

THE MARITIME PRESS ASSOCIATION.

The meeting of newspaper men at Charlottetown last week was a grand success. The number attending was larger than ever before, and a great amount of business was transacted, such as agreeing on an equitable rate for foreign advertising, arranging for the formation of local unions to establish uniform local advertising rates, requesting Postmaster-General to alter existing postal regulations, and many other matters. The discussions on these and other subjects were particularly interesting and instructive.

The objects of this Association are to weed out and correct the abuses that creep into the profession, to make the newspaper men personally known to each other, and to make the men who write about these Maritime Provinces perfectly familiar with the country with which they have to deal.

The Nova Scotia contingent joined the I. C. R. train at various points on Wednesday morning, and arrived at Pictou on time, where we boarded the *S.S. Princess of Wales*, and immediately attacked a very substantial dinner. We had a very pleasant run across the straits, the Captain, Purser and Steward being very solicitous for our comfort. But alas, when nearing Charlottetown the rain came down in torrents, and a very wet reception was tendered us as we landed on the wharf. Our party immediately separated, a number of us going to the Hotel Davies, and glad were we that we did so; for if a good table and courtesy makes a good hotel the Davies leads all the Island hotels.

Shortly after supper the New Brunswick contingent arrived by train from Summerside, considerably swelling our number.

Early on Thursday morning we boarded a special car, kindly provided by Mr. Unsworth, the genial Supt. of the P. E. I. Ry., and started for Summerside. A complimentary luncheon and an excursion on the harbor had been arranged for, but owing to the rain and very high wind the latter had to be abandoned, and after partaking of the luncheon at the Hotel Russ many of the gentlemen braved the storm to visit a brother journalist's (W. A. Brennan, *Summerside Journal*), fine thorough-bred horses, whose pedigrees Mr. Brennan has in his head for numberless generations back, and whose appearance thoroughly bore out the thoroughness of their breed.

We returned to Charlottetown the same evening, and early the next morning visited the market, and the variety and excellence of the products there displayed showed the capabilities of the Island farms. On the afternoon of the same day the directors of the Charlottetown Driving Park and Exhibition Association entertained the party by driving them to the grounds, where several impromptu races were run, and many fine horses were given trials, after which we were shown through what is by all odds the finest Exhibition Building in the Maritime Provinces. (See extract in next issue.)

After leaving the Exhibition Grounds we were driven through the city, past Charlottetown's grand square, which is beautifully decorated with floral beds and contains so many fine public buildings, past rows of handsome stores, private residences and churches, and thence through Victoria Park, of which Charlottetown may well feel proud.

On the evening of the same day we were entertained at a grand banquet at the Osborne House by the local press men, the after-dinner speeches proving that the press and politicians of P. E. I. on both sides of politics are loyal and patriotic to the core.

On Saturday morning a special train took our party to Souris, and after host Cox, of the Seaview Hotel, had supplied our inner men (and women) the citizens of Souris turned out *en masse* and drove us through the surrounding country, the beauty and fertility of which is not exceeded by any other part of the Maritime Provinces. Small wonder is it that the people of Prince Edward Island are so prosperous. They have good soil, and they know how to work it to advantage; but back of this is the fact that the people are energetic and industrious.

A word as to their Railway. The writer well remembers when visiting P. E. Island some dozen years ago, how miserable the accommodation was, few trains, running very slowly, and dirty and uncomfortable cars. Now, however, we doubt if any railway in America is more popular. The trains are run to accommodate the public, at a very fair speed, the cars (built at the Railway workshops in Charlottetown) are handsomely fitted, are neat, and scrupulously clean, while all the employees vie with each other in being polite and courteous to the traveller. They all seem to have the interest of the road at heart, and the best of feeling prevails between the management and employees.

We spent the Sunday quietly at Charlottetown, and fully appreciated a day's rest.

On Monday we started for home *via* the new Cape route. Arriving at Cape Traverse at 8 30 a.m., we immediately embarked on the *Alameda*, a very small tug-boat. The sea was running very high, and many of the party were drenched to the skin. On reaching the pier at Cape Tormentine it was very difficult to get the boat close to the wharf, and the crew were compelled to call on the newspaper men to assist them, after which the boat came in with a rush, thus illustrating "the Power of the Press." In fair weather the trip across would be a very pleasant one, but until a new and larger boat is secured we do not imagine that any of our party will venture over that route again. After landing at Cape Tormentine we had a wait of several hours before the welcome sound of "dinner is ready" greeted our ears. At 5 p.m. we boarded a new and splendidly fitted car of the N. B. & P. E. I. Railway, and were whirled off towards Sackville at a good rate, having barely time left us to catch the C. P. R. train for home. We were delayed on the road by our engine getting off the track, but it ran on again quite as easily as it ran off, and we reached Sackville just on time; but alas, the C. P. R. train was an hour and a half late. However, we spent the time pleasantly in viewing Sackville, and when the train came along we were quite ready to enjoy the supper served from the buffet of the car; and now

we are on the home stretch, and looking back we can say that this meeting of the Maritime Press Association will be agreeably remembered by all who were present.

