

Cost of The Water And Sewerage System
of St. John.
See Page 353.

JANUARY /05

*The
New Brunswick
Magazine*

VOLUME IV.

NUMBER 5.

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ST. JOHN, N. B.

Published Monthly at \$1.50 per annum in advance. Single
Copies 15 cents. John A. Bowes, Editor and Manager.

The New Brunswick Magazine.

VOL. IV.

CHRISTMAS, 1904.

No 5.

TWO LOVES.

A Story Founded on an Incident of The
Great Miramichi Fire.

By James Hannay, D. C. L.

There are, no doubt, millions of people in America today who have never even heard of the Miramichi fire, yet it was at one time the talk of both hemispheres. Perhaps there never was such a conflagration in the world before; other great fires were mere rush lights in comparison with it, for it burned over an area of forest land as large as the State of Massachusetts, consumed millions of dollars' worth of property, and destroyed, alas! hundreds of human lives.

The story of the Miramichi fire never has been fully told, and never can be told now, for nearly all who witnessed it are dead.

I was a very young man at the time, and made my home at the house of a married sister who resided in Chatham, the principal town on the Miramichi River.

For three winters I had worked in the lumber woods, and my savings, which were considerable, were safely lodged in a local bank. In summer I went to school for my sister was ambitious, and wanted me to be a lawyer or a doctor, and during spare hours I helped my brother-in-law in his store. But the sight of one pretty face speedily put an end to this routine of duty any to my sister's ambitious wishes.

It was at Newcastle, a town six miles farther up the Miramichi than Chatham, that I first saw Grace Prentiss. With me it was a case of love at first sight; as for Grace I do not believe that she saw me or noticed me at all. But I looked upon her then and I think of her still as the fairest of women, with her lovely brown hair, her clear hazel eyes, her fresh, blooming complexion and her graceful form. She was just eighteen and as unconscious of her beauty as she was beautiful, for most of her life had been spent on a little farm that nestled in the midst of the vast forest.

This first view of Grace was had in the autumn, a short time before I took my departure for the lumber woods. All that winter, as I worked in the forest, I thought of Grace and wondered when I should have the opportunity of seeing her again. I did not even know her name nor where she lived, and therefore, it seemed as if nothing but some lucky chance would again give me a sight of her. I had hardly left the woods in the spring, when the chance came.

I was sitting in the store at Newcastle, which was owned by the man who employed me in the woods, when Grace and her mother entered to make some purchases. I saw that she was dressed in black and I learned afterwards that her father had died during the winter. But she was as beautiful as ever and

even more so in my sight. Her entrance was so sudden and so unexpected that it almost took my breath away, but to the lively young clerk with whom I had been talking a moment before it seemed a very ordinary event. I soon saw that he was acquainted with both mother and daughter, and to me, who was all impatience to get his ear for a moment and learn their names, it seemed that he expended an unnecessary amount of time in waiting upon them. Perhaps he was in love with Grace also. I could not endure the thought!

For fifteen minutes or more this young gossip of a clerk kept up a constant flow of talk with mother and daughter, and, what was worse, I was too far away to catch any part of the conversation.

I thought, however, that I heard my own name mentioned once or twice, and it seem that my ears did not deceive me, for a moment or two later the clerk called me over and introduced me to Mrs. Prentiss. "This," said he "is Joe Harwell, the young man I was telling you about," and then addressing me, he continued. "Mrs. Prentiss wants a man to help on her farm and I told her I thought you would go; you must be pretty well tired of school by this time."

"You will find it rather dull with us," said Mrs. Prentiss, "we don't see much company, but we will try to make you comfortable if you come."

All this time Grace had not said a word; no one seemed to think it necessary to make me acquainted with her; I don't believe she even bestowed a glance on me, and yet I would have seen Mrs. Prentiss wanting help a long time before I would have gone to her solitary farm to work for her, had it not been for Grace's sweet sake. As it was, I was very willing to,

and I made a bargain with Mrs. Prentiss for the season's work so very favorable to that lady that she must have had but an indifferent opinion of my business capacity. But what did I care for money; was not love enough for me?

I went to Chatham that night in great spirits, but my sister, when she heard of my intentions, hardly shared my enthusiasm. The fact is that I did not think it necessary to tell her anything about Grace, and so she rather wondered at my choice of a residence. A week later I was in Mrs. Prentiss' and engaged in the regular routine of my duties, which embraced the whole range of farm work; in fact I had to take the place of the late Mr. Prentiss so far as the management of farm affairs went. I had plenty to do, but I did not spare myself, and I was soon on the best possible footing with every member of the family. Grace was the eldest and next to her were two boys, John and Charlie, aged respectively fourteen and twelve. Then came little Mary, who was only four years old, but who promised to be the very image of her sister Grace. Mary was the dearest little creature possible, and she and I soon became fast friends. She grew so fond of me that she was scarcely content to be out of my sight. Every one laughed when she declared that she would marry me as soon as she got to be a big girl like Grace.

In the meantime my love affair with Grace progressed favorably: I need not relate its various phases. It is enough to say that I won her simple heart, and she plighted her troth to me. No difficulties crossed our path, and no opposition came from any quarter, her mother was favorable to our union, and only asked us to delay it for a year or two until I was better settled. It was a reasonable request, and we

were willing to wait ; there was not a happier youth in the country than I was then.

The Prentiss farm was some ten miles above Newcastle, on a tributary of the Northwest Miramichi. The house, which was of logs, was about one hundred yards from the river, which joined the Miramichi a mile below, passing in that distance over a sharp rapid and running with a very swift current. The clearing was quite narrow and extended along the edge of the small river for some distance. The house was close to the forest and the barn closer still ; the whole extent of the cleared farm did not exceed ten to fifteen acres.

It was autumn ; our little harvest had been safely gathered and the barn was full to overflowing. All the regular farm work was done, and I was engaged in chopping up a huge pile of firewood for the winter. I was very anxious to have this job completed, for I had agreed with my old employer to go to the lumber woods again, and wished to have everything comfortable for the family before I left. I had the prospect before me of a six months' absence from Grace, but after that we would never be separated any more, for in the following autumn she was to become my wife. How little either of us knew what the future had in store for us.

The 7th October came, a day never to be forgotten by the residents of the Miramichi district. For some days the smoke of distant fires had been observed in the woods to the north, but such things were too common to excite notice. That morning was unusually warm for the season and the air heavy and close. Mrs Prentiss thought it a good opportunity to go to a little barren stretch, three miles from the farm, to gather a winter store of cranberries. It was

arranged that Grace and the boys should go with her, and that I should follow with the horse to bring back the baskets about the middle of the afternoon. Little Mary declined to go with the others and said she would stay with me.

Grace and I parted that morning, with as little show of feeling as two people might exhibit, who expected to meet again a few hours later. She was in a merry mood, and, as she went off with her basket on her arm, she turned and kissed her hand to me gaily with a pleasant smile. Down the dark vista of years I can see that smile still on her beautiful face as I then saw it for the last time. When they were gone I resumed my work at the wood-pile, and little Mary sat close by and prattled to me in her childish way. At noon we had dinner, and then work was continued as before. It was between two and three o'clock when Mary, who had been very quiet for some minutes, suddenly startled me by exclaiming "O, Joe! look at the big, black smoke."

I looked up instantly and beheld a sight which froze me with horror. The whole sky to the north was black with smoke which seemed hardly a mile away and every moment drew nearer. I saw that the danger was imminent and that there was no time to be lost, if Grace and her mother were to be saved. In less time than it takes to tell the story I had the bridle on the horse, and with Mary seated in front of me, was galloping down the forest path which led to the barren.

The distance was three miles, but before I had accomplished half of it I met the fire. It was in vain that I attempted to get around it. I was forced to retreat, and it was only by the most desperate efforts that I was able to return by the path I had entered so

rashly. When I got back to the clearing I was grimy with smoke and almost suffocated. Little Mary, who had no idea of the danger we were in, had suffered from the smoke also, but I had saved her from its worst effects by wrapping my coat round her head.

When I got back to our little clearing I saw that it would not be safe to remain there many minutes longer; indeed, the fire had already reached the woods on its margin, and I observed with dismay that the trees between us and the Miramichi river were on fire. Yet our little river, now lined with burning forests, was the only avenue of escape for us. We must pass through that fiery portal or perish where we stood.

I rushed into the house, took four of the heaviest quilts from the beds, seized a large loaf of bread and a piece of meat that was on the table, and picking up Mary, made a rush for the river. The horse, as if from an instinct of danger, followed us, and the cattle came running down after us and bellowed with fright. Our case seemed quite desperate; we had only a little skiff, and the double chance of being upset in the rapids, or roasting to death by fire. There, too, was the horse; what was to be done with that mute pleader who looked at me for help?

These thoughts passed through my mind in an instant, but they did not delay my efforts. I wrapped Mary up in the largest of the quilts and laid her on her face in the front of the skiff, enjoining her as she valued her life, to remain still where I placed her. Then taking the horse by the bridle I got into the skiff and pushed into the stream, which was about three hundred feet wide and quite deep. At this moment the whole sky seemed on fire and the roar of the burning forest was like the sound of continual

thunder. The terror-stricken cattle, when they saw the horse swimming, followed him, and by the time we reached the middle of the stream all were afloat and following us in a dismal procession. For half a mile or so there was no difficulty; but then came the rapids and the pass of fire.

I knew the rapids well and on ordinary occasions could run them in the skiff without any difficulty; but now I had to trust to Providence for guidance, for I could neither see my way through the smoke nor dare to look out when traversing that fiery furnace. So, as we drew near, I let go the gallant horse's rein, wrapped myself up in a quilt, and lay down in the stern of the skiff, with a paddle dragging behind to keep its bow down stream. In another moment we were in the rush of the boiling current and beyond human aid.

I suppose we could not have been more than three minutes passing the rapids, but it seemed to me an age. I never realized before so completely the idea of utter helplessness as during that brief space of time. Nothing I could do would have any influence on our safety. I was but a waif adrift in the stream, and the bark was guided by another Power than mine. When from the motion of the skiff I knew that the rapids were behind us, I poured out my heart in gratitude to God for deliverance. When I ventured to look up, not only the rapids but the fire also was behind us, and a few strokes of the paddle carried us into the Miramichi River. Neither Mary nor myself had suffered the slightest hurt, and, what was more remarkable, all the live stock had escaped. The horse was behind the skiff, swimming gallantly, and looking up at me with his great honest eyes. The cattle had passed us in the rapids, and were swimming

in front. All were now bound to the same goal of safety, a little grassy island which lies in the centre of the Miramichi River, with nothing of larger growth upon it than an alder bush. Here we landed, and looked back on the wasted land we had left behind.

Had I the pen of a Homer I could not adequately describe the terrors of that scene. All that my mind had ever imagined or my eye witnessed of destruction by fire fell far short of this dreadful reality, and every moment added to its horrors. The wind, which had been very light, now grew to a violent hurricane and the fire rushed on almost with the speed of a race horse; huge burning brands borne on the wings of the storm fell on every side of us and threatened us with destruction. The river was lashed into fury by the gale and rose in huge waves, and through the black pall of smoke which hung over all, the sheets of flame seemed to pierce the very sky.

As I sat and gazed on this awful scene my courage, which had sustained me while struggling for life, now seemed to fail me, and I burst into tears. I had saved myself and little Mary, but where were the rest? Where was that fond mother and her two brave sons? Where, above all, was Grace, my love, my life? I looked toward the blazing forest for an answer, but I saw written there nothing but death. And when little Mary laid her head on my shoulder and weeping said: "Joe, dear Joe, where is ma?" I could only reply by tears.

The long weary night passed, but the morning sun brought no cheer. Our little group of cattle were still with us, and hiding among them was a huge moose, who had fled from his forest haunts and sought refuge with his enemy, man. Poor wretch, who would have the heart to do harm to him? Was he

not a fellow-sufferer with us all? He remained unmolested and was still on the island when we left.

My first care was to take little Mary to a place of safety, but where should I go? Every human habitation for miles was destroyed, and, for all I could see, the whole region was swept of living men. My sister's house in Chatham was the only place of shelter I could think of for Mary, but even Chatham might have been destroyed.

We set out on our melancholy voyage down the river, both banks of which had been completely swept by fire. Until we reached Newcastle we did not see a human face. But that place no longer existed; the fire had swept it away, and its distracted inhabitants were wandering in silence about the ruins of their homes. They looked upon me as one risen from the dead, for they had thought that all the inhabitants up river had been destroyed. Douglstown and all the villages north of the Miramichi were burnt, they told me Chatham had escaped; thank God for that—I still had a home!

It was late in the day when I reached Chatham, and my sister was almost wild with joy when I appeared, for she believed me dead. She took little Mary to her kind, womanly heart, and I may say here that for the next fourteen years that noble woman and loving child never were parted for a single day. Mary had indeed lost her mother, but it is seldom that the loss of a mother is so generously replaced.

That very night I returned to Newcastle to obtain assistance to search for the Prentiss family. I felt that they could not have escaped, but I could not endure the thought of their remains being exposed to the chances of the wilderness. Accompanied by two stout lumbermen I started off on my

melancholy mission, I would gladly omit or forget this part of the story, the thought of which even now fills me with unspeakable sorrow. My fears were only too sadly realized; all had perished and we found the four in a group together near the edge of the barren where they had fallen in their attempt to escape. Burnt beyond recognition, mother and daughter could only be distinguished by some remains of their clothes. The lovely face that had smiled on me so tenderly a few hours before, was now a blackened mass in which not a feature could be discerned. And this was all that was left of my darling Grace, my wife that was to be! It was many a long year before I got over the shock of that discovery.

We buried the Prentiss family together in the churchyard at Chatham and a handsome stone tells the sad story of their death. When this last duty was accomplished I felt that I could no longer live in a place where I had endured such misery. Nor did my sister attempt to detain me, for she felt that change of scene and active employment were the only medicines that would be of any benefit to me. So I kissed Mary and my sister farewell and went to sea.

Before my departure, however, I placed the few hundred dollars I possessed in a bank in Mary's name and told my sister to use them for the child's maintenance and education. To this sum was added the price received for the horses and cattle rescued from the fire and also the money realized from the sale of the farm, of which Mary was sole heir. This fund my sister never would touch, but constantly added to it, so that the end of the fourteen years I have spoken of, it had become a considerable sum and Mary was quite an heiress in a small way. And she was endowed

also with a richer inheritance than money can buy, a pure and honest heart.

I need not linger long over my career at sea; I was very successful and rose in due time to be mate and then master of a fine vessel. I saved money and bought a share in the vessel I sailed, and took such good care of my savings and profits that my money accumulated rapidly. I had, in fact, no temptation to be otherwise than temperate and saving; the Miramichi fire had burnt all the youth and hope out of me. Although I did my work as well as any man, I lived wholly in the past, and at night as I stood on my vessel's deck and peered into the darkness, or lay wakefully in my cabin, the sweet face of my lost Grace was always before me, and she ever wore the same kind smile with which she bade me farewell that last sad day when we parted forever.

