

Around the City

FAIR AND COLD.

NO JANUARY PERMITS. Building Inspector Carleton reports that there were no permits issued during the month of January.

FOR HALIFAX RELIEF.

Yesterday morning Mayor Hayes acknowledged receipt of \$50 for Halifax relief from Kind Edward Lodge, No. 3, P. A. B., West St. John.

ARRESTED AT DEPOT.

HARRY TOWN was arrested yesterday afternoon at the Union depot by Police man Roberts. He is charged with looting and loitering on the C.G.R. property.

A SOLDIER DETAINED.

A member of the 62nd Regiment was taken to the police station last night by the military police. He will be taken over to barracks on the West side this morning.

BOYS AT RIVERSIDE.

Detectives Briggs and Hidescombe left last night for Riverside having been notified that the two boys who stole away from the Oosar farm were in that neighborhood.

TOMORROW CANDLEMAS DAY.

Tomorrow the Catholic churches in the city will observe the feast of the Purification of the Blessed Virgin Mary. On this day candles are blessed for the use of the sick and other church purposes.

CANADIAN BIBLE SOCIETY.

A meeting of the executive of the St. John branch of the Canadian Bible Society was held last night at the Bible House, Germain street. Routine business only was transacted.

SUBMARINE TELEPHONE.

In a recent issue of a Havana paper that was sent to the city from Cuba an official statement is made that Cuba would soon be connected by submarine telephone with France, England and Spain.

FIRE YESTERDAY.

The fire department was called out yesterday morning at 8:40 o'clock on two alarms from Box 232. The fire was in the residence of James B. McLean, 117 Mount Pleasant. A portion of the roof and a Gothic window were destroyed and the furniture in the upstairs was somewhat damaged by smoke and water. It is thought the fire started from a defective fuse.

INSTRUCTIVE ADDRESS.

The Brotherhood of David of the Fairville Baptist church, with the young boys of the church of the Good Shepherd, met in the rooms of the former last evening where they were given an interesting and instructive address on "First Aid," by Miss Helen Camp. Following the address they went to the gymnasium where they enjoyed themselves with games and gymnastic exercises.

THE HARBOR RECEIPTS.

The month of January, 1918, was a record one in the matter of receipts from the harbor and the indications are that February will also be larger than the corresponding month last year. The number of sailings from the port for the month just ended were forty and the receipts totalled \$28,374.98; last year the number of sailings was forty-nine and the receipts \$28,891.58; an increase of nearly \$5,000 for the month. The increase is due to the larger outward cargoes and the increase in top wharfage rates.

THE CHINESE CASE.

A Chinaman was in court yesterday afternoon asking for the return of his box, table and a sum of money which were confiscated at the time of the raid on a Chinese gambling establishment on Mill street. Magistrate Ritchie said that the articles could not be returned, and added that if the Chinaman were again brought into court on the charge of gambling they would be fined five times as much as they were fined before. The last time they were in court they were fined \$15, so that if they come up again they would be liable to a fine of \$75.

SUCCESSFUL CONCERT.

A successful concert was given last night in St. John's by the church of the No. 2 Construction Corps. An interesting feature was the reading by Miss Ola Sadler of several letters from members of the No. 2 Construction Corps. The letters spoke of the routine of camp life and expressions of appreciation for the soldiers' efforts received from the league. One letter in particular evoked considerable applause when it was read. This letter, written by Seymour Tyler, contained an original poem on the coming of the draftees to reinforce the men at the front.

THE FOLLOWING PROGRAMME WAS CARRIED OUT:

Songs by Mrs. McCarty, Misses Faxton, Jane Price, Penny and Edmond and Mr. MacAlister; readings by Mesdames Pinkett and Jackson. Master McCarty, reading and song; chorus by members of the league; tableaux, pantomime, Candy was sold and refreshments were served by the ladies of the league at the conclusion of the concert.

Chairman R. H. McIntyre made a few remarks during the evening. The evening's entertainment was brought to a close by singing God Save the King.

OPERA HOUSE.

All new programs at the Opera House tonight, the new bill including Geo. Leonard and Company in a musical skit, "The Gay Mr. Chaser;" Howard, the writing marvel, assisted by Violet Howard, in a mysterious exhibition of handwriting; Gruet, Kramer and Gruet, in a comedy singing and musical feature, "Circus Day in Georgia;" Lockhart and Leddy, comedy acrobats; Thordike and Barnes in a novelty comedy singing feature; and the final and last chapter of the serial drama, "The Gray Ghost." No matinee performance this afternoon—two complete shows tonight, at 7:30 and 9 o'clock.

UNIQUE CAPTURE BY GUNNER ELLIS IN FRENCH TRENCH

Two Handsome Live Butterflies Appear During Zero Weather—Hot Wood Fire Brought Them from Winter Quarters—Were Received by Mrs. Ellis in the Mail.

Of all the souvenirs that the brave soldiers have sent home from the battlefields of France, perhaps those received yesterday by Mrs. William H. Ellis, 177 Pitt street, from her husband, Gunner Ellis of the Fourth Siege Battery, is the most unique.

