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THE INTRODUCTION OF SUPERVISED PLAYGROUNDS

Report of Miss Mabel Peters to the Women's Council on What Has Been Accomplished in St. John.

The following is the report of Miss Mabel Peters, convener of the Playground Committee, read at the meeting of the Women's Council on Monday: REPORT OF PLAYGROUND COMMITTEE.

Westfield, Sept. 14, 1906. Madam President and Ladies: In 1900 your convener first brought the subject of playgrounds before the Women's Council of St. John by reading a paper upon the needs, during vacation, of the little children who do not get to the country in summer. Your convener asked then that a committee be appointed for the local council, but her request was not granted.

The following year, 1901, when the St. John council was asked for resolutions for the national annual meeting to be held at London, Ont., your convener suggested that a resolution on playgrounds be sent. This was done. Your convener also furnished a paper, urging the adoption of the resolution, which was read and recorded in the year book; but it was not until the following year that a national playground committee was appointed.

Your convener moved again, in 1901, that St. John appoint a local playground committee. This carried, thus making the St. John council the first in Canada to have a playground committee. This committee, appointed five years ago, only consisted of every quarterly meeting volunteers have been asked for. The committee now consists of your convener, Mrs. McElean, Miss Leavitt, Mrs. Chisholm, Miss Reid and Mrs. Pickett.

Your convener for the past six years has not been idle, having constantly kept the subject of playgrounds before the council at every quarterly meeting, issuing circular letters, and securing the printing of playground articles in our daily papers. Through these efforts David Russell, the proprietor of the Evening Times and Daily Telegraph, generously started a fund for the promotion of playgrounds in our city, by opening the subscription list with one hundred dollars from each paper.

Your committee then applied to the school board for permission to use the Centennial school grounds for fine lawns, two class rooms for rainy days, which was granted. The grounds consisted of two yards; one was 10x150 feet, the other 20x90 feet. In addition to this the Brussels street Baptist church board allowed your committee the use of a piece of land adjoining the church, 30x45 feet. This proved very useful, as it was used for the large eight-seated swing.

The playground was equipped with tennis, swings, bean boards, basket ball, hand balls, bats, rope quoits, croquet, paving blocks, a sand bin with little pale and shovels and small wheelbarrows, kindergartens tables, chairs and materials, sewing materials, raffia straw, crocheting materials, and clay for modeling. A piano was hired for the season. Great many of these supplies will be available for next season.

Miss Miller of Montreal, who had four years' experience in playground management in Montreal, was engaged as supervisor, and gave to your committee the greatest satisfaction. There were always present in the grounds the supervisor, a kindergarten teacher and her assistant, and Mr. Hill, the janitor of the school. In addition to these teachers that were

blocks, also earth and labor to make a croquet ground.

As the bills are not all in your committee can not report the full expenditure, (but it will be about \$720) of maintaining the Centennial school playground, but there is a surplus of funds and some equipment which will be available for next season's work.

The outlook seems favorable for having supervised playgrounds opened in several of the school grounds next year and the hearty support of our citizens is hoped for. Respectfully submitted, MABEL PETERS, Convener.

REV. W. S. PRITCHARD TALKS OF THE WEST

He Has Just Returned From a Trip to Alberta and Finds the Country Pleasing.

Rev. W. S. Pritchard, pastor of the Congregational church, is home from a tour through the Canadian west, particularly Alberta, and is greatly pleased with his trip.

While away Mr. Pritchard attended a large socialistic picnic on the Green River. The gathering was addressed by a socialist orator from the United States. Mr. Pritchard says that socialism does not appeal to the working classes in the larger western cities, particularly textile workers.

Referring to church work, Mr. Pritchard said there was a great field for missionaries in the west, and there are a great many churches. He deplored very much the keen competition which is to be seen among workers of the different denominations. The rivalry is much keener than in St. John, and acts as a hindrance to the progress of religion, for a great many persons claiming to be disciples with the presence of false affections among the different denominations, have given up going to church altogether.

Mr. Pritchard said that the competition had some to such a pitch that no business houses could be more keen in their efforts. There were altogether too many churches in the small towns for the number of inhabitants. The keen rivalry is not so noticeable in the large cities, but in the small towns it becomes only too evident and the effect upon the inhabitants of the town is derogatory.

When asked if he intended settling in the west, Mr. Pritchard replied that he would most probably remain in St. John, as his journey was chiefly for pleasure and to attend to some private interests.

IN QUANDRY OVER THE WATER SYSTEM

Report That an Effort is Being Made to Retain the Dual System.

The common council decided some time ago that a single service system should distribute the new water supply through out the city. This decision was arrived at as the result of Engineer F. A. Barbour's recommendation. Director Marchant advocated the continuance of the dual system, and some of the aldermen say that an attempt is now being made to retain it under the new conditions.

A wire was sent yesterday to Mr. Barbour asking for instructions. Near the One Mile House the new 36-inch main which runs to the Marsh bridge is to be connected with the old 12-inch main and one of the 24-inch mains which connect with the Loch Lomond system at Little River. The remaining 24-inch main which runs parallel to the large main across the marsh should be connected with it, so it is claimed, at the Marsh bridge.

It is said that the director will not make this connection, but will allow the main to distribute the water independently.

It is done, then it is stated that by re-opening the connection of this main with Little River reservoir, the original source of supply, which was to be abandoned, could be used and different sections of the city would get various qualities of water.

Last evening a telegram was sent to Mr. Barbour to get his opinion as to whether the board should insist on a connection of the other 24-inch main with the 36-inch pipe.

WANTS IT ON HIS NERVES. Shock the editor's nerves once in a while by paying what you owe him.—DRAIN (Over.) Nonparal.

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Miss Margaret Deans, who has spent a month here with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. David Deans, has returned to Rhode Island hospital, where she has accepted a situation on the staff.