Little Mary went to school, and the very first letter she ever wrote was sent to me. From the day she could use a pen no month passed that she did not write to me, and at the end of many a long journey I had enough of Mary's letters to make quite a little volume. How much they interested me! They were for many years almost the only solace I knew in my lonely life. I have them all now, the notes made up of printed letters when she was five or six years old, then the big, childish hand, and so through all gradations to the perfection which she at last attained. I was not so good a correspondent as Mary, yet I did not neglect her; I wrote from every port at which I touched, and took care to keep her well supplied with clothes and jewellery as well as money, which, dear soul, she never spent. But all this time I had never returned to Chatham; I had never seen Mary's face, and when I thought of her it was as a child.

Fourteen years had elapsed since I left my home in Chatham, and it seemed as if every day was making the prospect of my return to it more remote. For what should I return; had not my heart died and been buried there? No, I thought to myself, I will not go back.

It was again the night of the 7th October, but this time I was at sea, in my own stout ship on my return voyage from India, and but two or three days' sail from my port of destination, New York. The sea was calm and the weather fine, so I retired early to my cabin and soon fell asleep. Then, in a vision of the night, all the past seemed to come back to me; I again lived through that dreadful October night, of fourteen years before, and out of the burning forest the face of my Grace seemed to arise, and I thought she beckoned me and called to me, "Come home." Her voice seemed to sound so full and clear that I awoke, but the cabin was silent, save the ticking of the clock, and again I fell asleep and dreamed. This time I thought I was on my own ship and that I had been aroused by the terrible cry of "fire." I heard the sailors rushing overhead and the orders of the mates, as they encouraged them in their struggle with the flames. All I thought, was in vain; the fire could not be stayed; it advanced aft, the sailors were driven to the quarter-deck; horrors of horrors! they were leaving the vessel and I imprisoned in my cabin, could not escape! I struggled to gain my feet, but I seemed to be held down by some super-human power; the exit from the cabin was barred by the flames; all hope was gone and I could only die. Again, in the midst of my struggle, the face of Grace seemed to rise calm and serene; she waved back the flames with her hand and they disappeared, and again she called to me, "Come home."

I again awoke and was conscious that something was wrong. I rushed on deck, and at the head of the stairs met the mate with a pale face.

"It is all right, captain," said he; the fire is out and no harm done."

"What fire?" I asked. Has the ship been on fire?"

"Why," said he, "the boy stupidly upset a lamp in a lot of cotton waste and it made a nasty blaze, but it is all out now and no one the worse."

"Thank God!" I exclaimed and without another word I returned to my cabin, but before I went to sleep again that night I had made up my mind what I would do on my arrival in port. It was the first accident of the kind that had ever happened to a ship of mine and I vowed that I would never give fate another such chance.

We reached New York in a couple of days, and the other owners there were very much surprised when I told them I was not going to sea any more. They were sincerely sorry to lose me, for I had made money for them as well as for myself, and, when I expressed a wish to sell out my shares in the vessel, they met me in a liberal spirit and purchased them on favorable terms. My good ship went to sea again, a few weeks later, and when I saw her depart so staunch and gallant-looking, I almost regretted the step I had taken. But I thought better of it as week and month passed on without any tidings of her arrival in any friendly port, for from that hour to the present she has never been seen by living man. Did she perish by fire, or by violence of the tempest? Who can tell? But I shall always firmly believe that my good angel sent me the midnight warning which hindered me from sharing her fate.

My business in New York had detained me for some

weeks, and Christmas was approaching before I set out for Chatham. I had written to Mary after my arrival, but gave her no hint that I intended to give up the sea. So, when I arrived in Chatham on Christmas morning no one expected me and no one knew me. How should they, indeed? I had left the place a slim, smooth-faced youth; I returned to it a strong full-bearded man with the marks of a hundred conflicts with the storm stamped on my face. I put up at the hotel, and, although I wrote my name on the register, it was in such a tremulous hand that no one could read it; and if they had, how much wiser would they have been? Who was likely to remember Joe Farwell when even the great fire was beginning to be rather an old story?

I took my breakfast at the hotel and turned my steps towards my sister's dwelling. I approached it with a trembling heart; as I passed the window I caught a glimpse of a matronly-looking lady, whom I thought was my sister, but she did not see me; I reached the door and knocked. In a moment or two it was opened and when I saw in real flesh and blood the face and form that had haunted me for so many years—those features which had appeared to me so often in the night watches, and which had risen from the midst of the flame to warn me to come home, I started back and almost fainted.

"Good Heavens, who is this? Grace! Mary!" I cried, "is it you?"

I hardly spoken when Mary, for it was indeed she, with a loud cry fell into my arms, and the whole household came running to see what was the matter. My sister rushed to embrace me, and when my worthy brother-in-law made his appearance on the scene he thought for a moment that the females of his family

had lost their senses. But when he learned that the lost brother had indeed returned he was as much delighted and flurried as the most hysterical woman of them all.

That Christmas was, I think, the happiest day I ever spent. My old love seemed to be alive again and my withered heart to have been bathed in the fountain of youth. I could hardly take my eyes off my beautiful Mary, who, in form, face and expression, was the exact counterpart of her sister Grace. Surely, all that I had passed through was but a dream and this was Grace herself.

That night when all the others had retired, my sister, Mary and myself gathered round the wide hearth. We talked of many things, but there was one which gave me some concern, yet which I feared to approach. "Was Mary's heart free or not?"

At length I mustered courage enough to say :

"Sister, it is a wonder you have been able to keep Mary so long ; I should have thought all the young men would have been dying about her."

"Mary," replied my sister, "will not listen to any lover's vows ; she tells all the young men who make advances to her that it is no use, for she has been engaged ever since she was four years old, and that she will never marry any one else."

"Is that true?" said I to Mary, who was blushing deeply ; if it is, you have but to say so and this hand is yours, for I swear, to you that since your dear sister perished, I have never spoken of love to any other women, or felt my heart glow for any other except yourself."

Mary bowed her head, placed her hand in mine and said, in a gentle tone :

"It is true ; I will wed none but you."

This was our declaration of love and our betrothal ; my good sister wept tears of joy that two whom she loved so dearly were to be united.

A month later Mary and I were married and for five and thirty years she was the best and fondest wife that ever man had. When she died there ceased to beat the purest, tenderest heart I ever knew, except that other heart which was stilled on that awful October day.

ST. JOHN'S FREE LIBRARY.

A Brief Sketch of The Beginning of The First Free Public Library in Canada.

Housed in a handsome building, situated in the very centre of population of the City of St. John, with 30,000 books on its shelves and 4000 patrons (and the number continually increasing) is not a bad record for the Free Public Library after 21 years of existence, This has not been accomplished without effort, for the beginnings of the Library were most humble, and it was pushed into existence mainly through the efforts of three or four public spirited citizens who realized the educational importance of such an institution.

It can hardly be said that the Free Public Library of St. John had its beginning in any popular demand

for such an institution. It was rather brought into being before its time and was really the evolution of an idea in the minds of a few persons, that a Free Public Library was really necessary for the adult population of a city which had declared in favor of the free education of the masses. In 1872 the present system of free schools was inaugurated in New Brunswick. Two years later the Common Council decided to construct the present market building. While the plans for this building, which was the most expensive ever constructed by the city corporation, were under discussion, it was suggested that provision be made in the building for a great public hall, where important gatherings could be held—with seating accommodation for 6000 people. There was at the time no building within the city limits that would seat one third of this number. The Council did not see a way clear for altering their plans, and the market was completed as originally intended, but the disposition of the space at the Germain street end of the building,—two small for the hall however—was left an open question, and in 1875, Dr. James Hannay, then an editorial writer on the Telegraph prepared a petition asking the Council to set apart this room for the use of a Free Public Library, when established. This petition Mr. Hannay carried to leading citizens and succeeded in getting many signatures, although it may be stated, thirty years afterwards, when the Library is an assured fact and of full age, that few of those who put their names to the petition had much faith in the future of the project. There was one man however, who was most enthusiastic, and that was the late Dr. Elder, editor and proprietor of the Telegraph. When his associate, Mr. Hannay, had got all the signatures he could to the petition, Dr. Elder

took it and personally carried it to many others, who good naturedly added their names, because Dr. Elder asked them to. In due time the petition was forwarded to the Council and considered by that body and the room set apart as requested. Before any steps were taken to obtain books the great fire came and the room was rented for general business purposes and everybody interested was too busy to give attention to the new proposition. But a start had at least been made and before the next decade had passed St. John had a Free Public Library—the first in Canada.

The real founder of the Free Public Library however was Colonel James Domville, who in 1879, occupied a seat in the Common Council and was the representative of Kings county in the Parliament in Canada. There were many valuable collections of books owned by private citizens and various organizations of the city, which were swept away in the great fire of 1877, and it was beyond the means of those who owned the libraries to replace them. Col. Domville, whose energy and enterprise had been displayed in many channels, thought that the best way to replace the lost books and to increase the store was by the formation of a Public Library which would be free to all citizens of St. John. Accordingly he prepared a circular letter setting forth the peculiar position occupied by St. John and asking assistance.*

*Following is the text of the circular sent out by Col. Domville, which is now published for the first time :

DOMINION OF CANADA.

ST. JOHN, NEW BRUNSWICK.

Among the many losses sustained at the great fire in the City of St. John, in which not only nearly all the public buildings belonging to the Dominion, the Province and the City, but also those of the various Institutes and Societies, were utterly destroyed, one o

The statements of this circular were endorsed by many of the leading men of Canada, and it was sent to all the sources from which books could be drawn. There was an immediate and a hearty response. The British government forwarded a list of their publica-

the greatest was that of the many valuable libraries and collections of literary and scientific interest which had been gathered during the past century.

This misfortune, great as it is, has been more aggravated by the circumstance that so few individuals of the various learned professions, as well as of the public in general, were able to rescue from the flames their own private libraries of Clerical, Medical, Legal and Philosophical Works, as well as of general literature.

The energy and public spirit that had been so eminently exhibited in rebuilding in the City has not been in any way wanting in the endeavors made to resuscitate the various literary institutions and to refurnish their libraries by all; but it must be apparent that a long time will elapse before many valuable and expensive books can be replaced.

The possession of a Public Library, accessible to all classes of society, is a want which at no time a city, having any claim to enlightenment, should allow to remain unsatisfied; but, under the circumstances in which the City of St. John now finds itself placed, it becomes almost an absolute necessity.

The many pressing and urgent calls that have been made upon the means and time of its citizens must prove some excuse for this important object not having engaged their attention more generally before this; but it is felt that the period has now arrived when some practical steps should be taken for the establishment of a Library.

In the meanwhile, some time must elapse before a suitable building could be provided and the other necessary arrangements carried out, it has been thought that if an appeal was made to our friends outside of St. John to come to our assistance in providing for our intellectual wants, it would meet with the same noble and generous response as was given to the call for aid in our material distress immediately after the fire.

It is therefore suggested that our wants should be made known to the various public libraries, literary and scientific institutions, and to the great publishing houses in Great Britain and Canada, in the hope that they may be induced to present to us copies of their

tions and authorized the selection of £250 worth of books. General Domville, father of the colonel, was authorized by the British War Office to make a selection of books published under their direction, and the British Museum, which is the storehouse of a vast number of duplicate books, also made a generous donation. Others also contributed. The result was the nucleus of the St. John Free Public Library. Although acting on his own initiative and conducting all the correspondence, when the books had arrived Colonel Domville established a trust placing the books he had obtained practically under the control of the Common Council of St. John which is duly recorded.*

proceedings, surplus copies of works of any description or new works, if they should think fit, and it is also expected that Her Majesty's Government may be found willing to so far, at least, come to our aid as to furnish copies of the Statutes, the Statistical Reports as well as all Reports of Surveys, Geological Meteorological, Marine and others published under its orders.

It would hardly be considered delicate, or within the bounds of propriety, to extend this appeal to the Government, or the scientific or literary societies and institutions in the United States; but at the same time the warm and heartfelt sympathy shewn to us after the fire, and which can never be forgotten, would induce us to suppose that we should not meet with a repulse, should we approach any of them in this matter.

*The Trust Deed is dated December 3rd 1880, and is made by James Domville to Charles R. Ray, then Mayor of the city, and conveys the books, then under the control of James Domville, to a Board of Trustees consisting of Charles R. Ray, James Domville, A. C. Smith, William Elder and W. F. Hatheway. The trustees took over the books, and they were placed in a room in the Market building, but as there was no funds at the disposal of the trustees, and the time was not considered opportune to make a public appeal, the library was not opened. In the winter of 1883, the position of the library was laid before the Common Council and that body was asked to prepare a bill to go before the legislature to provide for the establishment of a Free Public Library in St. John.

The correspondence which followed the receipt of the circular by those to whom it was addressed is very voluminous and was all done by Colonel Domville during his spare moments while at Ottawa, busy though he was the greater part of the time. It was before the days that stenographers and type writers were in general use and all of the letters, and many copies are in Colonel Domville's own handwriting. From the beginning he was greatly encouraged in his work by the energetic manner in which many to whom the circular was addressed, took up the work. In addition to contributions, Colonel Domville received many kind words of encouragement from donors of books and cash, and in replying to several of these he wrote that the handsome manner in which his request for assistance had been responded to, assured the success of the project. The circular was sent out early in 1879 and in 1880 there had been forwarded to St. John many cases of books which were stored to await further arrivals. These came from a variety of sources, not only in the British Empire, but also from all the governmental departments at Washington and many of the States as well. It was a splendid start but there were many difficulties yet to overcome—notably a lack of interest in St. John, which was chiefly to be benefitted. There was an excuse for this it is true. St. John was passing through the most critical period in its history. The building boom that had followed the fire was over, and in 1879 and 1880 the people realized for the first time the severity of the blow that had overtaken them. Old firms that were considered as reliable as the Bank of England com-

At the meeting of the Council at which this memorial from the Trustees was read, the Bill committee was instructed to prepare a bill carrying out the wishes of the Trustees. This was done and the bill became law.

menced to totter and then fell. Too proud to to acknowledge the severity of their loses, and hoping to be able to weather the storm, they refused all offers of compromise made immediately after the fire, and with the cash they got from insurance, expected to retrieve their losses, but they failed to realize their hopes and had to abandon the struggle. Therefore although the Library trust was created in 1880 nothing was done towards opening the library to the public and the books remained boxed up for three years before it was considered expedient to make an effort to open the Library to the public.

In the meantime the interest of Mr. Elder who was a consistent friend of the Library to the time of his death—which occurred but a few months after the opening had kept the idea alive and had succeeded in re-awakening interest in the project among a considerable class in the community, among others the late James R. Ruel who for 15 years was chairman of the Commission and one of the staunchest friends the Library had, and one of four persons who visited the Library on its opening day, for the opening of the Library was heralded by no blare of trumpets and most people were too busy on May 18th 1883, watching the spectacular portion of the Landing of Loyalists, to give much thought to the opening of the Library to the public for the first time.