When Mrs. Ellis opened the much looked for mail from the front, she was surprised to find two butterflies. They were shown a Standard representative and they are large and have wings of the most beautiful tints and shades.

The most remarkable part of the souvenirs is explained in the letter sent by Gunner Ellis to his wife. He says that at the time of writing the soldiers were experiencing a hard winter. The thermometer was down four below zero and there were six feet of snow on some parts of the battlefield.

In explaining how he procured the butterflies Gunner Ellis said that he and others had lit a roaring wood fire in an old trench to keep themselves warm, and when the surroundings became quite comfortable he was surprised to find a live butterfly make its appearance, the heat having undoubtedly brought it in evidence. This was during the last week in December. The second, and much prettier of the two, was captured by him in the same manner on New Year's day.

Mr. Ellis states that all the boys in the battery are well and happy. His son is Sergeant Major Arthur Ellis of the same battery, and who last summer was honored by the King by being presented with the Military Medal for gallant conduct.

TEMPLE OF HONOR HELD OPEN HOUSE

Alexandra Temple at Home to Friends Last Night—Excellent Programme of Speeches Music and Recitations.

Alexandra Temple No. 6, Temple of Honor and Temperance, held open house last night and entertained members and their friends. The large number present thoroughly enjoyed the splendid programme provided for the evening which consisted of speeches, songs and recitations. Every number on the programme was good but the work of Black's orchestra, Little Vera Roberts and Miss Ethel McKinley was especially so and well deserved the generous applause received.

During the evening Commissioner Wigmore gave a brief address referring to the good work which had been done by the Temple in the years of its existence and the part its members had played in the fight for prohibition. He urged them now that the fight had been won to bend their efforts to the work among the boys of the city, in order that they might become better citizens, and in this connection referred to the "Big Brother" movement started by the Rotary Club and advocated some such movement among the Temple members.

Rev. D. Hutchinson told the story of Felix Volkovskiy, a Russian political prisoner who spent 15 years of his life in prison and in exile and of the tortures he endured during that time and claimed the chaotic state of affairs in Russia could be traced directly to the way they had ground down the people.

Chief Templar, H. W. Broomfield occupied the chair and welcomed the visitors to the entertainment.

Those taking part in the programme were: selections, Black's orchestra; songs, Miss Trask, Miss Craft, Miss Verta Wilson, Miss Edna Waters, H. Marley; readings, Miss Verta Roberts, Miss Ethel McKinley, Miss Mary Springer, Walter Downey; piano solo, Miss Jessie Scott.

WM. McLAUGHLIN DIED LAST NIGHT

Well Known Citizen Passed Away at St. John Infirmary—Was Prominent in Yachting Circles.

William McLaughlin, one of the best known yachtsmen in this city, passed away at the St. John Infirmary last evening after a short illness.

Mr. McLaughlin, who was 64 years of age, was born in Donegal, Ireland, but came to this city when a lad and has made his home here for the past 45 years.

He was a prominent member of the Royal Kennebecensis Yacht Club and for many years took an active part in that organization. He was also a member of the Knights of Columbus.

His wife, who was Miss Mary O'Neill, sister of Rev. A. J. O'Neill, of Silver Falls, died 14 years ago. He is survived by one son, Rev. Joseph L. McLaughlin, C.S.B., who was with him at his death, four daughters, Misses Mary, Sadie, Katherine and Agnes, all at home; one brother, Samuel, this city; three brothers and one sister of Miller Falls, Mass., and two sisters in Ireland.

The funeral will be held Monday morning at the Cathedral.

PATRIOTIC FUND EXECUTIVE HOLD ANNUAL MEETING

Ten Hundred and Fourteen Families Now on the List—Average Payment \$13.47 Per Month—\$171,251.01 Paid Out During Year.

The annual meeting of the executive of the Patriotic Fund for St. John district was held yesterday afternoon in the Board of Trade rooms. The reports of the secretary-treasurer and official visitor were read and ordered entered on the minutes.

A resolution thanking Mrs. J. V. Ellis for use of an office rent free for the past two years was adopted and the executive committee were authorized to make arrangements for office quarters for the coming year.

Those present at the meeting were Senator Thorne, Commissioner Fisher, E. T. Stardee, M. E. Agar, Thomas Bell, C. B. Allan and R. E. Armstrong. F. S. West, secretary-treasurer, reported that owing to the fund being assessed for the voluntary subscriptions had practically disappeared, but during the year he had forwarded to Sir Thomas White, hon. treasurer, the sum of \$15,074.69.

On January 1, 1917, there were on the list 1,033 families, receiving \$13,977.10 per month, an average of \$13.53 per family. During the year there were added to the list 252 families and discontinued 273 families, leaving on December 31, 1917, 1,014 families receiving \$13,533.36 per month, an average of \$13.47 per family.

