

COTTON MILL FIRE QUITE A MYSTERY

A fire in the dry room of the Corn wall cotton mill supposed to have been of incendiary origin, caused two alarms at 11 o'clock and after, last night. The booming of the mill whistles combined with the bells in arousing a large crowd to excitement, but the damage done was small and the fire was had under by the city firemen to the mill men after 20 minutes' work.

Damage About \$1,000.

Manager Cudlip placed the damage at about \$1,000. This is on the dyed cotton which was drying in the building, and on towels and other manufactured goods in the upper storey. It was among these latter that the fire originated.

No cause for the fire can be advanced which fits the circumstances, except that something ignited was thrown through the window of the second storey into the racks of towels which were drying close to it. After clearing out the small amount of goods in the second storey, the fire worked into the dyed cotton drying below and the water thrown upon it spoiled a considerable quantity.

A Mysterious Affair.

The idea that the fire was the work of some one outside the building is strengthened by the fact that a fire was started a few months ago in a similarly mysterious manner close to a window in the lower storey. Neither can be accounted for in any other way. Spontaneous combustion would be impossible, and the heat used for drying could not have been the cause as the hot air is conveyed in pipes from another part of the building. The night watchman had been in the dry house only 20 minutes before, and it was while he was in the top part of the building, some distance away, that he saw the blaze through the dryhouse skylight.

Another Blaze.

A fire started in the pork packing establishment of F. E. Williams & Co. on Princess street, last night. Engines Nos. 1 and 2 responded to the call. When they arrived the fire had gained considerable headway, but was under control quickly after the firemen arrived.

The fire caught in the smoking room in the rear of the building. Some little damage was caused to the meats there. The loss is covered by insurance.

Fire on West Side.

A fire alarm was rung in about 6.30 last evening from box 17 on the West Side. Some of the residents about Sand Point had become alarmed at their dwellings should be ignited by fire on the beach near the sheds. These had been kindled to burn infected bedding from the steamers.

The fire department went out and extinguished the blaze with sand.

MT. ALLISON DEBATERS WIN FROM U. N. B.

FREDERICTON, March 25.—The inter-collegiate debate at the Opera House this evening was won by the Mount Allison University team over U. N. B.'s debaters by the narrow margin of twelve points, after one of the most interesting debates ever heard in this city.

Governor Steele presided and the Hon. J. Clarke and Hon. F. J. Sweeney. The subject for debate was: "The United States would be beneficial to Canada, U. N. B. taking the affirmative side. The teams were: Mount Allison, Ivan C. Rand, Capt. W. Firth and G. P. Burchill. Fifteen U. N. B. debaters, Capt. Gordon W. Firth and G. P. Burchill, fifteen minutes speeches were made by each member of the team followed by the captains summing up with Capt. Rand of Mount Allison closing the debate.

All the speeches were eloquent and forcible with that of Mr. Burchill being perhaps the best of the evening. The score was Mount Allison 900, U. N. B. 888.

P. E. I. WANTS TO EXCLUDE ALL LIQUOR

Charlottetown, Mar. 25.—Prorogation of the Prince Edward Island Legislature is expected by the end of this week. A resolution came before the House today which asked the Dominion Government to prohibit the importation of liquor into the province.

The bye-election in the first district of Queens for the seat of the late Matthew Smith, will be held on July 7th. The Liberals have nominated Cyrus Crosby, of Bonshaw, and the Conservatives John Myers. The election will be hotly contested. If the Liberals win the parties will stand 17 to 13. If they lose it will be 14 to 14. No mail has been received from the mainland since Monday both steamers being tied in the ice.

DETECTIVE WILLIAMS BANQUET

Moncton, March 25.—Chief Detective Williams who recently resigned his position on the Interprovincial return to Montreal was entertained at supper by the local militia here tonight. Mr. Williams was very popular as a citizen as well as in his official capacity.

TREASURY BOARD CUTS DOWN GRANTS AND SOME ESTIMATES

The Treasury Board determined last evening to be economical and cut out several items of expenditure with the result that next year's assessment will be smaller than was expected unless the Common Council at Monday's meeting decides differently. As is usually the case of this meeting of the Treasury Board representatives of various organizations were present and asked for financial aid in all cases the customary grants were cut half. The board also received a delegation composed largely of Civil Servants who are interested in the exemption of taxation of incomes of \$600 and under. The board gave plain evidence of the fact that its members were opposed to the proposal re taxation. The delegation when it learned that the new assessment bill to be sent to Fredericton, provided for exemption on incomes of \$300 and under, departed seemingly appeased.

Those present were Ald. Baxter, Ald. Kelley, Ald. Baskin, Ald. Pickett, Ald. Frink, Ald. McGoldrick, the chamberlain, the comptroller and Chief Assessor Sharpe.