Today the Free Public Library is one of the institutions of the city which is prominently identified with two important events in its history. It was opened to the public on May 18th 1883, the hundredth anniversary of the landing of the Loyalists, that devoted band who left the United States, rather than remain under of government, theform of which was most objectionable to them. The Library is

therefore a permanent memorial to the Loyalists, and as such should be remembered by the descendents of the founders of the city. A niche in the entrance hall has been set apart for the erection of a tablet to record the devotion of the Loyalists to their flag, their country, and their King. Again in 1904, when the Tercentenary of the discovery of the river St. John and the site of the city by Champlain and DeMonts, was celebrated, the new building, the gift of Andrew Carnagie to the citizens of St. John was formally opened, and a tablet erected in the main hall of the building, recording the facts of the discovery, was unveiled. For the second time the Library occupies a permanent place in connection with an important event in the city's history. We are to have a statue of Champlain in St. John and perhaps some day the Loyalists—the real founders of St. John, will be remembered by some permanent memorial.

But although Colonel Domville, now a senator of Canada, was the founder of the Library it was destined that he should have nothing to do with its opening, its management, or its future.* At the session of the Legislature of 1883 an act was passed to "Provide for the establishment of a Free Public Library in the city of Saint John." The opening paragraph of this act is as follows, giving no recognition of the work done by Col. Domville, in gathering together the books mentioned. It merely recites:

"Whereas a number of persons have made large and

*It is gratifying to be able to state that the Library Commission at a meeting just prior to the formal opening of the new Library building passed a resolution recognizing the work done by Colonel Domville in starting the movement for a Free Public Library in St. John, and issued a card entitling him to the full use of the Library for life.

valuable gifts of Books and Records and also contributions in money, for the purpose of founding in the city of St. John a Free Public Library, and it is desirable that a corporate body should be constituted for the management and continuance thereof."

The act provides for the constitution of a governing body consisting of nine persons to be appointed within 60 days after passing the act (May 3 1883) by the Common Council of St. John to be known as the "Commissioners of the Free Public Library of St. John." The original trustees holding offices under the Trust Deed were relieved of their duties by this act of the Legislature and instructed to hand over all property and monies in their possession to the newly constituted Commission. Another important feature of the act was the authority given the Common Council to assess the sum of \$500 annually on the citizens for the maintainance of the library. which had been increased to \$5,000 in 1904.

Following the instructions in the Act, the Common Council at its meeting on May 30th 1883, received nominations and appointed the nine commissioners as required. Those appointed were:—Mrs. Kate Furlong, Mrs. Sarah P. Tuck, Mrs. Ann King, Mrs. Mary M. Skinner, John Montgomery, Richard O'Brien, James R. Ruel, Hon. William Elder, and W. Frank Hatheway. The original trustees dropped were James Domville, Chas. R. Ray and A. Chipman Smith.

Two years later it was found that \$500 was too small, and the Council was authorized to increase the assessments to \$750. for 1885, and given authority to assess up to \$1,000, towards the support of the Library. Such were the modest beginnings of the first Free Public Library in Canada.

The opening of the Library on May 18th, was merely a formal opening, to show the public what progress had been made since Colonel Donville took the initiative in obtaining a collection of books. The money which had been contributed from abroad and other contributions obtained in the city was expended in the purchase of books, largely of fiction for the circulating department. These books and the others that had been contributed were neatly arranged on shelving in two rooms in the Market building fronting on Charlotte street, and made quite a respectable showing. In all there were about 2,000 books, and for so small a number the selection was admirable. No department was complete, but there were books on every subject to suit all tastes.

The Commissioners appointed by the Council met and organized immediately after their appointment, and took charge of the Library on June 1. Pending the transfer from the Trustees to the Commission, but after the passage of the act, Miss Martin had been appointed librarian and was on duty on May 18, when the Library doors were first opened. A catalogue of the books under the control of the Commission was made and on June 13 1883, the first books were issued in the circulating department.

A ladies Library committee had been formed of which Mrs. Tuck, also a commissioner, was president. Prior to the organization of the Commission, the ladies undertook to raise sufficient money to pay the librarian, which they continued to do until the committee disbanded in 1889. These ladies did a large amount of work and were successful in obtaining much money for the purposes of the library. Had it not been for the work these ladies did, it would not have been possible to have made many additions to

the books in the Library, as the sum assessed on the citizens was more than eaten up by the then running expenses.

It was soon evident that the rooms in which the Library had been installed were inadequate for the purpose, and the Commissioners cast about for a more suitable location. The large room in the Germain street end of the Market building was not regarded with favor but a handsome suite of rooms were discovered in the Masonic Hall. This was in 1885, and the Council was induced to increase the grant to \$750, which was an advance of \$250, which paid the rent. When the Library was closed for the summer vacation in 1885 the books were removed to the Masonic hall where they were to remain for 19 years, and in September of the same year the rooms were thrown open to the public. A special effort was made by the ladies committee that year, and large additions were made to the Library.

When No. 5 company of the Volunteer Fire department disbanded, after the present fire department was brought into existence, their company had quite a balance in the hands of the treasurer which was still to the credit of the company with its accumulations of interest. The surviving members were called together and it was decided to make a free gift to the Library of the funds on hand, amounting to \$500 and also to make the Library Commissioners the custodians of a handsome silver trumpet which had been presented to the company by Robert Rankine & Co., for services at a fire at their wharf. The cash was invested in books and the trumpet is one of the decorations of the reading room. This was in 1888 and was the largest donation the Commissioners had received up to that time. The trumpet which is solid

silver bears an engraved plate, and is the only relic public preserved of the Volunteer Fire department, which was one of the most useful organizations the city ever had.*

Four years the Library continued to grow in usefulness, but was only open three days and three evenings in the week. Large additions were made and the hopes of those who had to do with starting the Library on its career of usefulness were fully justified. It was now a recognized institution and was being patronized by every class in the community. The small amount of money at the disposal of the Commissioners hardly warranted a reading room, but the leading periodicals of the old and new world were on file and were frequently consulted by patrons of the Library, and eventually led to the establishment of a free

*The history of the trumpet is interesting. After the organization of the Volunteer Fire department in 1849 the various companies of the city turned out at all fires in the then Parish of Portland, as the fire department in that district was not organized until some years later. At one fire the local department resented the presence of the visitors, and cut several joints of their hose. The result was an indignation meeting of the St. John firemen, at which a resolution was passed unanimously, that thereafter the St. John volunteers would not attend fires in Portland. Several members of No 5 were employes of the great lumber firm of Robert Rankin & Co., and they made an exception to fires occurring in the neighborhood of Rankin's wharf, which endangered the property of that firm. Not long afterwards a fire which threatened the lumber piles on the wharves surrounding Rankin's warehouses did occur and the good work done by the men of No. 5 prevented the destruction of about two cargoes of lumber all ready for shipment. As a recognition of their services the trumpet which was procured from London, and was the handsomest in the department, was presented to the company with elaborate ceremonies and thereafter saw service at many fires. It is now enclosed in a glass case, supported by a handsomely carved bracket, and is one of the adornments of the reading room of the New Library building.

reading room and which is now one of the leading features of the Library, if not the most popular.

The efforts of the Commissioners to obtain a suitable home for the Library began very early in its history, but were not successful for many years. On several occasions they brought the matter to the attention of the Common Council, in their reports to that body, but no action was taken on their representations. As the number of patrons of the Library increased and its usefulness became apparent the annual grants for its maintenance were increased, but these were never more than sufficient to meet the increased running expenses of the institution. In 1897 Messrs. James R. Ruel and James Manchester, both members of the Library Commission succeeded in acquiring the title to a lot on Prince William street, a very central situation, and only a block from the present site, which they tendered the city in a letter to the Common Council, which was submitted at a meeting held on April 6th 1897. This was referred to a public meeting of citizens called for the same evening. At the instance of the Commissioners the Common Council had obtained legislation authorizing a bond issue for the construction of a Library building. At the meeting held in the Opera House, to which the letter of Mr. Ruel was referred, there was a very free discussion of the affairs of the Library, in which several of the aldermen took part. No definite conclusions were reached, and nothing was done by the Council towards carrying out the object of the legislation, until May 29th, when Mr. Ruel's letter on motion of Alderman Christie was referred to the new Council. This decision did not meet with favor from the donors of the lot, who thought themselves unfairly treated, for on May 6th, another letter was read from

Mr. Ruel, withdrawing the offer made just a month previous.

The efforts of Messrs. Ruel and Manchester to present the city with a site for a Library building having ended as it did, it looked very much as if the opposition in the Council would prevent any effort to obtain a suitable building for the Library. For four years nothing was done. The Commissioners had often pointed out the necessity for better accommodations but no notice was taken of their memorials other than to print them with the city accounts. Finally it was announced through the press that Mr. Andrew Carnagie, who had been giving large sums towards the erection of library buildings in different cities in the United States, had decided to extend his benefactions to Canada. Mr. Richard O'Brien, who had been chosen chairman of the Library Commission waited on Mayor Daniel, and requested His Worship to bring St. John to the notice of Mr. Carnagie. This was done in the following letter :

ST. JOHN, N. B., April 30th 1901.

ANDREW CARNAGIE, ESQ.

Dear Sir:—Having observed that your generosity in furnishing municipalities with public library buildings has been extended to Canada, I desire to call your attention to the City of St. John.

St. John is the principal city in the Province of New Brunswick, and has a population of about 40,000. Situated at the mouth of the St. John river, its people are largely engaged in the export lumber trade, and in manufacturing. At one time wooden ship building furnished employment for a large number of persons, but that business has now passed away. For some years past the energies of the people have been devoted to the development of Canada's winter trade, though this port with some degree of success, but at a capital expenditure of \$750,000 for wharves and other facilities. Because of this large expenditure, and the heavy burden of taxation made necessary in carrying on the ordinary civic works the people of St. John have not been able to provide themselves with a public library building, though the matter has been a subject of discussion

for several years past. The fact is St. John has not yet been fully recovered from the disastrous fire which swept over it twenty-three years ago. In that fire, two-thirds of the city was destroyed, two hundred acres being burned over, and over 1600 houses consumed in the flames. About 2700 families, containing 13,000 persons, were made homeless. The money loss was estimated at \$15,000,000, while the insurance was less than one half of that sum. This was a terrible blow to a community, composed as it was so largely of working people, but the people rallied from it and today St. John is a substantial city. But, in re-building the city, every dollar was apparently required for what were considered absolutely necessary purposes, and thus it is that St. John is still without a suitable building for the Library which was established seventeen years ago, and which now contains about 14,000 volumes.

I am stating these facts in detail with the hope that you will be able to give the City of St. John, some kind consideration. I am sure that all Canadians must heartily appreciate your handsome offer of gifts to Ottawa, Vancouver, Sydney and other cities in the Dominion.

I have the honor to remain,

Yours very Truly

J. W. DANIEL, Mayor.

This letter was replied to on June 6, from Skibo Castle, Scotland, and the enquiry made as to how the Library was then housed. To this the Mayor replied that the Library was housed in rented rooms, and that the city contributed \$2,500 toward the support of Libraries of which \$600 was applied to the North end Library which was amalgamated with the Free Public Library in 1889. The Mayor also added, "I think the Common Council are prepared to increase the grant to the Free Public Library."

The reply of the Mayor was sent on June 18th and on July 26th the following letter was received from Skibo Castle.

Yours of June 18th to hand, Mr. Carnegie's rule is to give a sum to erect a library building, the amount being based on what the city will pledge per year for support; about ten times the latter is usually given and the city is also required to find a site suitable

for the library. It is a general rule also that the libraries are controlled by the community through their representatives in Council, or through a legally constituted library association with powers voluntarily conceded them by the Council.

All of this correspondence was submitted to the Council on August 10th and referred to a special meeting when the following resolution moved by Ald. Macrae was adopted:

Whereas the correspondence between His Worship and Mr. Andrew Carnegie relative to the establishment of a Free Public Library building in the City of St. John has been submitted to this Council and whereas it appears that Mr. Andrew Carnegie is prepared to assist the City of St. John by contributing for the erection of a Library building of a sum not less than ten times the amount assessed for the maintenance of such an institution provided the city also supplies a site for such building, therefore,
Resolved that the Bills and Bye Laws committee be instructed to prepare a bill providing for the assessment of the sum of five thousand dollars annually for the maintenance of the Free Public Library and for the additional powers to the city to provide a site for such building, and further

Resolved that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to Mr. Carnegie as the reply of this Council to the communication received by His Worship from Mr. Carnegie dated July 26th 1901.

These facts were communicated to Mr. Carnegie by Mayor Daniel in a letter dated November 23rd 1901, and there the matter rested until the necessary legislation was procured to authorize the purchase of the lot and to assess for \$5,000. A bill was passed through the Legislature at the session of 1902 and immediately it became law, a committee of the Council reported in favor of purchasing the lot on which the Library building stands for \$5,000 and on June 4th the transfer of the land was made to the city. The plans for the new building were put up to competition, and it was only after mature consideration that the Council finally recommended those prepared by Mr. G. Earnst Fairweather, architect, of St. John.

modifications were made to suit the Council and finally in 1903 the contracts for the new building were let and its erection proceeded with. Mayor White notified Mr. Carnegie how matters were going on and on September 18th, Mr. A. R. Franks president of the Home Trust Company of Hoboken, N. Y., informed His Worship that Mr. Carnegie had placed \$50,000 to the credit of the St. John Library which could be drawn \$5,000 at a time, on the architect's certificate that that amount of work had been performed. It was in this way that a home was finally secured for the Library.

The first published report of the Library Commissioners appears in the City Accounts of 1889 the year of Union. In this the Commissioners say, "They assumed charge of the institution on June 1st 1883, and the seventh year of its history is now completed. The whole period" they add, "has been marked by a steady and rapid progress, not only in the extension of the Library, but also—what is most gratifying to them—in popular favor." The Commissioners acknowledged large benefactions that year from Messrs. Simeon Jones, Joseph Allison, R. Penniston Starr and Hon. James I. Fellows and an additional grant from the city. Further on in their report the Commissioners state that "at present the Library is only open three days in the week. On and after 1st of July, its doors will be open every day except Sundays and legal holidays. The two front rooms in their occupation will also be appropriated to those who desire to study works of reference and read the Magazines and Reviews, of which there is a most bountiful and varied supply." For some years, apparently from the foundation of the Library, the salary of the librarian had been provided by a

committee of ladies. This committee also paid the salary until the end of January 1890, and then presented the Commissioners with \$200. The committee then disbanded, which event is thus referred to by the Commissioners. "The committee has now retired and the Commissioners desire to place on record their deep sense of the obligations they are under to it, for the substantial aid which it rendered to the Library during the past seven years." The total number of volumes in the Library on May 1890 was 7,185 including 854 added during the year. The number of persons admitted to the privileges of the library during the year was 341, making the total of cards of admission issued 2,929. The total number of books issued in 1889 was 19,013.

The year 1890 marked an important advance in the Library, which received a bequest of \$4,000 from the estate of Maria Anning and an increased grant from the city. "The reading room in connection with the Library, where all the best English and American magazines and reviews are to be found, is most highly appreciated by an increasing number of citizens," say the Commissioners who express an earnest desire to establish a News room free to all "wherein the leading newspapers of England and the colonies, as well as the United States, may be read." The opening of the Library every day increased the number of patrons to 3,369 who took out 20,548 books.

