

## POLICE BILL IN THE HOUSE

Bill Regarding Chief's Appointment in Committee.

Mayor and Commissioners at Capital for Hearing—Commissioner McLellan Makes Leading Speech—D. Mullin, K. C., Appears for Chief.

Fredericton, Feb. 28.—This morning St. John bill was considered before the committee on law practice and procedure and on municipalities. The only bill which created any very lengthy discussion was that to vest the appointment of the Chief of Police in the Common Council. His Worship Mayor Frink and Commissioner McLellan, who had been in support of the bill, while Daniel Mullin, K. C., appeared in opposition. Mr. Tilley, who had presented the bill to the House, moved for its consideration and asked that Mr. McLellan be first heard.

Mr. McLellan said he had control of both the fire and police departments. He claimed that opposition to this bill did not come from the citizens themselves. Shortly after assuming office he proceeded to install a patrol system, and after it had been working for a few weeks he gathered considerable information how the patrol men act and several cases were brought to his attention of misconduct. An investigation was held and the patrolman was found guilty and dismissed. He learned that the night of the investigation the Chief had overhauled a policeman who had given evidence against an officer. A general investigation followed into the whole police department, and the decision of that investigation was forwarded to the government, together with a memorial praying that the substance of this bill may be passed.

Mr. McLellan said that he had no personal feeling in the matter, and that it was untrue that he was seeking the head of the Chief of Police. There was no other city in Canada where a Chief was appointed by the government, and a city like St. John should certainly have the power to select its Chief of Police. The legislature, he said, may be disinclined to give powers which it now possesses, but since the law was enacted there had been several changes and the conditions were much altered. Referring to the evidence as a whole, he said that it showed that men on the police force were guilty of brutal assaults, thefts and perjury, and yet they were still allowed to remain on the force. In cases of this kind he admitted, but on some sympathetic appeal the man was allowed to remain. Mr. McLellan

cited cases where goods were taken from merchants' stores by policemen.

Mayor Frink and the other commissioners corroborated Mr. McLellan, and claimed that it was absurd for a man to be at the head of a department and yet not have control.

D. Mullin, who appeared in opposition, claimed there was no good reason for the bill, and he produced an affidavit of Douglas McArthur and a statement by Chief Clark in support of the Chief's efficiency. He cited a number of cases in which the Commissioner had interfered with the Chief's work. He claimed that all the Commissioner was after was the scalp of the Chief.

Mr. McLellan denied this, and Mr. Mullin asked him if he had the power would he reappoint the Chief.

Mr. McLellan said no.

"And yet," said Mr. Mullin, "you say you have no personal feeling in the matter."

Mr. Mullin spoke highly of Chief Clark's qualities. He had been chief for over twenty years, and no serious charge had ever been made against him, and it remained for the chief chamber investigation to produce this mass of evidence. He claimed that the bill was wrong in principle. At present the Chief is an officer of the government, and any change would make him subject to the control of the Commissioner for the time being, and so he would not be a free and independent officer.

He said if there were any charges to be made against the present Chief of Police that they should be made to the government, and the charges should be specific, so that the Chief would know what he would have to answer. The meanest criminal in the land has opportunity of knowing what accusations he has to meet, and if he knows that Mr. McLellan alleges he has in evidence can be substantiated, then it would be the duty of the government to dismiss him. This bill was simply aimed at Chief Clark.

Mr. McLellan briefly replied. He read a number of telegrams from cities in Canada to the effect that the commissioners in those cities had the power to appoint their Chief of Police. He denied the substance of affidavits read by Mr. Mullin.

In the course of the hearing Premier Fleming said that if Mr. McLellan's description of the state of affairs was correct an investigation should have been asked. If the evidence supported the charges, the Chief would have been dismissed.

After a brief discussion, the committee said that the bill would be taken up later.

The bill giving power to the city of St. John to enact its own by-laws was presented to the committee and explained by Recorder Baxter. The committee referred the bill to the favorable consideration of the House.

The municipalities committee met this morning and agreed to the bill to amend the St. John city assessment act. Other St. John bills were considered, and were stood over for further consideration by the committee. The bill relating to the town of Edmundston was then taken up, and delegations appearing both on behalf of and in opposition to the bill were heard, and it will also be considered later.