Horticultural Society.

G. S. Fisher spoke briefly on behalf of the Horticultural Society. The society was in debt to a slight extent and it would be a pity, he thought, to decrease the city's grant of \$4000.

Judge Armstrong, treasurer of the Horticultural Society, followed Mr. Fisher. He explained their financial position.

Riverview Park.

Gray Murdoch spoke on behalf of the Riverview Memorial Park. He mentioned certain improvements made during the season, and thought the amount asked for, \$500, was not too great.

Every Day Club.

A. M. Belding supported the application of the Every Day Club. He admitted that the club had had a surplus but thought that the grant of \$200 should not be decreased.

Tourist Association.

Frank B. Ellis asked that the grant to the Tourist Association be continued. Money expended by the Association was returned to the citizens in various ways. The grant last year had been \$750.

Civil Servants.

Ald. Baxter, the chairman, called upon the Civil Servants' delegation to present its views.

Collector A. T. Dunn, acting as spokesman, said the Civil Servants desired an exemption from taxation on the first \$600 of income.

Peter Sharkey followed. He thought land was not taxed sufficiently and the same was true of large incomes. He had heard of a \$30,000 income which paid taxes on only \$5,000.

Ald. Baxter asked if the speaker could name the man. Ald. Kelley wanted to know the man also.

Mr. Sharkey explained that there were so many of them that it was hard to name one. When pressed he said that probably he could give names.

Ald. Pickett—"If \$600 exemption is adopted \$234 incomes would be entirely exempt."

Mr. Sharkey thought such an exemption would have no effect on rents. There was no city in Canada where the laboring classes were taxed as they were in St. John.

\$300 Exemption Provided.

Ald. Baxter remarked that the Treasury Board's bill provided for a \$300 exemption.

Mr. Dunn asked when the answer of the board would be made known as it was the intention of the delegates to place a bill before the House of Assembly if the matter was not embodied in the common council's bill.

Chairman Baxter put a resolution on the proposal of the delegation to the board and it was voted down unanimously. The chairman expressed the opinion that it was utterly impossible to consider the suggestion without disturbing the basis of taxation.

L. R. Ross also spoke in support of the delegation's proposal.

Collector Dunn said if the board would make the exemption apply to \$300 of all incomes those whom he represented would cease agitating.

Ald. Baxter at once replied that no body of citizens should come and threaten the treasury board.

Mr. Dunn disclaimed any idea of threatening.

The delegation finally withdrew, Chairman Baxter saying that the vote would not be considered as binding. (Laughter).

A. K. Munde appeared and asked that he be given a rebate on the license fee paid by him for his moving picture show.

His Worship was appointed a committee of one to look into the matter.

The Street Railway.

H. M. Hopper appeared before the board to object to increased taxation on the street railway, to the extent of 5 per cent. on gross income. He stated that such a tax would hinder the extension of the railway's line.

Ald. McGoldrick, Ald. Kelley, Ald. Pickett, Ald. Baxter and the comptroller were appointed a sub-committee to consider the matter.

The Recorder's bills were considered. Ald. Baskin considered one of \$774.40 for services in the McArthur and MacVey suit to be excessive. This, however, was ordered to be paid along with other bills from the same official.

The contract for printing the public accounts was awarded to John A. Bowers the lowest tenderer.

School Assessment.

The estimates were then taken up. For the public schools the amount asked was \$125,957 an increase of \$14,285 over last year's appropriation. The matter was recommended to the Common Council.

Ald. Kelley complained because the School Board had asked for an assessment to meet over expenditure and on his motion a sub-committee was appointed to confer with the School Board.

The Board of Works estimates were the same as last year, \$80,000, expenditure limited to \$71,500. Those of the Fire Department were \$56,000, expenditure limited to \$53,750. Police Department, \$42,938. Light, \$27,000; expenditure limited to \$25,000; Sewerage Maintenance, \$20,000; Exhibition, \$600; Libraries, \$5,600.

Estimates Cut Down.

Discussion of the estimated assessment ensued. Mr. Sharp explained that the tax rate would be increased from \$1.86 to \$2.00 from \$1.85 to \$2.00. The general opinion was that the assessments for the various departments should not be increased. \$10,000 was struck off the Light assessment, \$5,000 off Sewerage assessment and Ald. Vanwart, Ald. Frink and Ald. Bowers were appointed a committee to investigate the increase in Police assessment.

On Ald. Sprout's motion the public accounts were ordered to be printed. The Board then adjourned.

SACRIFICED FAIRVILLE IN INTERESTS OF ECONOMY

When the last general election was hanging over his head, Hon. Mr. Pugsley gave it out that Fairville was to have a fine new post office in place of its present one, conducted in the corner of a grocery store.

