

LOCAL AND PROVINCIAL.

Countrymen report the roads still in very poor condition.

Capt. Fred Jones, of the Artillery, has been appointed to a place on the coronation contingent.

School Inspector R. P. Steeves has appointed Friday, May 2, as Arbor day in No. 3 district.

During the last few days five steamers have been chartered to load hay at this port for South Africa during May.

The water was very high at the Marsh creek toward the last of week, but is down to normal again.

Leander Lingley's drive, which was hung up on the Nerepis last spring, arrived at the boom on Saturday.

Miss Marnie Shandlin, who successfully underwent an operation at the private hospital, has returned to her home at Shuslik Settlement, St. John county.

Amherst has voted to borrow \$2,500 for the establishment of a poor farm in the same additional for the establishment of a public library.

Capt. Charles Watson and a crew of men left Monday evening for Montreal to bring down the new river steamer Majestic, now in winter quarters.

The pilots of Sydney, C. B., are in negotiation for a steam pilot boat. Their fees for vessels exceeding 300 tons have been reduced to 20 cents per 100 tons additional to that size, instead of \$1.

The shingle sawyers employed by A. Cushing & Company returned to work Monday morning at the summer scale of wages. They have been out three weeks.

The N. B. representatives to the Supreme Court of Foresters at Los Angeles will leave on Wednesday by the I. C. R. for Montreal, thence, to their place of meeting.

Alert White, the shortstop of the Aleras, had one of his feet badly injured on Wednesday last at Maple, a sharp nail having run through his shoe into the sole of his foot.

Louisbourg as the terminus for mails and passengers, St. John for freight, appears to be the programme now as far as can be gathered from the despatches—Sydney Record.

Spanish coins to the value of \$800 or \$900, and dated 1772-1785, were found in a silk bag in the bottom of one of the chimneys of the old residence in Sydney which was the birthplace of Sir John Bourne.

An Ottawa despatch says that Commander Spain, arrived here Monday from St. John after holding a court of inquiry into the grounding of the Lake Superior. He will give his judgment in open court. It will be the pilot's fault, and responsible for the sinking of the vessel.

Mrs. McCarron, the Hampton lady, who had her foot so badly crushed by the train at Hampton station recently, and who had the member amputated at the General Public Hospital here, left for her home Monday afternoon. The operation was quite successful, and her general health is good.

The portable mill at Clarendon, owned by Messrs. Barnhill, of Fairville, has ceased its labor after a very active winter, during which more than a million and a quarter of lumber was saved. The mill is still running but will probably soon close down, as great difficulty is met with in getting logs out of the bush.

One marriage and 11 females and the same number of male births were reported to the registrar during the past week. The burial permits issued by the board of health last week numbered 12. Deaths were caused by: Consumption, four; convulsions, cancer of intestines, congestion of lungs, diabetes, heart disease, old age, septic infection, splenic disease, one each.

According to Ottawa papers the Canadian memorial fund, a fund for the purpose of marking the graves of departed South African Canadian heroes, now amounts to \$210. A subscription list for this fund was opened some time ago at the mayor's office, on which the mayor's name appears for \$25. Ald. Armstrong, for \$10, and Rev. John de Souza for \$10.

By reason of the poor conditions of the roads, very few country people were in the city Friday. The seeding is well under way with those who have any light land. One man is reported to have started seeding on the 30th of March, which is considered quite early. The dealers say that the seed is late coming in this year, which, of course, puts back the seedling somewhat, as most of the farmers in the vicinity of the city have to buy their seed.

The annual meeting of No. 1 Salvage Corps and Fire Police will be held this week and officers for the ensuing term will be elected. Captain Charles A. Clarke, who has held the chief office in the corps for the past nine years, will not be a candidate for office this term, having, despite the protests of the majority of members, decided to retire from office. Capt. Clarke's record as head of the corps is one to be proud of and his retirement is received by the members with much regret.

F. B. Boies, a former Kings county man, who for the last two years has been in the Klondike, was in the city last week on his way back to the gold fields. Mr. Boies has been visiting friends in Kingston and in this city. Speaking recently of New Brunswickers in the Klondike, Mr. Boies said he had met among gold seekers a number of men who own this province as their birthplace. The town clerk of Dawson City is a native of Chatham who has been successful in finding the yellow metal in paying quantities. Martin Henderson's party, Mr. Boies said, when he left the Yukon, established on chains near Dawson and meeting with fair success.

The central committee of the Independent Order of Foresters met last week in the office of E. R. Chapman, high chief. Eighteen representatives were present, with E. R. Chapman in the chair. The election of officers resulted in the following being

chosen: E. R. Chapman, chairman; A. Markham, vice-chairman; Frank Pales, secretary-treasurer. The committee decided to celebrate the anniversary of the founding of the order, by the local courts attending divine service in one of the city churches. An invitation to attend will be sent to the members of the Royal Foresters and to the companion courts. Committees were appointed to choose the church and to interview the several bands in the city. The day of the observance will be fixed by the supreme representatives. The committee adjourned until May 20th.

