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THE STAR

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WILLIAM R. SQUAREY,

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THE STAR.

THURSDAY, APRIL 1st, 1875.

DISTRICT COURT.

BY OUR OWN REPORTER.

An examination was held on the 30th ult., before his Honor, Judge Bennett, into the origin and circumstances connected with the fire that took place last week, (a notice of which appeared in our paper) which led to the destruction of the house of Mr. Robert Andrews.

HEAD CONSTABLE FALLON examined:—Shortly after six o'clock, hearing an alarm of fire, proceeded with a number of my men to the spot. The Fire Company were there promptly within three or five minutes after the alarm. No water was to be had from twenty to thirty-five minutes.

EDWARD VASS, Captain Fire Brigade examined:—Found that the Fire Plug was frozen, and was some time delayed before we procured water.

PATRICK WALSH, examined:—Proved that he was first on the spot with No. 3 hose, connected immediately and sent men up the hill with the hose carriage. Ordered chief hydrant-men to turn on the water. Could not turn the key, myself and Mr. Strathie tried to turn the key but could not do so. Ran to the hydrant near Mr. Payne's. Found it frozen. We were from thirty to thirty-five minutes using hot water before the fire got to flow. It was then too late, as the house was burned down. Had we got the water when arrived at the scene of the fire, could have saved the house. Saw nothing round the plug to protect it from the frost.

GEORGE BARNES, Supt. of Hydrants, examined:—The hose and all the gear are all in good order; willing to have it examined. Heard the alarm and proceeded at once to the fire. No. 3 hose there. Had a woman tied, but no water. Myself and Mr. Strathie hove on the key but could not turn it. I went to Payne's hydrant and tried that. Could not turn the key. Got some hot water and after some time succeeded. The house was then burned down. The hydrants ought to be secured in the fall of the year with either hay or moss. Lynch did his best to help us, but I don't think there was any blame to the Fire Company. We expect plugs to be always ready. My duty is to see the hose connected to hydrant, and see it in working order.

JOHN LYNN, Manager Harbor Grace Water Company, examined:—Has full charge of the works. When I could get a fine day other winters, would open the plugs, but this winter has not opened them so often, weather was too severe. Had the hydrant at the foot of No. 4 street open about 1st March. The plug produced in court is the ordinary one used. One of the keys twisted on the evening of the fire. The leverage is about three feet. The shank twisted about an inch and a half below the cross bar of the key. Think it would be an advantage to have cross bar of the lever stronger. Two men have scarcely power to turn one of these. The key used by myself is much stronger than those used by the Fire Company. They have broken. Nearly all those imported has broken. The keys used in St. John's are stronger, with a greater leverage. Have been in charge since 1863. Fire plugs were never frozen before on the occasion of a fire. Examined all the plugs but not since the very hard weather. Examined plugs on Cochran Street, Ban, normal street, and the Beach and Martin's Brook some time in April. Keys in Barnes's possession were furnished to him by the Water Company. Had packed the hydrants with hay the first year; found they were as likely to be frozen. The water was so severe it was out of my power to keep the hydrants free at

a moment's notice. Had on the usual pressure of water. Admits that the keys are too weak and have not sufficient leverage. I can get anything I want from the Water Company. There is no restriction.

CAPT. G. BROWN states—I am a shareholder in the Water Company. Thinks that the manager is not doing justice to the town. Has too many irons in the fire. Has not touched the fire plug at my place for the whole winter, nor that near the Wesleyan Chapel, nor the one on Harvey Street near the Court House. Lynch only attends to fire plugs between Beach and Government Wharf.

His Honor—Lynch is the servant of your Company. I am not here to try him. If your Company thinks he is not doing them justice, let them enquire into his conduct.

ROBERT ANDREWS, examined:—Is the owner of the house that was burned down on Tuesday, 23rd inst. Does not know how the fire took place. The chimney was not bad that I know of. Cannot account for the accident. Have no insurance on it. Was away at work at the time on Mr. Ridley's old room.