The expenses of the office for the year were \$3,212.25, a little less than 2 per cent of the amount expended. January 1, 1917, there was on hand in the Bank of Nova Scotia \$1,487.09, received during the year \$172,000, making a total of \$1,807.09; expended, \$171,251.01, leaving a balance on hand at the end of the year of \$2,188.08.

The district comprises St. John city and county, Kings, Queens and Albert counties, and the sums expended in the various counties were: St. John, \$137,101.91; Kings, \$18,492.75; Queens, \$3,385; Albert, \$6,419, a total of \$167,388.65.

Mr. West expressed his thanks to all who had helped in the work of the year. The auditor, F. F. Blanchet, reported having examined the books and found them correct.

Mrs. Edith Holder, official visitor, presented her report. She had in three months made 385 visits to 104 families. She had in all instances been received with courtesy and found the families well cared for. In some few instances she had found evidence of waste, but in the great majority of cases had found them thrifty and saving.

Mrs. Holder expressed her appreciation of the aid rendered her by the Women's Auxiliary. The reports were received and ordered entered in the minutes.

The matter of tenancy for the coming year was left in the hands of the administration committee with power to act.

It was moved by C. B. Allan and seconded by Senator Thorne: That this executive express its deep sense of gratitude and appreciation to Mrs. J. V. Ellis in placing at their disposal the spacious and comfortable premises occupied by them for the past two years free of rent.

THE ADVANTAGES OF CEMENT PIPE

George B. Bartram, Manager of Lock Joint Pipe Company, New York, is Heard Before Common Council.

The advantages of a cement pipe for the extension at Lake Fitzgerald were placed before the city council yesterday morning by George B. Bartram, manager of the Lock Joint Pipe Company, New York.

This pipe was recommended by Engineer McInnis instead of the proposed cast iron pipe, and Mr. Bartram told the council his company would lay a forty-two inch pipe, which would give a much larger supply and save the tax payers about \$8,000 on the job. The company were prepared to give a guarantee bond for the proper carrying out of their contract and for maintenance for a certain period.

In answer to questions by Commissioner McEwan, Mr. Bartram said he had no exact records of the life of concrete pipe, but there was a concrete pipe in West St. John 75 years old.

THE STREET RAILWAY PROBLEM

The Nickel Is No Longer the Typical Street Railway Fare," Says Chairman of Massachusetts Public Service Commissions—Serious Consideration Demanded by Present Situation.

(Boston News Bureau.) Boston—At the Boston Stock Exchange dinner at the Algonquin Club, last Monday evening, the public service commission was interrupted by the enforcement of the ten o'clock rule of the fuel administrator.

We have been permitted, however, to make an abstract of his conclusions from his prepared manuscript. According to Mr. Macleod: "The nickel is no longer the typical street railway fare in this state, the unit of cash fare now being 6, 7 and 8 cents on considerably more than half the railway mileage of all street railway companies whose fares are under the supervision and control of the commission."

"A railroad company is not primarily an eleemosynary institution and unless the public, in one way or another, is willing to assume the burden of this unprofitable operation, the companies may be forced to make other arrangements for the relief of their traffic and abandoning their service."

"So far as street railways have been compelled to pay between their taxes and also pay a communication tax based upon gross earnings which amounts in the aggregate to a half million dollars, the commission, as an act of simple justice, recommends the abolition of this tax. It is simply double taxation for street maintenance."

"The commission indorses the principle in proposed legislation of service at cost, cost to include interest on capital. The chief difficulty of the commission in administering its rate-making powers has in general not been the question of determining the amount of additional revenue to which the company is entitled, but in determining the method of fare increases by which the needed revenue may best be obtained, and in fairly apportioning the burden of such increases to the various classes of riders. The financial results of the six, seven and eight cent fares have in general been disappointing, both to the companies and to the commission, as the theoretical increase in gross revenue has not been obtained, and in many instances has been offset by a decrease in ridership. Every one who has made a study of the situation is agreed that much experimentation is still necessary before it is possible finally to determine the exact method of fare increase which is adapted to the special traffic conditions of each company and will give the maximum results from the increases allowed."

"It is, of course, possible that no plan which we can now devise will enable the street railway companies, unaided, to meet the conditions which they are confronted in the present extraordinary situation. If it proves to be the case, the only other remedy is for the state to come to the relief of the companies. I suggested to the investigation committee that this might be done by having the state furnish stock and power apparatus upon the installment plan of purchase, thus giving the companies the benefit of an investment in their credit and the lower rate of interest which it is able to command. This is only one of several suggestions of a similar character which might be made. The experiment of the federal government in taking over the operation of the railroads, under a guarantee of return on investment to one that will be watched with unusual interest, and the success or failure of that experiment will determine how far a similar principle might possibly be adopted by the Commonwealth in dealing with its street railways."

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"Much can be accomplished by the expression of greater optimism on the part of those who are in a position to mould financial opinion and to influence investment. While it is incumbent upon the public authorities to do their reasonable share in bringing about a restoration of public credit and confidence, their efforts will be unavailing unless the investors themselves cooperate in creating a better informed public opinion and show a greater degree of faith in their own properties."

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