, was presented to the company with elaborate ceremonies and thereafter saw service at many fires. It is now enclosed in a glass case, supported by a handsomely carved bracket, and is one of the adornments of the reading room of the New Library building.