The mayor has word that St. John will not have the use of the dredge Cape Breton this season. It is under order to go to Digby and from there to Point du Chene.

The contract for raising the logs that drifted down river and were caught at various points has been awarded to Henry Sewell, of Margerville. The work will give several weeks employment to a number of men.

James W. V. Lawlor, manager of the McLaughlin Carriage Company in the same additional for the establishment of a public library.

Monday afternoon Attorney General Pugsley commenced the investigation into the complaint made by Dr. Travers against Dr. Geo. A. Hetherington, medical superintendent of the Provincial Lunatic Asylum. The investigation was held in the institution and the statements of both parties were heard. After the hearing, the attorney general and Hon. Geo. F. Hill inspected the wards. The inquiry will be resumed at a later date.

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ST. GEORGE'S SOCIETY.

Preparations for Celebration of Hundredth Anniversary This Month.

ITS HISTORY REVIEWED.

Reminiscences of Early Days of the Organization--The Meetings in the Old Coffee House--Old-Time Functions--Its Part in Public Events.

St. George's Society will celebrate the centennial of its organization on Sunday, April 20th; Monday, April 21st, and Tuesday, April 22nd (St. George's Day). On Sunday afternoon a special service for the members will be held in Trinity church, at which Rev. J. A. Richardson, the society's chaplain, will preach the sermon. An offertory will be taken for the charitable fund.

On the Monday evening following a patriotic mass meeting will be held at 8 o'clock when addresses will be delivered by Hon. Geo. E. Foster, J. D. Hazen, and others. A ball will be given by the society in the York theatre on St. George's day.

Events in Its History.

In its century of existence St. George's Society has passed through many vicissitudes, it has been flourishing with many members and overflowing courts, and again its membership has been depleted and its funds drained. It is gratifying, however, to learn that at the present time the society is in a position to celebrate its 100th anniversary, it is stronger than ever.

A retrospective view of St. George's Society since its inception in 1802, as at the present date almost impossible as the records and minutes dealing with the formation and progress of the society were all destroyed in the devastating fire of 1877.

As far as known the society appears to have been founded in 1802 but was evidently not kept alive for a very long period as in the local newspapers of 1815 an advertisement appears calling on Englishmen and their descendants to meet and dine together on St. George's day of that year. In later days the advertisements of the annual celebrations were numbered as if they had been the first.

Early English Settlers.

A great portion of the Loyalists who founded this city in 1783 were Englishmen or else direct descendants thereof, but after the war of 1812 and during the years of the revolution the English soldiers the number of English settlers greatly increased. Other English settlers came by degrees and as New Brunswick was a separate state and not as now one of the principal provinces in a grand dominion, known to the world as one of the integrals of that Empire on which the sun never sets, it is but natural that these English settlers should be bound together by a feeling of nationality. This feeling was so pronounced that they decided to reorganize the society. Accordingly they met on July 2nd, 1816, and reorganized.

The First Dinner Recorded.

The first dinner of which there is any record was on April 21st, 1819, which was held at Oddy's Coffee House, a well-known resort in the good old days, which was situated on the corner of King and Prince William streets, where the Bank of Montreal building is and which corner is still known to some of the older residents as "The Coffee House Corner." This gathering was in every respect a most enthusiastic one and was attended by many guests, including Lieut. General Coffin and the colonel and officers of the 74th regiment. The work of examining them commenced at the closing of the day's festivities. The first constitution of the society was passed in 1816 and printed in 1820. That year the society had 40 members among whom were many Loyalists and their descendants, as well as a large number of Englishmen.

The First Constitution.

From 1820 to 1830, St. George's day being the anniversary of the birth of the reigning sovereign King George IV., was a public holiday and the annual dinner was held on the day of the day's festivities. The first constitution of the society was passed in 1816 and printed in 1820. That year the society had 40 members among whom were many Loyalists and their descendants, as well as a large number of Englishmen.

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custom prevailed; the annual gathering being held in the St. John Hotel, corner of St. John and Charlotte streets, and the salutes being fired from King square.

In Crimean Days.

At the time of the Crimean war St. George's Society was particularly prosperous. Great enthusiasm prevailed at its meetings, large accessions were made to its membership, and handsome sums raised and forwarded to England in aid of the patriotic fund. When the allied armies were victorious before Sebastopol, the society celebrated by one of the most brilliant and successful balls ever held here, the chief guest of the occasion being Hon. Mr. Mannes-Sutton, at that time lieutenant governor of New Brunswick.

The Society of St. Patrick, also extended a hearty welcome to the hero of Kara, General Sir W. Fenwick Williams, on the occasion of his first visit to this province. After his eminent services in Asia-Minor, by tendering him a grand ball which was also attended by Hon. Mr. Mannes-Sutton and staff.

The Prince's Visit in 1860.

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