## OLD MOUNT A. STUDENTS TO MEET IN MAY

Reunion of all Graduates who have Passed Through University Since 1863—Forward Movement Advancing

The first graduating class of Mount Allison University obtained their degrees in 1863. It is the intention to hold, at the end of this year, a reunion of all graduates, who have passed through the University since that time, to commemorate the fiftieth graduation.

Students representing practically every year are to be found scattered through Canada, and it is anticipated that the proposed reunion will be one of great interest. There is the hope, too, that at this meeting the university authorities will be in a position to announce that they have secured sufficient additional endowment to justify those extensions of the work which have been in contemplation for years. These extensions will include the establishment of a chair in biology, so that Mount Allison students may be able to place themselves on a par with those of other colleges upon entering the McGill medical course. There will, it is hoped, be some announcement of the establishment of additional chairs in theology and arts and assistance to the present overworked staff of instructors.

These changes will, however, mean a lot of money and the quarter million which it is hoped to raise in the coming forward movement will not be any too much for all that is contemplated. Yet in view of the very great importance of Mount Allison to the Maritime Provinces and to Canada as a whole, it is not anticipated that there will be any serious difficulty in securing the necessary endowment.

The total enrollment in the university, ladies college and academy this year is something over seven hundred, of which number three hundred and thirty are students in the university. This is in very marked contrast to the first graduating class which numbered only two. Yet the financial growth of the institution has not kept pace with the development along other lines.

It is true that the Ladies College

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with its able faculty in the Conservatory of Music, and its splendidly equipped art school, has been able to carry on its work with a fair measure of financial success, but in the university different conditions have had to be met, and in spite of the most careful system of management the revenues of the institution have not been sufficient to meet the ever-increasing cost of operation. Mount Allison, while a denominational college, has never applied denominational tests, either in the case of the professor or the student, and makes her claims upon denominations as an important factor in the educational life of Canada. Mount Allison means too much to the business and intellectual life of Canada to be allowed by her old students to drop behind in the race.

### Real Estate.

Messrs. Allison and Thomas have just sold another large and valuable freehold property in the city, No. 19 Cedar street. The property consists of a large lot, with a substantial three-story, three-family wooden dwelling house, with a bakery and barn in the rear. The former owner of the property was George M. Boyd, lately of St. John, now located in the West. The new owner is a local party, who expects in the near future to occupy a part of it.

## TELLS OF PROGRESS OF PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND

Past Year has been Most Prosperous in History, Says Mr. Prowse, of Charlottetown.

"The past year has been the most prosperous in the history of Prince Edward Island," said W. B. Prowse, of Charlottetown, who has been in the city for some days. "Not only has there been a considerable advance in agricultural industries, but the manufacturing industries located on the island have had a year of progress. "Owing to the increase in prices there has been a great advance in recent years in the value of the agricultural products of the island, and everybody is looking forward to even better times in the future. I can't say that the exodus of young people to the west has been stopped, but the percentage of people leaving the island has been growing less every year."

and some of those who went west years ago are beginning to return home, having learned that the west is not the land of promise it has been represented to be.

"As for the fox industry, it does not merely mean that the people of the island are passing money from one to the other," added Mr. Prowse. "It is bringing a good deal of money from other parts into the island. It has done much, too, to encourage the feeling of optimism, and make business better, since the people, feeling they have good prospects, are becoming freer spenders."

### An Excellent Concert.

A concert was given in Waterloo Street Baptist church last evening and was largely attended. The programme, which consisted of readings, vocal and instrumental music, was carried out in an excellent manner, each number receiving much applause. The solos of Madam Carlin David brought forth special applause, as did also the readings by Professor Payne.

### CLIFTON WOMEN'S INSTITUTE.

Clifton, Feb. 27.—The women's institute will hold their regular monthly meeting at Mrs. Gilbert Wetmore's, on Tuesday, March 4th, at 7.30 p. m. All are invited to attend.

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JOHN W. CARRUTHERS, MONTAGUE, P. E. I.

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For information regarding the Company, or prospectus, apply to

**C. H. McLEAN, - - 93 Prince William Street, St. John, N. B.**

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### APPLICATION FORM

I, the undersigned, hereby subscribe for an agree with C. H. McLean, of St. John, N. B., agent for and representing the Smith Silver Black Fox Company, Limited, to take the number of shares at \$100 a share, as set opposite my signature hereto, and to pay 20 per cent. of said stock down, and the balance on or about 15th March. Should said shares not be allotted the money paid on them to be refunded in full.

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