The progress of the Library was steady, and year by year it grew in size and usefulness. During 1892 a brass tablet, commemorating the gift of Maria Anning was placed on the wall of the main room. Two years later the Commissioners acknowledged a handsome addition made to the Library by Mr. James Manchester, and in the same report the first

indication is given of the tastes of the patrons of the Library in selecting their reading matter. Fiction of course holds the leading place and 60 per cent. of all the books issued during the year were works of fiction. The other percentages are as follows ; history 8 ; biography, 6 ; poetry, 5 ; travels, 8 ; science, 4 ; general literature, 9. To give an idea of the popular authors of ten years ago the following is quoted from the report.

"The favorite authors, in the order stated, are Edna Lyall, Rosa N. Carey, Marian Crawford, Conan Doyle, W. Clark Russell, R. L. Stevenson, Walter Besant, Charles Reade, Thomas Hardy, William Black, James Grant, Mrs. Wister's translations of German authors, Mrs. Craik, Mrs. Oliphant, James Payne, E. P. Roe, W. M. Thackeray, C. Dickens, Sir Walter Scott, George Eliott, and then others of less note at the present day. Boy's books most generally read are by G. A. Henty, H. G. Kingston, Capt. Marryat, Ballentine, Verne and Mayne Reid."

In the year 1895, the number of books in the Library exceeded 10,000 for the first time in its history, while the number of books issued to card holders was 28,167 for the year. On several occasions the Commissioners in their reports urged the necessity of a more commodious home for the Library, which since its removal to the Masonic Hall, had doubled in size, and had twice as many patrons. In 1896 the Commissioners asked the Common Council to appoint a committee to meet with them to discuss the question of a new building, and at the session of the Legislature in 1897 authority was given the Common Council to borrow the sum of \$20,000 to erect the required building. Mr. James R. Ruel who had been chairman of the Commission from the beginning resigned—an event which was

generally regretted as was also the resignation of Mr. James Manchester, which took place at the same time. Both had been generous friends of the Library, and in the list of special contributors, their names appear almost annually. Besides both gentlemen gave much time and attention to the Library. In the annual report for the year the following reference is made to the resignation of these gentlemen :

"By his resignation early in the year the Board lost the valuable services of Mr. James R. Ruel, one of the promoters and founders of the Library, and for fifteen years the able, energetic and generous chairman of the Commissioners. Mr. James Manchester, who had faithfully served on the Board for five years, and had in a practical way shown his warm interest in the Library, resigned at the same time."

The shortage of funds was always apparent to the Commission, and hampered their work. After paying the current expenses all that was left for the purchase of new books was between \$500 and \$600 annually. With such a small sum at their disposal the growth of the Library was naturally slow and would have been slower still, had it not been for the generous contributions received from persons interested in the Library. In 1898 the necessity for a new building induced the Commissioners to pass a resolution to set apart a fund for that purpose. A copy of the resolution was sent to the Ladies committee which had rendered such conspicuous assistance at the inception, and during the early years of the Library, but the ladies did not respond, and two years later, the Commissioners regretfully chronicle that no contributions had been received. The library was still growing in size and then contained 12,541 books.

The annual report for 1902 has the following refer-

ence to the Library building and an interesting resume of a few leading events in the history of the Library. "St. John was the first city in Canada to establish a free public library. Starting in a modest way in 1883, open only three half days in the week, the Library's scope of usefulness was gradually extended until thousands of volumes were added to those on the shelves; the doors were thrown open every afternoon and evening, and a reading room was established.

"It has long been apparent that a library building was required, but the great question always was, how can such a building be secured? Fortunately an answer to that question has now been given. Mr. Andrew Carnegie having expressed a willingness to give \$50,000 for the purpose. The Commissioners have learned through the city press that a site has been purchased, and that tenders for a building have been asked, so that it is possible the library will have a home before it finishes the twentieth year of its existence. With a suitable building, and with an grant of \$5,000 for maintenance, the citizens of St. John should possess a free public library that will be of incalculable benefit.

"Although the library appropriation from the City will be increased, and the Commissioners thereby provided with the means to procure a larger supply of books, it is hoped there will be no relaxation in the warm interest shown by the public-spirited citizens in the welfare of this institution. Some of the most important works in the library have been the gifts of individuals, otherwise the library would not possess them, because of lack of means. Among the notable contributions were 133 volumes of Annual Register from Mr. Simeon Jones; 85 volumes of the Hakluyt Society publications from Mr. James Manchester; 36

volumes of State Trials, and 19 volumes of Reclus' "The Inhabitants of the Earth and Universal Geography," from the late Mr. James Ruel; the "National Biography," from the late Mr. James I. Fellows; Appleton's Annual Cyclopædia, from Mr. Joseph Allison; Encyclopædia Britannica, from Mr. Geo. A. Knodell; 99 volumes of Notes and Queries, from the late Mr. R. P. Starr and from Mr. F. P. Starr; 39 volumes of "Brancroft's History of the Pacific States," from Mr. H. D. Troop. There are many necessary, but costly, works of reference which the library does not possess, and the Commissioners would respectfully point out that the generosity of the gentlemen whose names have been mentioned is well worthy of imitation."

The construction of the new Library building was commenced in June, 1903 and on November 13th 1904, the doors were thrown open to the public. There were no ceremonies attending the laying of the corner stone and the formal opening was of an extremely quiet character, due perhaps to the fact that the books had not been fully arranged, and the furniture and equipment of the building were still incomplete. The removal of the books from their old quarters entailed a vast amount of labor on the librarian, Miss Martin, but immediately after the formal opening the circulating department was in operation and the reading room opened to the public. This latter is one of the greatest attractions of the Library, and from the opening hour to its closing, it is always in use. In another article, which will be fully illustrated the workings of the Library and the building, in which it is stored will be described.

ON A PIRATE'S ISLE.

(CONTINUED)

I expressed great pleasure at the gift, and meant it too, and the next day the big boat was moored alongside my house.

She was a big boat and no mistake, with a capacity of at least eight tons, for she was broad and deep as well as long. I felt certain that such a craft, properly prepared and rightly managed, would make almost as good weather of it as a ship that was fit to go anywhere. With this craft in my possession, I felt that the 4,500 miles of water that lay between me and Melbourne did not present an impossible obstacle and that I might see the face of white men again. But a great deal remained to be done before we dared to venture on such a voyage. I named my new acquisition the Exile, and fitted her with two masts, carrying a foresail and mainsail without any jib. All that season we used her for fishing and found her weatherly, handy and reasonably fast. Several times we remained out purposely in rough weather and found that she did not leak a drop.

Next year I had decked her over and had a little cabin about eight feet long, which rose about six inches above the deck line, constructed aft. This turned her into a snug little schooner, but it made more ballast necessary and we carried several tons of it, with the deck we found her more comfortable as a fishing boat, and thus a second season passed away. It was not until the fourth year after I obtained the big boat that we were in every way ready to embark

on the long voyage which had never been out of my thoughts for a moment since the Exile came into my possession. I had long before confided my plans to Sam, the Chinaman, who was most enthusiastic over the idea of getting away from Aku in my company. With this goal in sight he was willing to undertake any toil in the way of preparation. The boat had been hauled ashore and thoroughly graved, although she did not leak a drop. Then provisions enough for a two month's voyage had to be got ready. By great good luck Sam had succeeded in purchasing a large quantity of canned goods, chiefly meats, and two or three barrels of biscuits, so that we were reasonably certain, that although our food might be indifferent, there would be plenty of it. The water question was another troublesome one, but we managed to provide ourselves with enough of this also. Then the cases of books had to be stowed away, and this occupied many nights for every case of books put on board, an equal weight of ballast had to be discarded. It was a tedious process for we had to keep the craft in trim, and the cases were so large and numerous that they took up most of our forecabin and cabin room.

When all this work was done and the Exile contained all my worldly goods and possessions I told Dirck and Sam that we might start any day and that every time they left the house to go fishing they must so arrange their affairs as if they were leaving it for good. I had matured a plan, which I thought would baffle the boldest Malay that ever cut a throat. My scheme was to start at the beginning of a gale, and as the prahs are not good sea boats, I felt confident that in such case any pursuit would be made too late. We therefore went fishing every day and waited for the hoped for gale that was to waft us to freedom.

It was a full fortnight before the gale came and it was one worth waiting for. It was from the south and therefore directly on the land. An hour before nightfall two of the prahs come flying in for a harbor, like frightened birds, almost with the speed of the wind, and as they passed us at anchor, hailed us to say that there was going to be a storm and we should make for the port. Just before nightfall we up anchor and under close reefed sails, stood away toward the coast of Borneo. We had nearly two hundred miles of clear water ahead of us and had plenty of sea room. We were all filled with high hopes and only wished that we would never see the pirate island of Aku again.

That night it blew very hard, but the Exile gallantly breasted the waves and made a good course; all next day the wind continued strong from the same direction and all the next night. With such a wind it was impossible for the prahs to leave port, or to make any headway against it if they did chance to get out. The next morning the wind chopped suddenly round to the north-west and blew hard for four days, during which we ran far beyond all possible pursuit. On the fifth day from our leaving Aku we passed the straits of Sunda and entered the great Indian ocean. Then we felt that we were safe.

It would be tedious and unprofitable task for me to relate the remainder of our voyage to Melbourne which was quite uneventful. The weather was moderate and the Exile proved herself a splendid craft in every way. I had my quadrant with me and kept my reckoning as closely as if we had been on board a ship. In just forty-two days from we left Aku we cast anchor in the great basin of Port Philip. No person took the slightest notice of our boat or ourselves; we were taken for fishermen.

Leaving Sam in charge of the craft we hailed a boat and were rowed ashore. Our appearance was certainly more picturesque than neat; for ten years of captivity does not improve a man's wardrobe. We found a clothing store at Williamstown and rigged ourselves out in new suits from top to toe—shirts, hats, socks, and shoes included—explained to the wondering furnisher of ready made goods that we were just returned from a long voyage up the Great Bight and had destroyed all our clothes. We did not forget to buy a decent suit for Sam whose delight at the gift was unbounded as his clothing was in a still worse condition than our own.

Next day I got myself up as elaborately as I could and took the train for Melbourne. It seemed so strange to be in a civilized city and among white men again, that I walked about for an hour or more, looking in the shop windows, and watching the crowd, that I became quite oblivious of the business that had taken me so far. At length I woke up enough to remember that my business was with the librarian of parliament if I could find him.

Parliament house was not hard to find and I saw by the bustle about it that Parliament itself was in session. After losing myself all over the building I got hold of an usher who directed me to the library. There I found another usher who consented to take a message to the librarian, to the effect that a sea captain who had just arrived had an important communication to make to him. A minute later I was shown into the librarian's private room.

The librarian was a pleasant looking man whose silvered hair showed that he had passed sixty, and whose countenance was pleasant and affable. His face was that of a man who had spent his life among

the best of companions, books. His greeting to me was very polite:—

"My dear sir," said he "what can I do for you."

"Mr. Merriman," said I, "do you remember having a lot of books for your library, shipped from Liverpool in the brig *Imperial* ten years ago."

"Well, I should say I do. I have mourned over the loss of those books ever since. More than half of them I bought myself; the others were gifts."

"Have you any idea what became of them," I inquired.

"None, except that the ship must have foundered; no trace of her was ever discovered."

"Well," said I, "I can relieve your mind on that point; the books are not lost; they are safe; they are here and within five miles of Melbourne."

If I had made a personal assault on the librarian he could not have been more astonished than he was at the receipt of this news. He fairly jumped from his seat, "Why bless me," said he "not lost did you say; you have them here; tell me about it; how did you get them."

I sat down, and related, as briefly as I could the whole story of my captivity and of the preservation of the books. As I proceeded I could see that his wonder grew, and every minute or two he uttered an acclamation of surprise.

"Well," said he, after I had concluded "that is the most remarkable story ever I heard. You have done us an inestimable service, for the books were enormously valuable, some of them being so rare that they could not be purchased with money at all."

"You will find them perfect," said I, "no ant or other insect has ever had his tooth in them, for I re-packed them every three months."

"I will see that you are properly rewarded for this instance of thoughtfulness and courage."

With that he hastily wrote a note, called a messenger and told him to take it at once to the Premier. The good man speedily came and was even more astonished than Mr. Merriman, and equally grateful, for it was during a previous term of office the books had been bought.

"Now," said I, "the books are at Williamstown, and might as well be delivered to you today. They have been a heavy weight on my mind and I would like to hand them over to you,"

"What reward do you ask for this service?" inquired the Premier.

"I ask none," said I, "I never thought of that; the government can give me what they please when the books are delivered and you see their condition. Of course after ten years captivity among pirates I am not wealthy."

"I will see that your reward shall be ample," said the Premier, as he walked away.

In less than half an hour after that conversation Mr. Merriman and I were speeding towards Williamstown on the train. The Exile was hauled to the wharf teams were procured, and the unloading commenced. I never before saw a man in such a state of delightful excitement as the librarian exhibited, as box after box was brought up and landed. Until then, I suppose, he must have had some lingering doubt of the truth of my marvellous story, but had now the evidence of his senses that it was correct.

I accompanied the librarian back to Melbourne at his request and the books arrived in the course of the afternoon. Then the work of unpacking commenced in my presence. As case after case was opened and it

was seen that every book was in as perfect a condition as when packed, Mr. Merriman's wonder and admiration increased.

"Nothing could be better," he exclaimed, "they are just as good as when I packed them ten years ago."

It is needless to say that when my story got abroad it excited a good deal of astonishment in Melbourne, and I became the lion of the hour. The matter came up in Parliament and I was voted a grant of £5,000 sterling, as an acknowledgement of my services to the colony. Some of my gems brought a large price and I realized something more than £10,000 and the buillion I brought with me from Aku. The boat I sold for a good price and turned the money over to Sam who immediately set up a laundry, which became the most popular in town, for everybody wanted to hear Sam's yarns about the Malays, and, thanks to my teaching, he could double discount any Chinaman in Melbourne in speaking English. The chaps who lost their custom declared Sam to be "velly bad man,"

As I had no desire to go to sea again, and had nothing to do ashore, I accepted an offer from Mr. Merriman to assist him in the library. My extensive reading and knowledge of books, here stood me in good stead. I rose step by step until I became first assistant, and when that good old man died seven years ago, I was unanimously elected to succeed him, my fitness being universally admitted. Six months ago I got tired of being so long from home, so resigned my office, gathered up my little fortune, and here I am.

"But what became of Dirck Minuit?" asked my mother.

"O, Dirck, I came near forgetting him. When we got settled in Melbourne, Dirck wanted to go home to

Amsterdam to find his mother, but I showed him that that was an absurd idea ; he would be a stranger there and would have to begin life over again. I got Dirck a situation in Melbourne, and forwarded money to a steamboat agent to bring Mrs Minit to Melbourne to her son, if she could be found. In good time she arrived, but she spoke nothing but Dutch, and Dirck had forgotten all his, their first meeting was rather absurd and it was some time before communication was fully established between them. I gave Dirck a thousand pounds to set up house keeping with when his mother arrived, and after a time he got a place in the library and is now first assistant there, with the prospect of being librarian in due time."