CITY CHIMES.

The 63rd. band gave a delightful free concert in the Province Building Square on Tuesday evening. The night was fine and a large concourse of people promenaded the Square and enjoyed the music.

The marriage of Rev. L. H. Jordan and Miss Kate McDonald, daughter of Chief-Justice McDonald, will take place next Wednesday in St. Andrew's Church, Halifax. The wedding is to be very quiet.

The N. S. Yacht Squadron race for the United Banks Challenge Cup was sailed last Saturday in spite of the rain. The *Uirra* won the race, with the *Etienné* second and the *Psyche* third. Much interest was taken in the race and a large gathering was present at the club house.

McKay's gymnasium, known the hall of health, has been purchased by the 63rd. rifles for the free use of all effective members of the battalion during the coming winter. The hall of health is centrally situated near the drill shed and should be a great boon to the men. It is the most thoroughly equipped gymnasium in the Maritime Provinces. Mr. McKay is leaving Halifax to take a position at Lakewood, New Jersey.

Mr. and Mrs. W. C. Silver celebrated their golden wedding on Tuesday. A reception was held at the residence of their son-in-law, John Y. Payzant, on Spring Garden Road, in the afternoon, at which about five hundred visitors presented their congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. Silver. A large number of handsome presents were received from private friends and different Societies, of which Mr. Silver is a member. Among the guests present were Lieut. Governor Daly and Mrs. Daly, Hon. A. G. and Mrs. Jones, T. E. Kenny, M.P., and Lt.-Col. and Mrs. Clerke. Everyone felt the occasion to be a very happy one. The completion of fifty years of married life, with children, grand children, relatives and friends present to join in loving wishes for greater length of days and prosperity, and enjoying the respect and confidence of the community, are blessings not often united in their bestowal. We add our congratulations and wish Mr. and Mrs. Silver many more years of health and prosperity. A family gathering took place in the evening, at which all the children were present, except Mrs. Morton, of Trinidad. Of the twenty-three grand-children many were also present, and a most delightful re-union was held. The employees of the firm of W. & C. Silver were entertained at dinner at the Queen Hotel, where a pleasant evening was spent around the festive board.

Last Friday evening the Lorne Amateur Aquatic Club gave the last of their pleasant boating concerts for this season. It was a perfect moonlight night, and hundreds of boats congregated about the Club's wharf and mooring ground. Fireworks were set off during the entire evening and made an attractive display. St. Patrick's band played a fine programme of music on the wharf, which was thronged with listeners. The Club House, which is very commodious and convenient, is supplied with three balconies, commanding a splendid view of the water, and is a credit to the club. A large sum of money has been spent both on the house and wharves since the Lornes came into possession of them. A billiard table stands in the large room, and is, we believe, made good use of by the members. The lower floor of the building is given over to the Janitor and his family, but plenty of room is left for club purposes. The balconies were crowded with ladies and gentlemen last Friday evening, the Club's hospitality being very generous and much enjoyed. The boathouse and bathing facilities are first-rate, the latter being turned over to the ladies in the mornings. It is to be regretted that there is not another concert to look forward to this summer; but what the Club has done it has done well, and given much enjoyment to the residents of the north-end, as well as to the boat loads of people who have made the Lorne Club their objective point on band nights.

The Academy of Music, while as pretty and convenient a theatre as we could wish, is slightly the worse for wear in some respects. The management have recognized this fact and have announced the fact that they intend holding a series of entertainments for the express benefit of the house. The stage is sorely in need of a new drop and other scenery, and it is probable that every lover of dramatic performances in our city will make it a point to attend these entertainments, in order that the eyes of future audiences may be gratified with the sight of a drop scene through which they cannot see and stage scenery that shall be a credit to the theatre. The first entertainment is to be a musical and literary affair, under distinguished patronage, and will take place before long. The second is to be a dramatic performance and will not be given until winter arrives. We are anxious to see the Academy kept up in the best of shape and sincerely hope that this effort on the part of the management will be successful.

The Northwest Arm was illuminated in honor of Stairs on Wednesday evening. All the residences on the banks of the Arm were brilliantly lighted and bon fires burned at several points. The scene was most beautiful. Many yachts and other craft, illuminated, added to the effect, and the 66th band played on the grounds of T. E. Kenny, M. P. The hero of the occasion viewed the scene from a small boat.

The "Nineteen Club" will give a dance at Maplewood on Monday evening.