

MUSICAL ORGANIZATION THAT THE CITIZENS ARE PROUD OF

City Cornet Band Was Forty-Four Years Old Yesterday and
is Still Going Strong—Brief Account of its History Since
the Organization on November 15, 1874.

The members of the City Cornet Band celebrated with rightful pride the forty-fourth anniversary of its organization yesterday, and this public musical organization in the eastern provinces, if not in Canada. Forty-four years for a purely volunteer organization to maintain its continual existence is a record that is

hard to equal. The willingness of the band to assist in everything for the welfare of the community and the first class brand of music that the band has rendered for so many years, has endeared the organization to the citizens of St. John, who trust that the band will continue in its popularity and prosperity. Many of the charter members have passed away, but as

the band is rendering a concert or parading through the streets a few of the oldest members can still be seen performing on their respective instruments, and these gentlemen still retain their rank among the best musicians in the city. During the past year the band has organized a junior body of musicians and these forty boys have been constantly under the tuition of Bandmaster Frank Waddington, one of the most talented musicians that ever resided in the city, and it will be but a short time when the City Cornet Junior Band will give the citizens a great surprise. As these juniors develop they will fill up the ranks of the older members who resign, and by this means the old City Cornet Band will continue for many more years.

The Organization.
The City Cornet Band was organized on November 15, 1874, by W. O'Leary, afterwards the Rev. W. O'Leary, Charles Hazel, Bernard M.

Gowan, William M. Wallace, Edmund Sheehan, William J. Higgins, Dennis O'Leary, Patrick Coghlan, William E. Walsh, John O'Leary, Jeremiah J. O'Sullivan, John Coughlan, James Connolly, James Keenan, Joseph Dixon, James Smith, William Ward, Florence O'Leary and Edward Finagan.

The band was really the survivor of a band organized three years previously by the Christian Brothers, who with the proceeds of a bazaar purchased from Messrs. E. Peller & Bros., then the leading musical dealers in St. John, a fine set of instruments. The following year uniforms were secured. In 1873 the Father Mathew Association bought the outfit, but the leader, John Finney, left the city in December and the organization was disbanded. The summer of 1874 saw the old members playing together at the Cathedral and C.T.A. phonics. This led to the decision to reorganize, and on November 15, 1874,

the band again got together under the name of the City Cornet Band, and with the members above. Only Jaa. Connolly, the present solo euphonium player, has continued his membership throughout, and it is through this gentleman's energy and judgment that in many respects has the City Cornet become so popular and prosperous. He was the father of the movement that resulted in the erection of the beautiful King Edward band stand on the King Square, which was presented to the City of St. John by the City Council.

It was nearly a year after the re-organization that the band engaged its first instructor, O. P. Perry, who after three short months was succeeded by its original leader, John Finney, who remained only a few months. In 1876, H. Dixon, then leader of the 62nd Band, was engaged to tune the band's instruments and became so impressed with the musical abilities of the members that he expressed a willingness to take the vacant leadership, and in October of that year he took charge. Mr. Dixon remained in control until 1881, but returned to his post again that fall and continued until 1883, and was again in charge for a short time in 1884. It was in 1878 that the City Cornet competed in a contest at the Victoria Rink against the 62nd and Artillery bands and was awarded the prize.

In 1889 the band brought to the city as its leader W. C. Bowman, cornet soloist of the famous Gilmore Band, New York, and was probably the highest paid instructor engaged by a Maritime Province musical organization. After his departure the band engaged Prof. J. M. White, and the following year, 1891, Prof. C. H. Williams, who had filled various short engagements as leader, and he continued practically until his death in August, 1901.

A few months under the leadership of H. F. Heenan followed and then the present bandmaster, Frank Waddington, took charge. Mr. Waddington is one of the most willing and earnest workers the band has ever had and under his careful instruction the band has been highly complimented for its excellence.

The old City Cornet Band has been through many trials and difficulties but with pluck and spirit they have come through with flying colors when failure seemed staring them in the face. On the night of June 19, 1877, the band gave a great open air concert in the Queen Square and ever since it has given very numerous free concerts for the delight and entertainment of the public. The next day after the above mentioned concert the City of St. John was destroyed by fire, and in common with all others the band had to begin again the struggle for existence. New instruments and uniforms left the organization facing a heavy debt but with some assistance the obligations were wiped out in a short period.

In September, 1893, the band paid a visit to the World's Fair in Chicago and on this occasion the band used a new set of instruments, triple silver plated, that had been purchased from Messrs. F. Besson and Co., of London, England, and towards which the citizens contributed the sum of \$1,300. These instruments are the interest taken by the band at a grand concert



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in the Mechanics' Institute by H. J. Thorne, then mayor of the city.

In 1899 and in 1910 the band made excursions to Boston and gave concerts before many thousands of people on the Boston Common which were a grand success.

During the past four years a very large number of its members enlisted and went overseas to fight for their country in the great war; some of these members will never return, having paid the supreme sacrifice, but even with the depletion of its membership the City Cornet has never missed an engagement but is carrying on as usual and is an organization that the City of St. John has all justification of being proud of.

BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES HELD MEETING LAST EVENING

Dr. Mabel Hanington, New Medical Inspector of Schools, Presents Favorable Report—Request of Female Teachers for Salary Increase Deferred—Government Stops Grant for Evening Technical Classes.

