

Boissevain. Executive Committee—A. G. Munro, Morden; R. G. Alloway, Gladstone; W. C. McLaren, Souris; J. Brown, Portage la Prairie; R. F. More, Cartwright; E. Clingham, Virden; H. McLaren, Weyburn; G. C. Sayle, Elva; and E. H. Glinz, Oak River. At the annual meeting in Winnipeg a few days ago, it was decided to enlarge the scope of the association so as to include any bona fide retail merchants west of the Great Lakes.



#### MONTREAL'S PROPOSED NEW BY-LAWS.

In the proposed new building by-law of Montreal, there are several important clauses with reference to the safety of theatres, churches, stores and similar buildings. The fire-escape clause calls for good and sufficient apparatus, outside escapes, stairways, cloth or metal tubes, or other approved means of egress, as may be approved by the Inspector of Buildings. The buildings in which these will have to be put into position are specified as below. These intended arrangements are to apply to the somewhat peculiar conditions of many Montreal dwellings. It is provided that "every dwelling house occupied by three or more families above the first story, and every building already erected more than three stories in height, occupied and used as an hotel, apartment, or lodging house, and every boarding-house having more than fifteen sleeping rooms above the first story, and every factory, mill, manufactory, or workshop, hospital, asylum or institution for the care or treatment of individuals, and every building in whole or in part occupied or used as a school, or place of instruction or assembly, every office building not of fireproof construction of four stories or more in height, and every departmental store, theatre, opera house, public hall and church."

W. B. Craig and a number of retailers of the city are fighting the new civic by-law ordering all stores to be closed at eight o'clock. They claim that, owing to the competition of the big stores the evening is their best time for doing business. They point out, too, that their employees are not asked to stay, and if they themselves choose to remain in their stores they do not see why they should be prevented, especially as saloons and cigar stores are allowed to remain open. The by-law does appear to be rather an infringement on the liberty of the subject.



#### OUR SAINT JOHN LETTER.

Mr. A. R. Tibbitts, lately manager of the Bank of New Brunswick branch at Riverside, Albert County, is now engaged in organizing the Canada Lumber Manufacturing and Transportation Company. The plan is to amalgamate the business of Messrs. George D. and Isaac C. Prescott, and the Aptos Veneer Company into one organization with a capital stock of \$200,000, divided into \$50 shares. The new company talk of putting a steamer on the route between St. John and Albert County and of going extensively into the manufacture and shipping of lumber. The two concerns that it is proposed to amalgamate have been doing a large business, and united under one management and with ample capital, they will likely become an important factor in the commercial life of Albert County.

For some time past the city of St. John has been considering the purchase of the property of the Carleton Electric Lighting Company, which runs the street lights on the western side of the harbor and also has quite a business in supplying incandescent lights in that section. The city had about concluded an agreement to take over the property for \$25,000, when announcement was made that the James Ready Company, of Fairville, brewers, were applying for incorporation as the Fairville Electric Light Company, and would be a competitor for business in a portion of the field served by the Carleton Company. This stimulated an agitation against the purchase and the Council, by the casting vote of the Mayor, decided to reconsider the question and to have an expert value the plant, which some say is old and worn out and not worth the price. In connection with the purchase the city intended asking the Legislature for an exclusive franchise in that portion of the city on the western side of the harbor, and one of the strong arguments in favor of the purchase is that it will show the advantages or disadvantages of civic ownership. Some of those

who oppose the purchase are favorable to civic ownership, but say it will not get a fair test if a worn-out plant is purchased in a place where only a small section of the people reside.

A company is being formed, at Hampton, in King's County, to be known as the Canada Woodenware Company, and to engage in the manufacture of all kinds of woodenware, tubs, pails, baskets, shooks, matches, clothes pins, sashes, blinds, mouldings, etc. A factory will be established at Hampton and the business will be put in operation during the coming summer.

At Chatham, in Northumberland County, a company has been established with a capital of \$5,000 to engage in the manufacture of barrels. This is an enterprise that should prove successful, as there is a steady demand for barrels of all kinds and the supply is none too plentiful. The staving mill of Messrs. Taylor & White, on the line of the C.P.R., near Westfield, was destroyed by fire a few days ago, causing a loss of about \$10,000. The mill is now being rebuilt.

William White, one of the members of the White Candy Company, and occupying an important position in the factory, has withdrawn from the business, and, it is announced will start on his own account. The White Candy Company business has been growing steadily during the past few years, and there is a belief that both factories will find ample market for their product.

Considerable money will be spent in St. John during the coming summer by the Intercolonial Railway. It is announced that the station will be enlarged so as to give accommodation for another track and that it will be extended a hundred feet or more because it does not now cover the trains arriving here. A system of lighting will be installed by which the railway company will light the station, yards, etc. There will be other expenditures of an extensive nature.

One does not hear much nowadays of the proposed St. John dry dock, but Mr. George Robertson, M.P.P., says the project is very much alive and that some day soon he will have important definite announcements to make on the subject. The necessity of the dock was recently shown when the S.S. "Melville," of the South African service, had to go from here to New York for some repairs to her bottom. After these were completed, she returned to St. John to load.

The St. John Board of Trade will join with other Maritime Province Boards in urging on the Government the necessity of some better means than at present exists of maintaining connection with Prince Edward Island during the winter months. Neither of the steamers on the service has been able to make a trip since January 25th, and the loss to Maritime merchants, and indeed to merchants all over the Dominion, has been very great.

St. John, N.B., 14th March.

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#### OUR ENGLISH LETTER.

By letter to a Chamber of Commerce, the British Postmaster-General has affirmed that there is no prospect at present of a re-opening of the question of newspaper postage to Canada. What a miserable piece of foolishness is here. The bulk rate between the States and the Dominion is 1 cent per lb.; between this country and the Dominion 8 cents per lb. What the sacrifice of profit to the Post Office would be in putting us on the same footing as the Yankee, one does not know precisely. Nor does it seem necessary to know. If the Imperial ties can be strengthened at all by the popularization of a common journalism and literature, the cheapened service must be worth its cost. But the British Post Office, which sweats nine employees out of ten, and pampers the remaining few beyond all reason, reckons nothing of the Imperial spirit or the Yankeeification of Canadian youth. Its mission is to earn five millions a year by carrying letters and lose one million over its telegraph service.

Winnipeg, from the view-point of a disappointed emigrant, was described in unflattering terms in the High Court, Glasgow, the other day: "A muddy, jerry-built town, with things so dear that a halfpenny paper cost twopence halfpenny." Steady masons were in no demand, because "jobs did not last long enough—a house being run up and made ready for occupancy in nine days." Lancashire building records are beaten by a good length if this statement of time be true. For party-