"But John," asked my mother, "where is your wife? Did you never marry?"

"No, Jane," I am not a marrying man ; the chief of Aku wanted me to marry one of his daughters, but I excused myself. Several girls in Melbourne set their caps for me, but I did not take a fancy to any of them. No, I'll never marry."

"John," said brother James, who had not uttered a word during the long narrative, that is a very good story of yours and no doubt it is all true ; and we are glad to see you back again, but I think it is time to go to bed."

There was one member of the Baker household who was not present when John told his adventures, nor was he aware of her existence. This was Mary Best the daughter of his old sweetheart, Lucy Holmes. This young lady had spent the day and evening at the house of a neighbor, and, returning home late had retired without seeing the long lost brother. So when John, while wandering about the premises next morning encountered Mary Best, who was the image

ON A PIRATE'S ISLE.

of her dead mother, he started as if he seen a ghost.

"Why bless me," he exclaimed, "it can't be possible; really a most remarkable resemblance; young lady might I make so bold as to ask your name?"

"Mary Best," she replied, demurely;

"Really," continued John, "you are so much like a old friend of mine that I was startled, but then I knew her thirty years ago".

"Perhaps it was my mother you meant," said Mary, "she was Lucy Holmes, but she is dead."

"Lucy Holmes dead, and you are her daughter," said John, with more feeling than he had yet shown since his return, "then we must be friends, for your mother was once very dear to me."

As John made this little speech he wiped away what looked like a tear. Perhaps he thought of his lonely and loveless life, and wished it had been otherwise. He had won wealth indeed, but it had cost him a fearful price.

The reader after this episode will not be surprised to learn that John became very attentive to Mary Best, or that in due time he proposed to her, was accepted and married her. After all the disparity of age was not so great, for John was not yet fifty and Mary was twenty-five. When the wedding was over John proposed to build a new house, and tear down the old mansion, but James would not listen to this for an instant. It was finally agreed by way of compromise that the old house should be repaired, and it was repaired. James had been persuaded to take a trip to Europe while the repairs were in progress, and when he got back he thought he had got on the wrong farm. In place of the old family farm house, was a modern mansion, with wide verandahs, mansard roof and a general air of newness about it that was distressing to a lover of the antique.

James was a little indignant. "John," said he, "if you got your ideas of repairs from the Malays, I think they must be first cousins to the Goths and Vandals, for I'm blessed if I can see that any of the old house is left."

John laughed, and James soon became reconciled to the superior comforts of the new mansion, which is now declared to be the finest house in Cumberland county.

JAMES HANNAY.

THE END.

THE JANUARY NUMBER.

With the January number of The New Brunswick Magazine a new volume will be started. The page of the Magazine will be enlarged to make room for illustrations and with a new press to do the printing, it is hoped to produce a Magazine that will be attractive in all departments. The Magazine has been well received so far, and has already a goodly circulation in the City of St. John.

THE CITY'S FINANCES.

Some of the Items of Cost of the Water and Sewerage Systems of St. John.

By John A. Bowes.

In reviewing the expenditures of the Common Council, I took up that for streets first. Closely allied with the street expenditure is that for the maintainence of the sewerage and water systems, and at the beginning it may be well to explain that a separate assessment is levied on the citizens for the maintainence of the water works, but the cost of keeping up the sewerage system is paid out of the general rates, an annual assessment being levied for the interest on sewerage debentures and for the maintainence of the sewers. The cost of the city sewers has been about half a million dollars and there are still floating sewerage bonds amounting to. \$235,950. At the Union of the cities of St. John and Portland the Commissioners of Water and Sewerage reported that they had issued bonds to the amount of \$335,950 out of an authorized issue of \$350,000. The amount expended for sewerage in the North end was in the neighborhood of \$70,500. Since Union \$102,600 has been expended in the construction of new sewers and there is still a considerable area of the city still undrained. These expenditures do not include those made in Carleton under the Union

act, all of the \$50,000 apportioned by the act having been expended in laying sewers and making street improvements.

When the City of St. John and the Parish of Portland purchased the water works from the St. John Water Company in 1855, provision was made for the construction of sewers in the City of St. John by the Commission though no such provision was made concerning Portland. It is difficult at this date to give a reason why this was done, but it goes to show the piecemeal character of the legislation, which was obtained by former Common Councils. Most likely the question of sewerage in 1855 was as difficult a one for the Council to grapple with as that of assessment in 1904. St. John was not wholly without sewerage when the Commission was constituted. The Council had laid many sewers, and private individuals many more. These latter have often proved a source of annoyance to the Commissioners and their successors as they were built through lots following natural levels, and in a number of instances these lots were built over and the builder was unaware of the existence of a sewer until he discovered his cellar flooded by the bursting or caving in of an old sewer, and when he cut it off, his neighbour who had no better knowledge of where his waste water went found that his drain was plugged.

The sewers laid by the Council chiefly followed the routes of old water courses, and were quite heavy undertakings. The terrible mortality which followed the cholera visitation of 1854 demonstrated with great clearness the absolute necessity of a sewerage system, and there were perhaps men living in St. John then, who thought that when the Commissioners laid down water mains they would use the

same trenches to put down sewers. This would have been the proper method but the Water Commissioners never studied economy and not once out of ten times were the water mains and sewers laid at the same time. The water main generally preceded the sewer by ten years and the streets had to be torn up a second time. In this way thousands of dollars were wasted which the next generation of rate payers will have to make good. But bad as the management of the Commission was, it was more economical than the methods which prevail at the present time. It is true that wages are higher but there does not seem to be any good reason why the sewerage maintenance should cost more than double today than it did in 1889, or why the amount should vary in different years the way in which it does. The method of apportioning the cost of the sewers between the different sections of the city is nothing more or less than a farce and should be abandoned. The present method is to divide the cost between the old city and the North end and to make a separate division for Carleton. It is all the one city and while there may be some excuse for keeping two accounts for the water service, it is absurd to waste time even for so simple a calculation as that of apportioning the cost of sewerage maintenance, for the simple reason that it is not the fact, and at the best only an approximate statement. The point the tax payers are interested in is the large expenditure under this head, which may be manipulated to suit circumstances—a thing that ought not to be possible. There have been so many changes made by the Chamberlain in keeping the sewerage accounts, to suit different aldermen who happened for the time to be chairman of the Treasury Board, that the investigator of civic expenditure is liable to almost any malady

before he is able to arrive at the facts. In 1887 the last full year but one the sewers cost the rate payers, according to the published report of the Commissioners \$24,289 of which \$17,875 went for interest, \$3,989 labor and materials and \$1,600 for the superintendents salary and the expenses of the Commission. In 1902 the sewers cost \$27,483 of which only \$16,261 is charged for interest. The lessened charge for interest is due to the refunding of \$100,000, of the sewerage debt into the sterling loan, less the amount paid from the sinking fund, at 2 per cent. lower interest, and the additional fact that all of the expenditures on account of sewerage since, are charged in the St. John City debt. If the interest on this expenditure were charged, and the sinking fund added, the cost of maintaining the sewerage system would be \$35,000 annually.

The following table shows the principal expenditures for the maintenance of sewers since 1880:

	Supplies	Stables	Labor
1890	\$ 397	\$413	\$5,260
1891	903	407	6,278
1892	1,315	594	6,040
1893	1,571	426	4,772
1894	808	413	4,584
1895	1,116	296	5,499
1896	1,032	385	5,014
1897	1,261	427	5,925
1898	1,430	314	6,344
1899	1,571	426	4,772
1900	1,080	477	5,349
1901	1,307	348	6,985

Under the method employed by the Water and Sewerage Commission, one third of the cost of the Commission was charged against sewerage maintenance and taken out of that fund, the water assessment paying two thirds. Some such arrangement prevails today and although the proportions may be

varied, there does not seem to be any way to get at the actual expenditures. One thing however is apparent, every year increases the cost of maintaining both the water and the sewers and the most peculiar feature is that there is no regular scale of increase but a variation from year to year, particularly in water maintenance. For instance in 1890 the cost of labor and supplies for the maintenance of the water department was about \$9,500, while in 1903 it cost about \$23,000 for the same items and this was not the largest year by any means as for two years the cost was considerable over \$25,000. In 1894 and 1895, when the Tax Reduction council was in office the services cost about \$12,300 and \$14,000 respectively, but the following year it had gone up again to over \$15,000. In 1890 the sewers cost a little over \$6,000 for labor and supplies, and in 1902 over \$8,700. In 1894 the expenditure under these heads was \$5,700 and in 1885, \$6,800. The figures in the cost of water and sewerage maintenance added together have increased from \$15,500 in 1890 to \$35,000 in 1902. The increase is more largely in labor than in supplies, but there would seem to be ample opportunity to apply the pruning knife in this department as well as in that of streets. The fault lies, not so much in undertaking too much work, but in wasteful and extravagant manner in which the work is done. There is a lack of system in some branches and apparently more system than work in other branches.

No reference has been made to the accounts of 1889 as for part of that year the expenditures were made under the Council, and for the first part of the year by the Commission. In his report to the Council in 1889 Mr. Gilbert Murdoch, then superintendent of Water and Sewerage stated that their were 107,357

feet of sewers in St. John of which 18,194 feet were old sewers laid before the Commission had control of the sewerage system and these mostly in bad condition. The Commission had expended on sewerage during its control the sum of \$335,950. In St. John, north, or Portland there were 30,955 feet of sewers old and new which had cost \$70,000. In Carleton there were but 2,765 of sewers together, but no separate account of their cost was kept. This made a total of 141,078 feet of sewers in the united cities.

There has been considerable activity in replacing old sewers and building new ones, since Union. In Carleton alone 24,955 feet or more than four miles have been added, while in St. John east and north 32,631 feet, or about six miles have been added since Union, mostly in the north end. The total number of feet of sewers on both sides of the harbor in 1902 was 198,664 an increase of 57,586 feet since Union. This means that there is a greater length of sewers by about one third than in 1889 and that the cost of maintenance has increased over one half, not including the interest and sinking fund charges for the new sewers laid down. The following shows the materials of which the sewers are constructed as reported in 1902:—

	East	West
Brick	2,115 feet	2,414 feet
Wood	5,797 "	6,547 "
Stoneware pipe	108,894 "	18,602 "
Iron pipe	2,388 "	151 "
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	170,994 feet	27,714 feet

As before intimated the capital expenditure for the construction of sewers is not complete and the rate payer must look forward to a further increase in this

department which seems to have been less affected by the economists of 1894-5 than any other.

On their face the financial returns from the Water system show a good profit, but on closer inspection some of the excess disappears. The apportionment of the expenses of the Water and Sewerage department certainly makes the sewerage branch pay more than its share of the total expenditure. Just how much this would amount to can not be definitely stated but taking one year with another, it may be placed at about \$2,000, and this is probably short of the actual amount. It would be fairer to make the water rates pay the cost of the sewerage maintenance, which with a slight adjustment could easily be done, and the general rates relieved of the charge. The water system makes sewerage an absolute necessity, and the two services are inseparable.

The revenue from water is obtained from two sources, an assessment on the real estate and stocks in trade within the water district, and for supply for consumption. In 1904 the total assessment for water supply was \$95,606 of which \$58,731 was for supply and \$36,875 for the protection of real estate and stocks in trade. The valuations of 1904 as made up for the purpose of obtaining a basis of assessment compared with those of 1889 give the following results:

	1889	1904
Real estate - - -	\$12,776,500	\$14,049,350
Stock in trade - - -	3,827,500	2,797,050
Furniture - - -	1,208,100	
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	\$17,812,100	\$16,846,400

The assessment on furniture was discontinued in 1894 because it was found that such an assessment no longer necessary. From the figures given above it

will be seen, according to those who fix the values for water assessment purposes, the value of real estate and stocks in trade in the water district of St. John have only increased \$142,400, notwithstanding that there has been an extension of water mains in various directions. The increase in the value of real estate in the water district along the pipe lines amounts to \$1,272,850 while there has been a falling off in the value of stocks in trade to the amount of \$1,030,450. This would indicate a rather serious state of affairs among the merchants of St. John if anybody were inclined to take these figures as even approximately correct, which they are not. It is unreasonable to suppose that the stocks in trade have fallen off in value, as is implied by this statement and the citizens can heartily congratulate themselves that such is not the fact. By simply restoring the valuation to where it was, would give a sufficient revenue to pay the extra cost of the proposed extension to Loch Lomond, particularly as the consumption rate for water, shows an average increase of 3,000 per annum and agreement customers about \$2,000 more. As I have already indicated there is nothing to alarm the rate payers in the present water situation, and in point of fact there never has been. It is inconceivable that the aldermen should have put this important question to one side so often and dealt with others that were of less vital interest to the city. Had the Council taken the advice of Mr. Murdoch, strongly backed as it was by Mr. Fteley, twenty years ago, and extended the water mains to Lake Lattimer they would have saved the city thousands of dollars. How much has been spent in trying to accomplish something, that every one acquainted with the facts knew to be impossible, will never be known, but it is

not far short of fifty thousand dollars. This includes the cost of alterations made in the city mains, the Silver Falls pumping station and its equipment and the raising of the dam at Little River. Had the assessment on household furniture been continued, and a correct valuation of stocks in trade made, the surplus revenues would have paid for the cost of an extension, which was in the direction of Loch Lomond by the best, cheapest and easiest route. While the extension was going on, the city could have gradually acquired the water rights along the Mispeck river, and have entered Loch Lomond at a much less cost than at present.

It is admitted of course that Lake Lattimer with its limited water shed would not supply the entire city and to give adequate pressure for fire purposes, on the lower levels of the city, which would still draw the necessary supply from Little river another main would have been rendered a necessity but this is really a small matter compared with the continuous rise in fire insurance rates which the people have been obliged to put up with during the past few years. It must be borne in mind that the last addition to the fire insurance is not the only one that St. John has been subjected to; worst of all, fair minded people who choose to enquire into the question are bound to admit that the fire underwriters were justified in raising their rates, as the experience at every recent fire has demonstrated. Whether they have made them abnormally high is a question that time alone can settle, but it must not be forgotten that St. John (east) is at present in great danger of a conflagration on its lower levels, should a fire break out in the proper place with a gale blowing at the same time. We have a good fire department, but

without an abundant supply of water of what value are engines and the best trained men. They are as helpless as was the old bucket brigade of 1849. It was the lesson of this disastrous fire that led to the organization of the volunteer fire department. It is to be hoped that the new water system will be inaugurated before there is repetition of the disaster of fifty five years ago. The people on the summits of the city have certainly obtained a better supply of water for domestic purposes, and no one will say that they got it before they needed it, but it has unfortunately been obtained at a great risk to the rest of the city, which might have been avoided by the use of even a grain of common sense, on the part of aldermen whose duty it was to have solved, instead of shelved this important question.