His Honor then addressed the Court. He said it was his duty to take evidence and enquire into the cause of every fire which took place, and forward the examination to the Government. It was no part of his duty to give a judgment in this case, but as the Secretary and Manager of the Water Company were present, as well as the Officers of the Fire Brigade, he would make a few remarks on the evidence elicited. The Water Company was a public company having the right by law to levy rates on the householders of the town; and the householders had a right to expect that sufficient water would always be had to protect them from fire. This poor man's house was all he had, and but for the kindness of the inhabitants who had subscribed money to aid him he would be left destitute. The evidence shows clearly that the Fire Brigade and Police were promptly on the spot. That the house might have been saved with slight damage if water could be had. The evidence further shows that the keys and levers used are too weak and unfit for the purpose. That those furnished the Fire Brigade are much weaker than the one used on ordinary occasions by the manager; and Mr. Lynch claims that he has a thorough knowledge of his business, and that the Water Company furnishes him without restriction everything that he requires. There was a great responsibility resting on him if he neglected to furnish proper keys for such an emergency. Had the wind been in another direction many houses might have been burned. An excuse that the plug was frozen, was not a good one. It is so compact that little ice can get around it, and the keys should always be strong enough to open it. He had done his duty in this examination, and should transmit the papers to the Government, who would doubtless refer the matter to the Water Company. He cautioned the Officers of the Water Company and Fire Brigade, that in future he would hold a strict examination on every occasion of a fire.

[TO THE EDITOR OF THE STAR.]

Sir,—Of late our little community has been thrown into a state of excitement. The political contest with its party feeling prevailing on the minds of the people, had scarce passed away, when a band of peace disturbers took it into their heads to show the respectable portion of the community what they could do in the way of persecution.

I doubt if there is one in all Conception Bay who is respected, and held in greater esteem by all creeds than the Revd. B. Jones, a clergyman of the Church of England, who has been faithfully preaching the Gospel for upwards of twenty five years in this town, and whose venerable appearance at this time indicates a life of incessant labor in administering to the spiritual wants and necessities of a people, a few of which, a Dean of Westminster or a Thomas Guthrie would not please. But it is a fortunate thing for the Church, that this class of people are few in number, and in my opinion, are more to be pitied than condemned, as we find them to be of a most illiterate kind of individuals. Here we find the evils arising from the want of a good educational system, which did not exist in their early history; and as time makes many changes, I will proceed to give a brief synopsis of the latest attempt to injure the Rev. Gentleman, the subject of my remarks. For a number of years the peace of the Church of England remained undisturbed in this town; but owing to circumstances arising from depression in trade and the disestablishment of influential houses, the proprietors of which, were members of the Church of England, caused a large portion of intelligent and influential of them to leave the district, for a more remunerative field. Hence we find a class of people remaining who are always adverse to a good motive, and who embrace the earliest opportunity to display that amount of ignorance which fully characterizes all their ac-

tions, as we see for example in this their last act to injure the Rev. Gentleman, but happily without effect. After scheming in various ways to remove him from the parish, they have finally concluded to erect a temporary church, and procure a man to run it for a time, and leave them master of the field, but I guess he is not easily scared by crows. And what is more his friends are able to keep him here some time yet, notwithstanding all the opposition that may be brought against him.

The above statement is a truthful expose of the policy of our enlightened friends; and we cry shame on such a proceeding. Is this the way you reward a man, who has laboured nearly a lifetime among you now when his hair has become whitened with the frosts of time? Instead of rising up in rebellion against him, should be rendering him that aid and assistance which common respect alone demands. Is this the way you have of exposing to the world your Christian charity?

We now allude particularly to the projectors of this movement whom it is not my duty to particularize, suffice to say that one of the most prominent we find among the number is a young man whom rumour say has subscribed Ten Pounds towards the fund, and when he was asked at the end of the year to settle a bill, the money was not forthcoming; and to keep him out of trouble his employer had to do it for him. And is it by such people that this faction is hearded on to fight. Oh, ye of little sense, consider your ways and get wisdom.

Yours, &c., OLD CHURCHMAN.

In referring to the passing of the Revenue bill, the Express states that:—The tariff is the same as last year, with the exception of wines and fancy biscuits Spanish Red, Demia Sicilian, Figuiers, Red Lisbon, Common Cape and Malaga, C. a. et, Hock, Burgundy and Light Rhinish wines being reduced to 60 cents per Imperial Gallon.