Among the reports received at the meeting of the Board of School Trustees held last evening none were of greater interest than that sent in by the new medical inspector of schools, Dr. Mabel Hanington. Dr. Hanington reports that she has met with a most courteous reception from the parents and that the work has been carried on without the difficulties or friction which sometimes attends the introduction of this system. In many cases where parents have been visited in the homes and their attention drawn to physical defects in their children, a specialist has been consulted and steps taken to improve conditions. Dr. Hanington and the nurse have examined the children in 38 rooms and in a large number of cases the mothers have accepted the invitation sent to them to be present at such examination. Thus the sympathy of the mothers is enlisted and the teachers have expressed their approval and pleasure over the interest taken by the mothers. A very large per cent. of the pupils were found to have defective teeth and it is hoped that some time dental treatment may be given free. The proposed series of health talks, two a week, had been begun when the epidemic stopped all such work.

This report was received and filed. Members of the board present last evening were R. B. Emerson, chairman; Geo. E. Day, M. Coll, E. R. W. Ingraham, H. Colby Smith, J. D. P. Lewin, G. H. Green and Dr. H. S. Bridges. An application as teacher was received from Robert J. Cochrane. Mr. Cochrane's name was placed on the teacher's list.

The report of Adam P. MacIntyre, C. A., who audited the books and accounts, was received and filed.

A letter was read from Miss Muriel L. Russell, thanking the board for sympathy and flowers sent to her father during his illness.

It was moved by M. Coll, and seconded by H. Colby Smith, that a letter be written Mr. Russell congratulating him on his recovery.

A communication was read from Dr. Carter, chief superintendent of education, regarding the grant of \$200 which the school board has been receiving from the government towards the expense of the evening technical classes. The letter stated that this grant would no longer be paid as the classes would come under the vocational training schools now being established, and also that the increase in pupils did not warrant the expenditure.

Some discussion followed the reading of this communication and Dr. Bridges spoke of the fine work done

by the evening classes and stated that even in war times last year there were 106 pupils for two teachers to instruct. Dr. Bridges thought that the government might be asked to continue the grant of \$200, (it costs about \$800 to keep up the classes), at least until the vocational schools were established. Mr. Day thought that if the government fully understood the increase of pupils last year was from 58 to 109, and that members of the board would testify to the value of these classes, the case might be reconsidered.

Mr. Leavitt spoke of the benefit received in many instances. One man had been able to increase his salary \$900 after two years' attendance, and men who could neither read or write have learned to do so at the schools. Mr. Leavitt stated that letters testifying to these facts could be produced. The chairman also spoke strongly in favor of the good work accomplished by these classes.

It was moved by Mr. Green, seconded by Mr. Ingraham, that the classes start next week, to last until May 1st. This was carried.

On motion of Mr. Day a committee was appointed to confer with the government regarding this matter. Messrs. Geo. Day, G. Herbert Gren, L. P. D. Lewin and Dr. Bridges were appointed, and Dr. Bridges asked to have A. Gordon Leavitt added to the list.

A letter was received from Miss Emma Fairweather, secretary of the St. John Teachers' Association, regarding the request for a larger salary for the female teachers, and pointing out that the cost of living has not decreased since the school board was asked to make the salaries larger. The increase asked for is \$100, dating from Sept. 1, 1918. This communication on motion of M. Coll, seconded by J. D. P. Lewin, was left until the estimates for the coming year were taken up.

For the Building Committee J. Green reports progress at the technical school.

The chairman asked the board to confirm the appointment of a janitor for the Cliff street school at a salary of \$1,000 a year.

After some discussion during which Mr. Day asked if a returned soldier could not receive the position and Mr. Green asked why one janitor should

receive a larger salary than others, the action of the chairman was confirmed.

Mr. Emerson pointed out that there were a larger number of rooms in the Cliff street school and it is a very large building to take care of. One returned soldier is employed at the High School and one at Centennial.

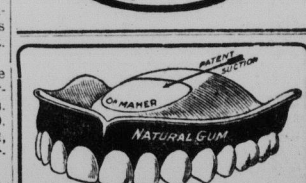
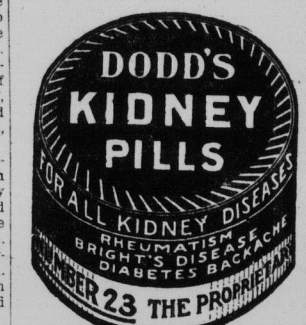
It was moved by Mr. Day and seconded by Mr. Ingraham that the board pledges itself to give any position in its gift to a returned soldier providing one can be found suited for the position.

Going back to the matter of the teachers' salaries, Mr. Day said he thought that their salaries were ample to keep them in as good circumstances as they should be kept. Mr. Green objected to the idea of paying a teacher \$600 and a janitor \$1,000.

Mr. Green spoke of the necessity of taking up the matter of finances for the coming year and asked if it would not be advisable to go before the Commissioners and state what will be needed.

The Secretary read the financial statement and said that funds available from the sinking fund had been invested in Victory Loans (\$18,500). The report was adopted and a copy will be sent the Chief Superintendent. Dr. Bridges mentioned the opening of the schools on Monday, and that the St. Malachi's pupils would go to the Cliff street school.

A bill for damage done in the King George school by fire was ordered paid.



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