The following shows the receipts from the Water assessment in each year and the amount paid by agreement or meter consumers also the total revenue from both sources :

	Total	Assessments	Agreements
1890	\$ 98,725	\$86,271	\$13,453
1891	89,588	75,203	14,355
1892	94,145	78,496	15,649
1893	84,192	68,543	11,548
1894	97,728	81,869	15,859
1895	87,056	72,654	14,402
1896	92,654	77,137	15,508
1897	89,586	75,740	13,846
1898	100,031	84,296	15,735
1899	99,283	81,403	17,880
1900	99,563	81,584	17,979
1901	100,738	83,605	17,233
1902	104,166	75,690	18,476
1903			

It is difficult to explain the variations in the income from water from year to year, but the citizens will be

pleased to know that notwithstanding the large expenditure for the construction of the new water main for the west side, the revenue from water supply is sufficient to maintain the service without any increase in the rates. The fact of the matter is that the consumption of water is increasing every year and as the older buildings are modernized, and the manufacturing establishments are added to, the revenue from consumption must be further increased. Since 1889 there has been expended in the construction of new mains the large sum of \$306,900. Of this sum the west side main cost \$181,346 of which no less than \$76,332 were paid for land damages, arbitrations, law expenses and water rights. Yet when the large sum that is annually contributed by winter port steamers is added to the water rates the west side and Lancaster the new main is a paying investment and those who advocated it have no reason to be ashamed of what they did. The total revenue from water rates on the west side is now in the neighbourhood of \$18,000 annually and there is a continuous increase. But the placing of the new main is not the only expenditure on account of water extensions.

The steady increase in amount contributed by agreement customers give some idea of how the consumption of water is increasing. In former times, what are known as agreement customers were those supplied with water outside the limits of the water district. The extension of the water district to include Fairville lessened the number of agreement customers, but it has caused an increase in the revenue for the water that is measured through meters. This revenue has increased from \$13,000 in 1889 to \$20,000 in 1904. Most of this water is used for manufacturing purposes. The revenue from Winter

port steamers which has been over \$5,000 annually for the past two years had its origin in 1897, when \$624 is credit for the first time for this service. The demand for water for the Winter port steamers demonstrated the necessity for the extension of the Carleton system to meet the demand apart from the offer of the Cushing Sulphite Company.

The following shows the amount expended in each year for sewerage and water construction all of which has been paid by the issue of bonds:

	Sewerage	Water
1890	\$ 6,907	\$ 10,901
1891	9,261	8,734
1892	11,217	5,124
1893	8,217	1,972
1884	297	—
1895	2,328	1,200
1896	14,131	4,626
1897	8,268	77,600
1898	3,463	156,329
1899	4,451	26,586
1900	22,082	36,008
1901	6,333	33,052
1902	1,811	17,031
1903		

This shows an annual expenditure of about \$10,000 for water extensions including the cost of the Silver Falls pumping station which has added considerably to the water revenue. In addition to the sum spent on water extensions, about \$15,000 has been spent laying new high service mains, and making necessary alterations on the service. The first of these was drawn from water maintenance account, but although the account was still in funds in 1902 bonds to the amount of \$8,683 were issued to pay for the work done in this direction, an utterly indefensible act on the part of the aldermen. Since 1889 the total additions

to the pipe lines amounts to 33,018 feet of which 17,292 feet of service pipes and supply pipes for fire hydrants leaving a total additions to the mains at 15,726 feet or nearly three miles. This is exclusive of the additions on the west side of the harbor. In 1889 the pipe lines including mains in that division only totalled 64,000 feet, In 1902 there were 135,576 feet and when the service pipes are deducted this leaves, additions of 47,307 feet for new mains or about nine miles, but still the revenue more than meets the additional expenditure. Just here it may be well to point out that by the refunding of the water loan in 1895 the city saved about 10,000 per annum in interest charges, which has been a great help to the water department. There is still a large block of water bonds bearing interest at 6 per cent. but they will expire in ten years from now, and will permit of a further reduction of \$30,000 in the annual interest charged, as the sinking fund will be in shape to wipe out a large portion of the debt.

The following shows the amount paid for interest and also the amount contributed towards the sinking fund each year from the Water revenues:

	Interest	Sinking Fund
1890	\$60,048	\$ 4,180
1891	59,088	
1892	59,088	
1893	59,088	
1894	59,088	
1895	65,935	12,177
1896	49,687	8,798
1897	51,704	8,798
1898	62,480	8,798
1899	62,613	17,611
1900	63,982	7,602
1901	64,682	15,708
1902		

There is another phase of the matter which shows the methods adopted by the Council in dealing with the water account. Notwithstanding that this account was earning an excess over expenditures the new work done is all charged to capital account. On the face of it, this seems all right but no business man would borrow money to carry on and extend his business while he had a balance to his credit in the bank. Yet this is what the city has done in many instances. For a large expenditure such as the new water main on the west side, it was necessary to increase the capital expenditure but fully one half of the extension of mains might have been paid out of the current account and the debt kept down. Had this course been pursued the construction of the proposed extension to Loch Lomond would not be half so serious a matter as it at present looks.

The aldermen know these things and know that they have been guilty of most unbusiness-like methods in increasing the bonded debt for water extensions, while the water account has been showing a surplus of between forty and fifty thousand dollars every year. But while this surplus was apparent in the account, the extravagant expenditures in the street and the over expenditure in the fire, police and light departments wiped out this balance and left the city without cash on hand to carry on legitimate work without recourse to borrowing. If the expenditures of every account were kept within the amount assessed for the purpose, the large balance to the credit of the city in the water department and the general revenue could have been used to make further improvements without increasing the bonded indebtedness. Instead of that in 1901 it was applied to covering up the extravagances of the Council in the departments

indicated. The legitimate use of the water surplus is to increase the efficiency of the works and of the general revenue to reduce the old city debt, some of which is still afloat. In appropriating the water and general revenue balances as they did the aldermen have practically added sixty thousand dollars to the debt. The legality of the transaction of 1901 is very doubtful, but whether legal or illegal a most dangerous precedent has been adopted, and one which it is inadvisable to repeat. Who stands sponsor for this new method of finance is not known, but he should cease to be a member of the Council.

Another feature of this transaction which has not before been made public, is that in 1901 the usual credit of \$4,000 was not made to the sinking fund account. Although this amount was made good the following year, when \$8,000 was taken from the account and paid into the sinking fund, it does not lessen the responsibility of the Council in thus tampering with the credit of the city to cover up their own shortcomings.

As already intimated the refunding of about one half of the old water debt gave the aldermen about \$10,000 a year more to spend, and they have taken advantage of the opportunity to their full ability. Indeed as the revenue increased they have apparently looked about for ways to spend it in order that they should not be overburdened with so large a credit and they have succeeded almost beyond their own hopes. It would almost appear to anyone going carefully into the City Accounts that the aldermen objected to there being a credit balance to any of the accounts, and when they find one in such condition do the best they can to put it in the opposite condition. Over expenditure is the rule in the street, fire, police,

and light departments. The only reason that there is a balance the other way in the water accounts is that the revenue increases faster than was contemplated. The Chamberlain also guards the balance at the end of the year, as he has to provide for the interest on the sterling loan in February when collections are at their worst. This is perhaps the real reason why the the balance remains intact.

The total receipt of the water supply, the expenditures for the maintenance of the works and the balances on hand are shown in this statement :

	Receipts	Expenditures	Balance
1890	\$ 103,324	\$ 84,627	\$34,176
1891	90,030	87,173	36,033
1892	94,608	88,598	42,043
1893	85,140	89,257	37,926
1894	98,819	86,760	49,985
1895	87,566	103,030	34,210
1896	94,621	83,055	45,773
1897	90,873	95,546	41,000
1898	101,267	91,789	50,477
1899	101,296	104,191	47,582
1900	108,738	126,026	30,294
1901	106,139	106,159	
1902	111,742	97,183	5,526
1903	119,500	89,626	11,775

The cost of maintaining the water service is increasing with great rapidity as the years roll on, and there seems to be no end to the charges that are made against the department. Were it not for the handsome growth in revenue, this account would long ago have been in the same condition as all the others. The labor bill in the maintenance department has been doubled since Union, and the amount paid for supplies largely increased. There is a great variation in the amount charged under this latter head which in a measure is due to purchases of iron pipe in one

year that are not used up for two or three years. A considerable stock of pipe has always to be kept on hand and enough is bought at a time to make it an object for persons to tender. Generally there is a saving by purchasing in this way. But there does not seem to be any good reason why the labor bill should increase from an average of \$9,000 in the first two years after Union to an average of \$20,000 a year for the last three years. Yet that is the fact, and the explanation will have to be left with those who know the reason, for none of the published reports of the city give any idea why this should be so.

As already pointed out there has been an increased revenue from the water service almost in spite of the aldermen. The enormous decrease in valuations of stocks in trade is due to a change in the method of making the valuations. Prior to Union the Commissioners of Water and Sewerage, made their own valuations. After Union for several years this system was continued, the officials of the department making the valuations, which were passed on by the committee of Water and Sewerage, a sub-committee of the Public Works department. This system did not give entire satisfaction, and consumed too much of the time of the aldermen. A bill was passed through the legislature to permit the water department to take the valuations of real and personal property from the general assessment. This is the cause of the reduction, and goes to show that the Water Commissioners were able to discover more assessable property than the assessors. Of course there is always a variation in individual cases, but the general tendency of valuations is to increase. The fact that the meter consumption has increased shows that there is more manufacturing. That St. John merchants are doing

more business is evident from the increase of imports and exports as well as the increase of inward and outward freight on the railroads. That there are more people engaged in commerce is abundantly evident from the number of new buildings that have been erected in the business district and the fact that the old ones are better occupied than ever before. All this indicates an increase in the stocks carried. Yet the valuations shows a falling off. Surely it is apparent that the very reverse is the case. And even if it were contended that there was no increase in the trade of the city and that business men do more business and carry lighter stocks, because of the better transportation facilities, it must be borne in mind that there have been important extensions of the water mains and this alone should cause an increase in the valuation of assessable personal property. It is admitted, of course that the majority of these extensions are in the purely residential districts, and that few industrial or mercantile establishments exist in the new districts. This in the main is correct, but in this connection it is also to be pointed out that the value of the real estate has not been increased proportionately with what might be expected from the length of the extensions. Enough has been said to show the absolute necessity for a revision of the valuations of the city—for what applies to the water revenue applies to the taxation of the city, and would indicate that the values placed on both real and personal property by the assessors are much lower than those placed on the same property by the Commissioners of Water and Sewerage while that body was in existence. As no serious complaints were made about the valuations for water purposes when they were made separately, it goes without saying

that the ratepayer did not consider himself over assessed. But the question of assessment is one that requires separate treatment, and will be dealt with later on. But the time is certainly ripe for a revision of civic valuations, whether there is a change in the assessment law or not, and right here it may be remarked that we are no nearer a solution of this most important question than we were ten years ago.

The principal items of expenditure for water maintenance are for supplies, labor and the keep of horses. The following statement shows the variations from year to year :

	Supplies	Labor	Stable
1890	\$ 694	\$ 8,399	\$426
1891	3,066	9,762	510
1892	3,076	11,169	583
1893	2,727	12,293	313
1894	2,760	11,053	413
1895	1,839	10,131	296
1896	3,901	11,772	427
1897	8,439	16,848	409
1898	4,889	16,010	560
1899	4,904	15,160	461
1900	9,745	23,300	478
1901	7,530	20,990	469
1902	4,776	17,532	390
1903	4,714	21,852	351

In summarizing the present condition of the Water and Sewerage departments it is apparent that there has been a large extension in both. We added to our water mains by the construction of a practically new service for the West side. The returns of new sewers laid in this section of the city show also that there has practically been a new sewerage system given to this side of the harbor also. Before Union Carleton enjoyed a lower rate of taxation than either

St. John (east) or Portland. But to enjoy this privilege they did without many things which the other sections had and which have been supplied since Union, when the rate of taxation was equalized all over the city. There was a strong feeling of resentment at the beginning, but this the West side have long ago ceased to talk about and would not return to the old order of things if they could. They have more water, more sewers, better school buildings and the Sand Point improvements, to say nothing of greater police and fire protection and an improved ferry service at less individual cost than before. There has been growth and development where there was stagnation. But it must be borne in mind that the larger share of all these things is paid for by the trade of the whole city. Taxation comes out of the whole people not any particular class or district. Increased taxation means increased cost of living, and while some individuals may escape paying their full share, the majority contribute according to their expenditures.

It is therefore highly important that the expenditures of each department should be closely guarded. That this is not the case in the water department is abundantly clear from the statement published above. There has been an increase of \$14,000 in the revenue of the department in 15 years and an increase of about the same in the expenditures, with no practical results to show for it, except an improved water supply for the summits and a decreased pressure for the lower levels. Besides the increased cost there has been additions to the debt bordering on half a million dollars and all that we have to show in that direction is the improved west side service, and an extension of pipe lines on the eastern side of the harbor. To give us what we want will apparently cost anywhere from

a quarter to a half a million more. But the interest and sinking fund for this important service could easily be provided by a revision of valuations and the increased consumption without raising the rate of taxation beyond what it at present is, provided that the cost of maintenance is kept in bounds. Whether this is done or the present conditions continue rests entirely with the Common Council. A spasm of economy where all expenditures, necessary and unnecessary, are stopped is not the cure for existing evils. The whole system requires to be looked into and the pruning knife carefully and judiciously applied and various extravagances lopped off.

In connection with the sewerage system it may be pointed out that when a main sewer is laid in any street all properties are supposed to be drained into it at once, and the authorities have the power to compel all parties to enter the sewer. The entrance fee is \$10, and this is supposed to assist in the cost of constructing the sewer. When the Water and Sewerage Commission was in existence the Common Council entered a complaint that many property owners failed to comply with the law and they instructed the Commission to see that the law was carried out, and asked for a list of those who failed to enter the sewers when constructed. The list was a long one and went to show that fully ten per cent. of the properties along the lines of new sewers were not drained into them. In some cases the properties were drained by old private sewers, but in the majority of instances there was no drainage at all. The failure of the Water and Sewerage Commission to perform its full duty was considered very reprehensible by the Council, and was the subject of a resolution. But now when the Council has full charge, the condition

of affairs is even worse. If a property owner desires to enter the sewer he does so, but if he does not, that is all there is about it. Very little of the vacant land of the city is drained into the sewers, and the city is deprived of just so much revenue. There is ample power to compel all property owners to enter the sewers, and it is in the interest of public health that they should do so. Yet the law is not put into operation. Another thing about this matter is that the money paid for entering sewers goes into the sewerage maintenance fund, whereas it should go into the sewerage construction account and thus keep the bond issues down. This is a subject which requires attention.

Before leaving the question of water supply it may be well to give a brief sketch of the proposed extension of the service to Loch Lomond, which is now occupying the attention of the Council. There is nothing new in this project. It has been advocated for thirty years, and everyone who had given any attention to the subject, recognized long ago that ultimately the city would have to extend the system to Loch Lomond in order to get an adequate supply. The experience of the city in the construction of the main to Spruce lake and the large value placed on water rights by the holders, and the size of the awards made by different arbitrators terrified the citizens when the larger extension was mooted. But a new terror in the shape of an increase in fire insurance rates, amounting to an increased tax of \$40,000 a year on the commercial interests of the city hastened the action of the Council which had been dilly dallying with the water question for twenty years.