The statement is calculated to deceive there having been on the whole not only no reduction but a very considerable increase in the tariff. Last year the Government imposed upon the cheap and common wines of Spain, costing from one to eight francs per bottle were admitted at thirty cents. This was actually a differential duty as against Spain, and does not say much for the intelligence and wisdom of those with whom the alteration originated. The matter was we have reason to believe, brought to the notice of His Excellency the Governor by Senator Fronsky, the Vice-Consul for Spain and an alteration in the tariff has been made, but by no means a satisfactory one. It is time that the duty on Spanish common wines has been reduced from seventy to sixty cents per gallon which reduction would not make twenty dollars difference in revenue; but, on the other hand, French and Lisbon wines, which only paid thirty cents have been increased to sixty cents, which will produce some hundreds of dollars increase to the revenue. The duty on Red Lisbon, Hock Burgundy and Light Rhinish has been increased from thirty to sixty cents per gallon—and this the Express calls a 'reduction'! If it be so, we do not yet know the meaning of words. In truth, the tariff has been increased, and the Express may as well honestly acknowledge it.

In due course we shall have our say about this matter of tariff and revenue, and also upon the matter of the increase of salaries. The Government party have the rope, and they seem to us to be coiling it about their political necks fast enough to suit our purposes. When they have sufficiently encircled their throats, we shall seize the ends of the rope, and strangle the whole batch.

We are glad, however, that the Receiver General, by committing political suicide has saved us the duty of operating upon him. His senseless and intensely stupid conduct has shown him to be utterly unfit for any political position of trust. Utterly without taste he does not even possess the brains to do as he is told. Although well coached he was unable to repeat his political lesson correctly and he has come out well plucked, with disgrace to himself and discredit to his party. Be a fool in a mortar you may but you can't make a wise or even intelligent man of him.

The s. s. Tigar, Captain Hagan arrived here Tuesday morning having been in consequence of delays occasioned by drift-ice—five weeks and four days making the round trip. The Tigar reports no fish caught about Channel or Rose Blanche since Christmas. The schooner which was sent to Fortune Bay for hearing is frozen up in LaFave Harbor. The Tigar was compelled to lay up at Little Bay, not being able to get into Channel on account of the ice which was raked as high as the steamer's rail. At Harbor Briton, Messrs. Newman & Co. were short of provisions and anxiously looking for the brig, Tolbot, out of thirty days from New York with flour, &c. The Tigar left Little Bay on her return trip on the 5th March and arrived at Rose Blanche and Burgoe the same day. She left Burgoe on the 6th, but had to return. On the 7th she arrived at Cape LaHune Harbor. Leaving the

latter port on Tuesday the 5th the Tigar arrived off Harbor Briton, where the mails had to be conveyed six miles over the ice to the steamer. Anchored under Brunette that night and on the 9th attempted to push through the ice to St Peter's but failed and again Anchored in Brunette Cove. The steamer made another attempt on the 11th, and a successful effort on the 13th. On the 14th she arrived at Union, but not being able to get any farther into the harbor than Shalloway point, put out, crossed the bay and returned to Burin next day, from which she sailed on the following day. The Tigar reports having seen a brig and a barque in the ice off Cape Race.—Ledger.

LONDON, March 24.

A debate took place in the house of Commons on the Peace Preservation Act. The Home Rulers opposed the bill and contrasted the prevalence of crime in England with the general peacefulness in Ireland. Sir Edward Watkins retorted that the English people had no welcome for American conspirators. If the Irish would renounce the leadership of stump orators and adopt industry in place of political agitation, necessity for exceptional legislation would cease.

Disraeli asked the Home Rulers not to agitate the country by their futile opposition to the bill. The second reading passed by 264 to 69. It is stated that 10,000 persons attended Mitchell's funeral.

LONDON 24.

Don Carlos has issued a decree conscription all males over eighteen years of age in Navarrese province. Bismarck is to be made Duke of Luxembourg.

OTTAWA, 25.

The Bill to suppress gambling is passed.

LONDON 26.

Carlist General Mendoza entered San Fernando. At Moody & Sankey's meeting last night, Rev. Newman Hall occupied seat on platform.

MONTREAL, 26.

Navigation not expected to be open till 10th May. Canals are solid in many places, and ice on river unusually thick. New York 26—Gold 115. No French news.

LONDON 27.

Twenty eight prominent Communist prisoners under the leadership of Dr. Ostout, escaped from New Caledonia in a boat built by themselves. Khan Khiva asked Russia's assistance against his unruly subjects and offered to become vassal of Czar. Archard, French author, is dead. Protestant statistics gives 30,000 Spaniards converted to Protestantism since 1863. Protestant Churches in Madrid and everywhere in Spain continue open. New York 27—Gold 116.

BALTIMORE, 29.

