

Communications.

To the Editor of the Maritime Farmer:

Sir—If you were present at the last meeting of the City Council, you must have been amused as well as disgusted at times in witnessing the scenes enacted in the Council Chamber by certain Aldermen, who to the surprise of almost everybody have obtained seats at the Civic Board. To begin with Ald. Gutter's blundering with regard to Police matters and the ignorance he displayed in speaking on that question, and which with Macpherson's eloquent (?) and pathetic appeals for the rights of poor working men (who by the way will not feel flattered to have a champion) the evening's proceedings, with certain honorable exceptions, were extremely undignified and childish. It was quite apparent that some of the gentlemen who occupy seats in the Council felt keenly the situation, and undoubtedly they wished themselves in better company.

It is a fact that no matter what is proposed the irrepressible Alderman for St. John's Ward is on his feet immediately. In order to out of the Council Chamber, he must have his say, and he quite readily delivered the quibbles he received from His Worship the Mayor, as well as the droning down Ald. Wilson gave him with regard to his "lamentable ignorance" respecting the duties of the City Clerk. Both Aldermen Clinton and Macpherson seem to have an ambition to copy each other in the Council Chamber, and to do so they have been referring to the police were silly and partially untrue, while their boasted regard for economy was not verified by their subsequent course in supporting reduction in certain officials' salaries, while they favored others receiving the same amount as at present.

It was really laughable when Ald. Wilson moved his resolution respecting the payment of the grant to the St. John Relief and Aid Society, to see with what avidity it was seconded, and how the whole assembly that had almost unanimously voted down Ald. Burchell's resolution at a previous meeting—when provided for the payment of the grant in five years, while the resolution which passed Tuesday night provides for the payment in two years—stood up when the years were called.

The reduction of salaries was the principal feature of the meeting, and to the minds of many of our citizens blundering was a note in that direction. It is not denied by anybody that there was room for economy in this connection, but it is necessary to exercise an amount of discretion (which some of our Aldermen lack) in curtailing expenditures that are so directly connected with the proper and efficient discharge of the public service. I am satisfied that the Council acted in reducing the salaries of deserving officials, while they erred equally in the opposite direction of fixing those of others at nearly the same figures as before.

A more particular consideration of the matters contained in this letter, will form the subject of a communication with which I will trouble you in a future issue of the MARITIME FARMER.

Yours, &c.,
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SERIOUS FIRE!

The Parliament Buildings almost entirely destroyed by fire.

At 10:30 o'clock last night an alarm of fire was given from Parliament Building Square, and upon examination the Legislative Library was found to be the seat of the conflagration. The fire was discovered, was communicated from the grate in the Council Chamber, in which a fire had been burning all day. It seems that the fire started from the grate, and between it and the beams was insufficient protection. It must have caught early in the day, as several parties say that in passing they saw the smoke rising from the building in time developed into most formidable dimensions. Mr. E. W. Vavasour and Fred Sterling were the first persons at the scene, and the members of the government, who had been in session in the Council Chamber, adjourned upon the alarm.

The writer arrived five minutes after the first alarm was given, and the fire had got considerable headway both in the Library and Legislative Council Chamber, the doors and windows were immediately broken open and the valuable books of the Legislative Library were removed and stored in the adjacent public offices, while those present with the aid of shovels and baskets put snow on the flames, and in a measure allayed them until the steamers arrived. A few minutes afterward the fire broke out again, and it was easily got under control but for the communication which it made with the gas pipes, which led into the attic over the Council Chamber. Very soon the entire roof of the building was burning, and the efforts of the firemen were unavailing.

At one time it was thought the main building would be entirely destroyed and the furniture of the Assembly Room, the Judges' Chambers, Speaker's and Members' Rooms were quickly got out; also the Law Library, the latter almost unharmed. The flames now began to make their appearance through the roof of the ell, and their lurid light illuminated the whole lower part of the city. By this time hundreds of people had gathered on the ground, but there was no excitement whatever. The only regret expressed was with regard to the damage to the Libraries. At 1 a. m. the fire was got pretty well under control, and at 2 a. m. the steamers stopped playing.

The ell containing the Legislative Council Chamber, the Clerk's Room, and the Legislative Library is a mass of ruins, while the rear of the main building is badly damaged. The interior is entirely stripped, and nearly destroyed by the water, with which it was deluged.

No idea of the loss sustained by the Legislature can be given as yet. The damage is as follows:—
Building \$6,000; \$4,000 in the Queen, \$2,000 in the Commercial Union, \$1,500 in the Western, Law Library, \$2,000 in the Northern.

Mr. Inches is agent for the Commercial Union, North British and Mercantile, and Western Companies, and Mr. Richards for the Queen, Enna and Northern.

Henry Wilmot, Esq., (son of His Honor) has been appointed Private Secretary to the Hon. Lieut. Governor, and A. F. Street, Esq., A. D. C. Mr. Street was unable to-day to attend to his new position from the accident which happened to him, as noticed elsewhere.

Marriages.

On the 18th inst., at the residence of the bride's father, by the Rev. J. E. Reid, Mr. J. C. D. C. Mr. Street was unable to-day to attend to his new position from the accident which happened to him, as noticed elsewhere.

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For Sale or to Let.

And possession given on the 1st May.

THE subscriber's THREE-STORY DWELLING, with two upper floors, at present occupied by Mr. R. S. Nicholson, for further particulars apply to
T. CLOWES BROWN,
Fredericton, Feb. 4, 1880.

TO RENT.
FROM the 1st day of May next, the newly fitted up HOUSE and Premises on the corner of Regent and Henric Streets, at present occupied by Mr. R. S. Nicholson, for further particulars apply to
JAS. PEPPERS,
Feb. 12, 1880.

TO RENT.
TWO pleasantly situated Dwelling Houses in Waterford Row, the one at present occupied by E. R. Parkin, Esq., and the other by G. J. Bliss, Esq., for further particulars apply to
W. BRYDNE JACK,
Feb. 9th, 1880.

TO LET.
Possession given on 1st of May.
THE UPPER FLAT of the subscriber's house in Taylor's Alley. It contains seven rooms and is well finished throughout.
Rent moderate.
JOHN COOMBS,
Feb. 12, 1880.

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