The Mispic river is the outlet of Loch Lomond and

its principal water powers are at its mouth. There was located, the pulp mill of St. John Sulphite company and the fact that this company was a large consumer of the water of Loch Lomond, greatly increased the difficulties of the situation for the city. Unfortunately for the company, but fortunately for the city, the company found its business unprofitable and went into liquidation and the city acquired the property on their bid of \$115,000 and have entered into possession. What the other rights along the river will cost no one knows, but it is generally believed that the city has made a good bargain and can sell the machinery in the mill or lease the property at a figure that will greatly reduce its cost to the tax payer. At the same time the city has secured a water power estimated at 600 horse power which can be utilized for the production of electric light. This power would be insufficient to operate municipal lighting on a large scale but it is asserted on good authority that there is another available water power on the river, of equal capacity and the two together would be sufficient for the city to make a start in municipal lighting where it is greatly favored by the majority of those who are extensive users of electric light and power. But the question has not yet been fully gone into, and the latest action of the Council is to instruct its three engineers to examine the water powers and to make a report on their capacity.

If the cost of water rights, land damages and arbitrations could be estimated, which they cannot be in advance, then it would be possible to figure the cost of the new undertaking of the city. This matter settled, the construction of the works is not one that should greatly concern the people. Engineer Barbour

who was called in to make a report on the whole question submits a general plan and estimates that the new mains, reservoir, dams and conduits can be built for \$168,289. The city has already spent \$115,000 for the principal water right on the river so that possibly \$350,000 would give control of the river and give the city a sufficient supply for the next fifty years.

The works on the east side, so far as they have been constructed have cost upwards of a million and a half of dollars at one time and another, the greater part of which is still floating, some of it bearing interest at 6 per cent. As already explained, a revaluation of the city would enable the Council to make all the expenditures without increasing the rates and when the 6 per cent. loan expires, ten years from now, a reduction is possible. It is too soon to say anything definite about the proposed new water service as the surveys have not yet been completed. When they are, and tenders are invited for the construction of the conduits the citizens will be in a better position to judge which is the cheapest—a first class water service or high insurance rates.

It has been the rule of the Council to extend the water mains to every district where it was shown that a revenue of 5 per cent. on the cost was possible. It is for this reason that the revenue of the water department is in such a satisfactory condition, as in most instances the revenue exceeds five per cent. on the cost. If the Council insisted on having all the entrance fees for sewers paid before the sewers were laid, and applied the money to the cost of construction the bonded debt for sewers would not be greatly increased in the next few years and the city would be thoroughly drained.

TRADE WITH THE STATES.

The constantly growing balance of trade between the United States and Canada against this country is a subject which greatly agitates the Canadian mind. It is true that Canada purchases immense quantities of raw materials which are not produced in this country, from the United States, but we also buy hundreds of thousands of dollar's worth of manufactured, and partly manufactured goods from our neighbour, all of which ought to be produced in Canada. Why is this so? The manufacturer says that the Canadian tariff is not sufficiently high to enable him to make these goods for the home market. It has long been a matter of complaint by the Canadian producer that the manufacturers of the United States, secure in their own market, have been in the habit of cutting prices on all classes of goods for export, in order to keep their mills running on full time. To meet this, Canada has adopted legislation, generally known as the anti-dumping clauses of the tariff to compel the collection of duty on the selling price in the home market on all manufactures of all countries entering Canada. It is thought that the anti-dumping clauses will in a measure prevent the unfair competition from which Canadian manufacturers have suffered in the past, but it is too soon yet to know the result of the new legislation which has only been in force a few months. As against the claim of the manufacturers the merchants and traders do not favor any increase in the tariff which they assert is

already high enough to protect the Canadian manufacturer.

A few years ago Canada adopted a preferential tariff in favor of Great Britain, and while the general effect has been good, it has not accomplished all that was expected of it. In 1883 Great Britain furnished 42 per cent. of the goods entered for home consumption and the United States 45 per cent. In 1903 we bought 58 per cent of our imports from the United States and 25 per cent. from Great Britain. In 1903 we imported from Great Britain and the United States for home consumption as follows:

	Great Britain	United States
Dutiable goods	\$42,210,165	\$68,538,323
Free goods	16,686,736	69,066,872
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	\$58,896,901	\$137,605,195

Great Britain admits our goods free, and is our best customer. The United States tariff is practically prohibitive against Canada, and there is a suspicion in the Canadian mind that in many articles it has been framed with the object of preventing Canadians selling their products in the United States. Canada has made several efforts to secure a trade arrangement with the United States and each time has met with a rebuff. Just now a small party in the United States is industriously endeavouring to persuade others in that country that the trade of Canada is of importance to the United States and unless it is placed on a more satisfactory basis, Canada may take action that will seriously embarrass United States manufactures in selling their goods in this country. The result of the United States election last November shows conclusively that the people of the United States are satisfied with present conditions, and

demonstrates to a certainty that there will be no move for reciprocal trade relations between the United States and any other country and that the party favoring a better trade understanding between the United States and Canada has no status whatever. Why should the United States change its trade policy with Canada when the experience of years has demonstrated that the present policy is immensely advantageous to the United States? Canadians who expect a change in that direction have a mistaken notion of the causes which lead to political changes in the republic to the south of us.

The United States producer is satisfied with the present tariff and the majority of the people are of the same mind. The whole country has been prosperous and there are no indications that the wave of prosperity is ebbing. This being the case Canada has to look to herself alone to place her commercial relations with the United States on a more equitable basis.

Within the past twenty years there has been a revolution in trade conditions. Many countries have adopted higher tariffs and gone into manufacturing. Germany is a leading example in this direction. The result is apparent in the increased variety of her productions and their distribution. Canada is a large buyer of German productions; notwithstanding the surtax placed on them. Our import trade with France, another high tariff country, is also on the increase. Indeed it may be claimed that the only country from which we do not buy a higher percentage of our imports than we did twenty years ago is Great Britain. That this is so is due to the greater variety of the productions of other countries.

Canada is a very young country and its people have

only partially adopted the policy of protection to home industries. Our nearness to the United States, has had the effect of increasing the wages of employes to somewhere near what they are to the south of us and the result is that with the limited market at our disposal our manufactures cannot compete with the larger producers of the United States in many lines. Like all new countries we are too anxious to dispose of our natural products in a partly manufactured state. Millions of dollars worth of lumber are annually exported as deals, which are fully manufactured elsewhere. We send away thousands of tons of pulp instead of making it into paper. What is true of the lumber industry, is true of every other industry, the raw product for which is found on Canadian soil. We have made a start in some directions, particularly in the production of iron and steel, but the greed of the company promoter and the unprincipled scheming of the stock jobber have imperiled the future of this great industry, and made the real investor timid in placing his capital. There are many things that Canadians might learn with advantage from the United States, but these are neglected, and while the least desirable methods of high finance, which many people claim spell robbery are copied.

The larger half of the population of Canada is engaged in agricultural pursuits and we have no fault to find with Canada's growth in that direction, but the industrial growth of the country has not been so satisfactory. We buy so much abroad that we could just as well make at home that employment in cities is curtailed. This is particularly noticeable throughout the Maritime Provinces, where manufacturing can hardly be said to have commenced at all, for if we

do not import our necessities and luxuries from a foreign country, we buy them from the other provinces of Canada.

A few years ago an effort was made by the government of New Brunswick to persuade the farmers to grow wheat for their own consumption, and to some extent the policy of the government was successful. Roller mills of a class capable of producing as good flour as can be purchased in the west, were constructed in every section of the country. But the production of wheat has not kept pace with the construction of the mills and many farmers still buy their flour. It is argued that it is more profitable for the farmer of New Brunswick to raise other crops, sell them, and with the money he gets buy flour. This is absurd. Three days labor and the use of the land will give the farmer all the flour he needs, besides feed for his animals. The great difficulty with Canadians is, that as a people, they are not manufacturers. They would sooner pay more for something made elsewhere than make it themselves, or encourage others in their own country to manufacture for them.

There are many reasons why we buy so extensively from the United States. In the first place the manufactures of the United States are better adapted to our wants than those of any other country, and every year the producers of that country are adding to the variety of goods they make. In many lines Canadian competition has shut American goods altogether, but there are more instances in the opposite direction. The rapidity with which our wants can be supplied by the manufacturers across the line, is another reason why we buy so largely from them. An order can generally be filled a few days after its receipt by a United States manufacturer, while it takes weeks to

get the same order filled in Great Britain. Our unwillingness to go into manufacturing is the principal cause of the large importation of manufactured goods from abroad, and the reason we buy so largely in the States is that the goods made there suit our market better, and can be got easier and quicker.

In dealing with Canada, the United States has pursued a policy of restriction on imports by imposing prohibitive duties. Canada has cut into her trade with the rest of the world, but by retaining the home market for their own people the United States gets all the profit Canadians make in their trade with the outside world. The only way to stop the flow of Canadian money into the United States, is to make for ourselves what we buy from them. We cannot avoid buying largely of their raw materials which cannot be produced in Canada, but it is safe to assert that if the producers of the United States had to face the same tariff that Canadian have to meet in trading with the States, it would greatly restrict their exports to Canada. There is no good reason why the balance of trade against Canada should continue in the same ratio as at present. If there is no reciprocity of trade the logical conclusion is a reciprocity of tariffs. If Canada placed the same restrictions on trade with the United States as that country does on its trade with Canada, the balance of trade would soon be equalized and Canadian cities would grow in population. If that were done American manufacturers sooner than loose the large trade, they have with Canada would establish branches in this country and Canada would get the benefit of the employment of the labor, necessary to manufacture fifty million dollars worth of goods annually. That some such step has not been taken by Canada long ago is a matter of surprise to United States producers.

There has been a great development of national sentiment in Canada in the past ten years. The older generation who remember the condition of things prior to confederation is passing away, and with it that provincial feeling that retarded our growth. Twenty years ago the great Northwest of Canada was an unknown wilderness. It has been opened up by means of railways and is rapidly filling up with an energetic population, whose one idea is the development of the country they live in. The growth of the west in the past five years has been one of the marvels of history, and we are only beginning to realize the great future of that country. But best of all is the fact that enough of this new population of the west is from the older provinces of Canada to perpetuate Canadian ideas and Canadian loyalty. Foreign immigration is rapidly assimilated in the western country and soon accustoms itself to the new conditions. It is well that this is so, or foreign ideas might make the government of a new country like our northwest difficult. The dangerous element avoids Canada, as punishment follows crime too quickly in this country to make it a popular place for any man who is too handy with his gun. Compare the condition of the Yukon with any mining camp in the United States. Law and order have always prevailed, since the first mad rush beyond the Arctic circle in pursuit of gold. The "bad man" tried it on but he found that he must respect the law or emigrate, and the "bad man" is more difficult to reform than to the chronic drunkard.

The growth of national sentiment is noticeable in the policy of the government. Every effort is being made to encourage inter-provincial trade and to develop the whole country. When the Canadian

Pacific railway was constructed, that greatest of Canadian statesmen, Sir John A. Macdonald thought that he had done his full duty to his country when he brought the road to Montreal. When another trans-continental route is brought to the attention of the public it is made to extend clear across the continent from ocean to ocean—and more than that, steamship connections on both the Atlantic and Pacific are demanded. No doubt there was an attempt on the part of those who desired to construct the new road to use existing lines rather than to build a highway, every mile of which would be on Canadian territory. But the Canadian people would not have it, and should there be an attempt to divert Canadian trade through foreign channels it will create such a disturbance that the attempt will have to be abandoned. It will be five years before this new transcontinental highway can be constructed and if national sentiment continues to develop in that period as it has in the past five years, he would be a brave man indeed who would attempt, by word or deed, to do anything that would hinder the growth and development of every section of this broad Dominion.

The development of the national idea is responsible for the present state of mind in Canada respecting our trade with the States. Unless he is personally interested, there is not a man in Canada, no matter what his politics may be, who does not believe that the United States is treating one of its best customers in a very scurvy manner, and is therefore anxious and willing that such national action should be taken, as an individual would exercise under similar conditions.

The duty of Canadians to themselves is clearly to manufacture at home as much of the goods they need

as possible, then to buy as largely from those who buy from their as they possibly can, consistent with buying right. We have nothing to gain by seeking to expand our trade with the United States under existing conditions or with any other country that meets us with a tariff. The proper method is to apply the same tariff on imports from a foreign country that they enforce against us, raw materials not produced in Canada being excepted. If France charges a general duty of 25 per cent. on imports of manufactures from Canada, then the duty on similar goods entering Canada from France should be the same. If the United States tariff averages 50 per cent. against us, then we should raise our tariff to correspond with it identically. We cannot offer free trade to Great Britain, as that would mean direct taxation for the support of the public service of the country, but we can offer a minimum rate of duty. For a quarter of a century Canada has been sending her people across the boundary line into the United States to reside there. This was because we had not sufficient employment at home to provide for the natural growth of our population. Recent years has changed this. There is still emigration from eastern Canada to the States but that is more than offset by the large number of Americans who have taken up land and become permanent settlers in western Canada. Having stopped the flow of Canadian population into the States it is the imperative duty of the government of Canada to check the flow of Canadian gold. We want all of that commodity we have for the development of Canada, and instead of paying away to the United States the profits we make on our trade with the rest of the world Canadians should so arrange their fiscal policy to retain this money for the further

development of the country. This is a duty we owe to ourselves and unless there is a change in our fiscal policy the material prosperity of Canada will be greatly interfered with.

IN THE EDITOR'S CHAIR.

PUBLISHER'S ANNOUNCEMENT.

The present number closes the fourth volume of the NEW BRUNSWICK MAGAZINE. An index of volumes three and four is in preparation and will be included in the January number.

Commencing with the January issue the NEW BRUNSWICK MAGAZINE will be enlarged and illustrated. It was the intention to have illustrated the present volume but it was found that the page was too small to admit of satisfactory reproductions and it was decided to wait until a new volume was commenced. Although the page will be increased in size and about fifty per cent. added to the reading matter it is the intention to make the next volume at least 450 pages of the enlarged size. The January and February numbers will consist 64 pages each and after that date it is intended that each number shall consist of 96 pages, although this number may not be reached until the April number.

A large number of prominent men in different sections of the Maritime provinces have promised

contributions on various subjects and there will be sufficient variety to make the contents interesting to all classes. Arrangements are being made for a serial story, the opening chapters of which will appear in the January number, and be continued through four or five issues. Fiction will be further represented by a complete story. The editorial department will be divided up, and a greater variety of topics discussed.

THE INTERCOLONIAL RAILWAY.