S. S. Nuremberg arrived to-day. Has ten men belonging to St. Mary's, N.E., who went out on the ice to the rescue of a ship on the 2nd March, and were cut off by open water. The remainder of the party, twelve, perished of cold and hunger. The ten survivors after enduring terrible suffering were picked up by the schr George Fogg, from P. E. I., March 11th and transferred to the Nuremberg on 22nd. Names of ten survivors are—Andrew and Thomas Mooney, brothers, Wm Reuben, Patrick and Michael Tobin brothers, Jas. Neur, Jas. Grace, aged 14 whose brother Joseph perished, Jas. Peddel, Thos Dunn, whose brother Michael perished, and Benjamin Sancroix. Men taken taken in charge by British Consul, who will probably send them home in Caspian.

LONDON 29.

Edgar Quinet, French author, is dead. Police made a descent on English betting houses in Paris and seize all books and cash. R. C. Bishops of Prussia will hold a conference on Thursday. Spain paid Germany 10,000 thalers on account Gustave. Reviva Preachers were stoned in Irish quarter, Liverpool. No truth in the report that Bismarck was made Duke of Luxembourg.

Intelligence of a very sad nature has been received from the Mission of Channel—viz., the death of Mr. Wilkinson, who was doing valuable and valued service to the church in that district. Mr. Wilkinson came to this country from England some two or three years ago, and was first stationed as schoolmaster and lay-reader at Codroy, where he proved his efficiency and usefulness. A few months ago he was removed by the Rev. Mr. Goodie to the Dead Islands, or Isle aux Morts, where he continued to act in the same capacities as before. On Sunday morning, the 10th of January last he started for Burnt islands, a distance of about five miles in order to read the Service of the Church in the School room of

that settlement. The day was cold and stormy, but, as he considered that he was only doing what was his duty and an act of charity, he disregarded the advice of those who knew the danger better than he did, and set out alone on his labor—truly a labor under such circumstances,—of love. He has never been seen since. Diligent search has been made for his body, but without success. Whether he fell over the cliffs or (more probably) was overpowered by the pitiless snow storms is not known. Mr. Wilkinson was about 22 or 23 years of age, and leaves behind him an aged and widowed mother in England. During the few months he was at Dead Islands he had done good work and had earned the respect and esteem of the people.

Our readers will doubtless remember that the late lamented Clergyman of Channel, the Rev. W. W. LeGallais, lost his life some years ago while he was attempting to reach his home in an open boat from this same settlement of Isle aux Morts, where he had been ministering to the spiritual needs of a sick parishioner.—Time.

The Archdeacon of Carmarthen, who has himself entered his 80th year, gave, on the 6th ult., his annual dinner to the aged communicants attending his church. Thirteen appeared at the dinner table, whose united ages averaged 88 years for each person. Nine others who were prevented by personal infirmity or the severity of the weather from attending, were not forgotten. The united ages of the latter gave an average of 85½ for each individual.

LOCALS.

The Mail steamer 'Newfoundland', left Halifax on the 29th ult.

Local items scarce, owing to the dullness of the town. Something good next week.

The brig 'Trusty,' Hennessey master, arrived here on Monday last, having been 125 days from Trapitui.

We thank 'Friend and Subscriber' for his information, and on enquiring found that there was a balance of 2s. 6d. due Azariah Alcock, on pork.

Mr. Ohman's old friends will find him at his new premises, adjoining those occupied by Messrs. C. W. Ross & Co.

Lumber and building material of every description, is very scarce throughout the town. One or two cargoes are wanted badly.

An interesting game of Draw Poker was played at the west end on Good Friday when one of our lucky townsmen, transferred to his pocket the modest little Pool of \$20.

A new style of house-keeping has recently come to light in the vicinity of Lime Kilm Hill. When you get short of fuel burn the corner benches; next the dresser; and mantlepiece; then the floor; remove to next and do ditto. Our reporter enquired the reason of this conduct and was told by the parties that they intend to leave in the spring. We think it is high time.

To-day the town was thrown into a state of excitement in consequence of a number of boys having fallen through the ice in the harbor. Every available article calculated to save life was brought into requisition, such as ropes, boards, ladders, and boats. After a considerable length of time they were finally rescued. A number of men also fell in, while endeavouring to save the boys. We think the police ought to be empowered to prevent children going on the ice, especially after one or two nights' frost. It was one of the most miraculous escapes from drowning that has ever occurred in this neighborhood.