Negotiations were opened at that time for the purchase of a lot of land on Main street, Fairville, nearly opposite the present site. It was given out that the building of a stone edifice would happen at once.

As a matter of fact the land has not yet been transferred, though D. H. Waterbury of the Dominion Public Buildings department is said to have arranged a price in the vicinity of \$2,000.

Still Without Land.

The Standard last evening asked the head of the prominent firm of lawyers who are acting for Mrs. Avery if the purchase had been completed. It was found that the government was still without the land, although its agent had told the owner several months ago that the land would be purchased.

A merchant in Fairville who is interested in the establishment of an efficient postal service in the place, was asked if the people had been given any idea when the building would be put up. The scheme had just been heard of, he said, six weeks ago, and at that time no information could be gained as to when action was to be taken.

An indefinite statement only could be obtained.

An Order-in-Council.

The Standard is further informed that so far back as last November, about a fortnight after the election, an order-in-council was passed for the purchase from the estate of Jane Mitchell of a lot of land—for \$2,000.

Nothing further happened until a few weeks ago when the department found out that it was altogether mistaken as to the size of the lot bargained for.

The front was some ten feet less than in the original description, and the extreme depth, stated in November, to be 125 feet, had shrunk in February to 100 feet.

Thereupon it was decided to go on and buy the smaller lot, paying the price agreed upon.

Dr. Pugsley's Discovery.

Meanwhile Dr. Pugsley had made the discovery, apparent to others before the election, that the revenue was decreasing, and that he must postpone several works that had been promised and for which votes had been taken last year.

In parliament, the minister explained that he was sacrificing Fairville for the present and in the interests of economy. But the people of that town can congratulate themselves that the site is selected.

THE STANDARD

The Standard management has received congratulations by letter and wire from all parts of the province on the appearance and character of the first number. Among these messages was one from Fredericton signed by twenty-five members of the legislature. The paper had a splendid sale in this city, and the outside demand far exceeded the supply.

Train Was Delayed.

A freight train which left the track at Oxford Junction yesterday afternoon delayed the Montreal for two hours and a half. She did not reach the city until 8.25 last evening.

Weather Probabilities.

Forecasts—Maritime: Southeasterly to westerly gales, mild with rain. TORONTO, March 25.—The disturbance mentioned last night is now centered over the New England States as a pronounced low, and snow and sleet have fallen today in the Ottawa and Upper St. Lawrence Valleys and local snow flurries have occurred in the western provinces elsewhere in Canada. Fair weather has prevailed.

A Round Dozen.

The removal of John O'Fray and his family, of Simonds St., looks like wholesale emigration. In numbers, they are a round dozen. All but four of them left during the week for Boston, and the remainder go on Saturday.

Policemen Nelson and Finley arrested Henry Rodgers, drunk on Main St., between 6 o'clock and 7 last evening.

Father Morriscy's Lung Tonic for Coughs etc., 25 & 50c.

Catarrh Cure 50c
Rheumatism and Kidney Cure 50c
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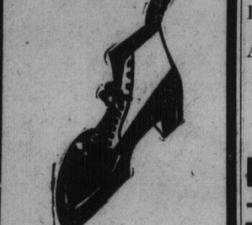
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That is the question." And Hamlet in his soliloquy wasn't half as much in doubt as the man who hesitates between the suit he likes (with an excessive price marked on it) and the suit he can afford (but doesn't really like). We offer the solution: 20th Century Suits—honestly made, distinctly elegant and correct in every way. And at reasonable prices—prices that make these suits the most ECONOMICAL of any you can buy. Easter is right at hand. Why not select a

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SEE OUR LIST FOR THIS ONE

Ladies Undervests, Long Sleeve, Short Sleeve or Shoulder Strap. Regular 30 cents at 21 cents. See Window. Another New Lot of Lawn Waists, \$1.25 quality at 98c. New D. & A. Celebrated Corsets, with or without garters, 47c. See Window. Black Sateen Underskirts, \$1.25 Quality, 89 cents. Hatched Pillow Slippers, 28c. pair, were 40 cents. Table Linens, Towelings, Curtains, Art Muslins, Drapering, Etc. SPECIAL PRICES FOR FRIDAY AND SATURDAY.

ROBERT STRAIN & CO., 27 and 29 Charlotte Street

TWO DAYS MORE

Anniversary Clothing Sale

Many new lines of Clothing, Hats and Furnishings have been added to the bargain list for today and Saturday's selling. Other lines which have been sold down during this sale to one or two of a line have been given an additional discount in order to make the closing days the record record day of this big sale.

J. N. HARVEY, Tailoring and Clothing, 199 to 207 UNION STREET.

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