There has been some discussion in the daily newspapers regarding the Intercolonial railway, because the earnings are less than the expenditures. This has happened before and is sure to happen again. Since 1896, the earnings of the Intercolonial railway have been greatly increased, in fact doubled, but so have the working expenses. Had it been possible to maintain the scale of wages in force in 1896 the Intercolonial would have shown a handsome surplus, but this could not be done. The rates of wages paid, particularly to day laborers were so small that they had to be advanced. They were lower than was paid the same class of labor on any other railroad in Canada. The first increases were given to trackmen and as there has been a general advance of railroad men's wages, in every department, all over the continent, it was only natural that the agitation should extend to the Intercolonial, which in common with other great transportation lines was experiencing a large increase in traffic. These increases alone would wipe out any surplus that could be earned under the present tariff.

There are many things in Intercolonial management that ought to be corrected. The principal one of

these is the freight tariff, and the framing of such a tariff is one of the most difficult tasks any man ever undertook, no matter how well he may understand the railroad business. In the first place the Intercolonial is forced to compete with the Canadian Pacific for its St. John trade. In this the Intercolonial is handicapped by distance. But this is not the worst feature. For nearly its entire length the Intercolonial is compelled in the summer season to compete against water routes. Everyone knows that water borne freight can be carried more cheaply than rail freight. The scale of local rates is ridiculously low, as compared with other roads and to advance them produces a hue and cry that is heard from one end of the land to the other. Yet if the Intercolonial is to be made pay working expenses, and everyone will admit that this should be done, local rates and other rates also will have to be increased. There is no escape from this. The commuters rate is also too low, and too great privileges are allowed commuters. But what a vigorous kick would be made by persons who have country places out of Halifax, and St. John if these rates were raised? They would find a hundred other ways of increasing the revenue of the road, or of decreasing its expenses in as many minutes. Some Montreal, and other newspapers suggest the leasing of the road to a company as a panacea for all the evils of the present system. These editors have failed to grasp the real situation. The Intercolonial was constructed as one of the measures of confederation. New Brunswick was a large contributor towards the cost of the original railway, and public sentiment in the Maritime provinces is so strongly opposed to anything but government control of this important highway, that any attempt to lease the road and its

privileges would cause a revolution in this section of the country, The Intercolonial is a government railway, and a government railway it must remain. Suppose for an instant that it was seriously suggested to lease the canals of Canada to a private company. What a howl of indignation would come from the very newspapers which calmly tell the government the Intercolonial should be leased. Yet the canals occupy the same relative position in the transportation problem of the west as does the Intercolonial in the east.

It is clearly impossible for the Intercolonial to maintain a staff at less expense than a corporation owned railway. The people themselves demand that the operatives of a government railway shall be as well paid as those employed by a company. It naturally follows that when increases of wages are demanded by the people that they must be prepared to make good these increases out of the earnings of the road, and if these earnings are insufficient for the purpose they must be increased by an increase of rates. There is no escape from from this, except through an annual deficit which no minister will care to face for an unlimited period. As a parting word to those newspapers which seek to make political capital against the management of the road, when there is a deficit, yet always support every demand for reduced rates for traffic and increased wages for employes we would say investigate, the conditions which produce deficits and treat the question fairly on its merits. The study of Intercolonial conditions will well repay the labor of those newspaper editors who at present find their sole comfort in abusing the government for its management of the road.

CIVIC REPRESENTATION.

An agitation has been started to change the manner of electing the aldermen. In 1894 a number of gentlemen formed themselves into an organization known as the Tax Reduction Association. After a number of meetings, and a general discussion of civic management it was decided to appeal to the legislature to reduce the number of aldermen to fifteen, one from each ward, and two from the city at large, but as a matter of fact they were all to be aldermen at large, as they were elected by the vote of the whole people. In the case of an alderman representing a ward, it was required that he should either reside in or do business in the ward before he could seek election. This legislation was opposed by the Common Council, but it passed the House of Assembly and became law and resulted in an almost complete overturn in the Council. The present system of electing aldermen has been in operation now for ten years and has failed in its intention, as taxes have increased instead of being decreased. This would almost argue that the manner of electing aldermen has very little to do with taxation. The result has been the same whether the aldermen were elected by wards or by the vote of the city.

The cause of St. John's present financial position has its source in a totally different direction than the manner of selecting aldermen. There certainly has been laxity, carelessness and blundering in the management of the business of the city, but there was no improvement effected by the movement fathered by

the Tax Reduction Association. That the majority of the aldermen elected in 1894 were rejected in 1895 goes to show that the people were disgusted at the failure of the aldermen to reduce taxation. The real fact of the matter is that taxation can only be reduced after a careful examination of existing conditions, and no Common Council has ever taken the time to go far enough into the question to solve it. The whole method of civic management and civic book keeping will have to be changed. But first of all the aldermen must be compelled to keep their expenditures within the estimates. It is a well known fact to every member of the board that the earnings of the general revenue and the water maintenance accounts are in excess of their expenditures, and therefore the estimates of other accounts are pared down to the finest limit. It is a part of the civic system that every account should stand on its own bottom, but the existence of a unappropriated income gives the aldermen the opportunity to cut the assessment and keep on spending just the same, knowing that the excess revenue of the accounts above mentioned and the uninvested balance of the sinking fund, which is kept in the current bank account will pay the bills on demand. If payments were stopped just as soon as the credit of an account was exhausted then the aldermen would be compelled to reveal their over expenditure by borrowing money to place the account in funds, and the public would have knowledge of how the civic business is being managed. The Treasury Board might take the matter in hand and refuse to pass bills until there were funds on hand to meet them. Instead of doing this, they pass the accounts and the Chamberlain pays out of the balance on hand. The limit of this method of civic

finances have now been reached, as the expenditures of the present year has been on a sufficiently lavish scale to exhaust the city's bank balance. No one can yet just tell how the finances will come out this year, as the bills are not yet all in but it is safe to assert that the Chamberlain will not have sufficient money on hand at the end of the year to meet them all, if payment is demanded.

In addition to a complete change in the method of administering the city's affairs as that every dollar of prospective revenue is applied to some definite purpose, and legislation obtained to prevent payment of bills out of over expended accounts it is necessary to have a new valuation of the city for assessment purposes. The first will prevent over expenditure and the last mentioned will be a step in the direction of equalizing taxation more than at present. It makes little difference how members of the Council are selected, while present conditions are permitted to continue. Expenditure is popular with the people. They like to see things being done and are always pressing the aldermen to make improvements. As these improvements cost money and were probably not considered when the estimates were made they mean over expenditure. Yet thousands of dollars are spent in this way every year, and it is not until the books for the year are made up that the aldermen really know the condition of affairs and then they are ready to go on and do the same thing over again each year.

Any change that will alter this condition of affairs will be be beneficial, but what we really want is a Common Council, pledged to carefully examine all the conditions and change them in such a manner that the reckless spending of the Council will be

stopped and that the expenses of each department kept within the income,

THE CITY'S POSITION.

There has been a great awakening among the citizens of St. John in matters relating to the government of the city. More attention is being given to various question than for some time past, but not before it was needed. It is difficult to get people to realize the importance of prudent and energetic municipal management to the welfare of the city. It cannot be said that St. John has been well managed in the past, though it is not much worse than other cities. Because of the extraordinary rights, handed down under the original charter of the city to the Common Council to deal with, that body has many more problems to deal, with, than the average governing board of a city, which generally speaking has only to consider and spend assessments for maintaining the public services. It is the complex character of the work of the Council that has lead to present conditions. Matters of the highest importance to the well being of the citizens generally are put to one side for future consideration, while the more pressing matters only are disposed of. Much of the attention of the aldermen in the past seven years has been given to the solution of one question, the improvement of the harbor, and its equipment for the Winter port business. The Union of what was practically three distinct municipalities into the city of St. John created new conditions, which the people had to face. St. John (east) had been provided with many of the requisites

of a city prior to Union. Its streets had been graded and sewers and water mains were laid over its greater area. St. John, (west), had not done as much in this direction, preferring rather low taxation without modern conveniences. Portland was practically in the same condition. The equalization of taxation over the entire community naturally led to demands on the part of the less favored districts for the same conveniences that existed in the more favored localities. After a lapse of fifteen years the bulk of the necessary work has been done, some of it at the expense of general assessment, but the greater part out of capital account. Had there been no union, the debt of St. John (east) would have been constantly decreasing, while that of the west side and Portland would have been greatly increased, or the people living in these districts would have been compelled to do without the conveniences they now have. Now that these have been largely supplied, the time has come to call a halt in expenditures and to formulate a general plan of civic improvement, spreading over a number of years which can be carried out without, increasing either the bonded debt or the assessment.

The Common Council have much to do in the future to dispose of the incomplete business they have been pushing to one side for the past ten years. The harbor works are now nearly completed, or a stage has been reached where the end is in sight. There are still one or two properties on the eastern side of the harbor which the city ought to own to be in position to transfer the whole harbor interests to the federal authorities, when the time for such transfer comes, and it is nearer than most people imagine. The west side terminus will have to be completed by the erection of a new wharf on the site of south Rodney wharf. A

cold storage warehouse is also necessary to the equipment of that portion of the harbor improvements. The Water service will also take up considerable time of the Council before it is finally disposed of. But the most pressing need of all just now is a new assessment law. This is the most difficult problem the Council has to face. Nearly every one has ideas on assessment and it must be admitted that in the case of large tax payers these ideas are mainly in the direction of making some other fellow pay, while the man of ideas escapes altogether, or nearly so. It is impossible to get any one to admit that his particular business is not over taxed and that it would be greatly in the interests of the community to re-adjust the rates, so that his business would be relieved. The growing demands for improvements and the compliance with this demand has naturally increased the rates. The money has to be obtained and the duty of the Council, is to see that everyone, according to his means, contributes. This is just where the difficulty comes in. Every city has to meet just such difficulties. There are other questions also to be considered, which involve the ownership, and control of public utilities, but these are less pressing and in the present condition of the civic money chest can safely be allowed to stand until the others are finally disposed of.

Enough has been said to show the imperative necessity of an industrious Council comprised of the best available material to finally dispose of matters of the highest importance to the future of the city, which have been allowed to drift along for years, or have become the subject of annual tinkering not much of which was an improvement on the old order of things.

PURITY IN POLITICS.

It is the custom of many preachers to deliver a discourse just before an election, and tell the people what a sinful thing it is to sell their votes, or to buy the vote of someone else. Yet the expenditure of money for the purpose of securing votes goes on. It is considered quite legitimate to use all sorts of arguments, to influence the opinion of the voter, but the direct purchase of votes is forbidden by the law. Still it goes on. It has always been a matter of doubt how much of the cash that is handed out to the "heelers" on election day finds its way into the pockets of the men for whom it is intended, and how much sticks to the fingers of the "heeler" on its way. No one has yet been able to fix the percentage, and nobody ever will. But everybody who is interested in procuring funds to contest elections is anxious that the use of money for other than legitimate purposes should be stopped. It has always been a matter of doubt as to how much is accomplished by the use of money on election day and the general consensus of opinion is that unless the contest is a very close one, the result would be the same without money as with it. Where a dozen or so of votes turn the scale, money may elect or defeat a candidate. But we have few such elections in these parts.

A few determined men can stop the expenditure of money in any constituency, but the doing of this is not pleasant, and therefore what is everybody's business, is nobody's, and reputable citizens risk their liberty, buying votes for it is punishable by imprison-

ment, in their efforts to secure the election of their favourite candidate. There is plenty of machinery provided to make elections pure, but the means of putting the machinery in operation are defective. If it is seriously intended to enforce the law, then let provision be made for inspectors of elections in the various constituences, whose duty it would be to stop all violations of the law and procure evidence that would convict those who are arrested for violating the law. It would then be very difficult to get reputable citizens to go out on election day, with a fistful of two dollars bills, fresh from the printing press and hand them out to electors who were willing to be "influenced." There are not a great many decent men who would take the chances and those who were willing to take the risk, would not be trusted with the money.

Sermons are very useful in their way, but an efficient inspector of elections whose duty it was to prevent illegal practises by all parties, would do more to bring about a genuine reform than a dozen sermons. The time has arrived in this part of Canada to stop the expenditure of money in purchasing votes. Both the man who buys, and the man who sells ought to be punished but until more efficient machinery to enforce the law, than we now have, is put into operation the trading in votes will continue, until elections will grow so expensive that no one by professional grafters will enter the field on any side.

The illness of Rev. W. O. Raymond has prevented that gentlemen furnishing the article promised for the Christmas number. The third installment of Rev. W.

C. J. Gaynor's very interesting description of Membertou, the great Indian sagamore, will appear in the January number. The illustrated articles in the next number, will be of local interest.

ARE WE GRAFTERS OR NOT.

There have been many sensational charges made since the last Dominion election which involve the honor and integrity of more than one man, prominent in affairs of this country. But the most startling of all appears in a French newspaper which discloses an alleged plot to overthrow the government by corrupt means, and thereby obtained valuable franchises out of which a pot of money could be made. That these alleged plots will be thoroughly investigated by parliament will be demanded by the people of all classes in the community. If even a part of the alleged disclosures are true, it reveals an attempt to hold up a government and a people for the benefit of a few individuals without parallel in this or any other country. But if there was such a plot it failed in its inception, as no attempt was made by the parties in whose fertile brains it originated, to put it into execution. It is inconceivable that men who would plan such wholesale treason should lack the courage to carry through their plans, and abandon them at their inception. It is darkly hinted that certain disclosures were threatened, by prominent persons, if the plot,

which it is claimed leaked out, were not abandoned and it is represented this threat had the desired result. How much information one set has regarding the moments and doings of the other, is not apparent at the present time. The interest of the common people has been whetted to such keenness that they will demand of the political powers to disclose all they know of each other, no matter who may be damaged by such disclosures. If there has been corruption in high places the people want to know the guilty parties and the extent of the guilt. If on the other hand the alleged disclosures are mere sensational twaddle, for the purpose of alarming the public, they want to know that also. It is the truth the people want; for the Canadian people are not grafters and will not stand for graft in politics or business. Such a plot as that reported indicated is trifling with the sacred liberties of a people, who have shown their ability heretofore to govern themselves cleanly and well. By all means let us have the whole truth through the medium of a parliamentary enquiry. There have been recent disclosures regarding Ontario elections which exhibit a condition of facts that are startling in the extreme, and go to show that the election law in some constituencies is more honored in the breach than in the observance. These things can only be corrected by sending the offenders to the penitentiary, where they properly belong. Public sentiment, if it has not reached the same level as the trickster who seek to defraud the people of the sacred right of representing themselves, will demand the swift and sure punishment of the offenders, and no excuse will be accepted from the powers that be for the non-enforcement of the law. The time has evidently come in Canada, when the political sit-

uation requires to be clarified. We have an example of that right here in St. John, where there is a bye-election in progress. One party is industriously beseeching the other not to use improper influences to elect its candidate. It would be much more to the point if both parties were to organize vigilance committees to secure evidence to prosecute offenders on opposite sides, pledging themselves in advance, that there would be no saw-off to save the guilty parties. Such actions would go further to convince the common people of the sincerity of political leaders than all the academic editorials that will be printed by party newspapers, the proprietors of which have in the past used every means legal and illegal to elect their candidates.