

Board of Works
May 98

MR. MURDOCH'S CRITICS.

AND WHAT THEY SAY OF THE PIPE LINE ROUTE.

The Water Work Engineer's Wisdom Called into Question by Fairville Men—Ald. Christie Defends Mr. Murdoch and Offers His Services as an Expert.

The uppermost question in the civic mind at present is the proposed extension of the Carleton water system. The lengthy arbitration is now going on piling up costs for the city to pay and accumulating evidence purporting to show that the city is depriving private owners of valuable privileges for pulp mill and other manufacturing purposes for which deprivation, it is claimed, the city should pay a good round figure.

Then there is an interesting fact in connection with the survey of the line which received official recognition at the Council meeting on Thursday. This survey has been discussed much by the residents of Fairville and vicinity, and the criticism has all been one sided. They have said that the line had been surveyed through swamps and marshes, quick-sands and mud bogs where there was no foundation and the pipes would be continually breaking. So certain were the critics that they have ridiculed the results of the combined intelligence of the Board of management of water and sewerage, engineer Murdoch and his assistant T. Gray Murdoch. Even so astute a business man and land owner as Dr. James Walker has expressed his surprise to the mayor and others that they should have followed the route of survey that they did.

It was Ald. McMullin who brought the matter up in the council, and several of the aldermen said the Fairville men had approached them on the subject. The mayor delivered his sentiments on the subject. It is well known that his worship is opposed to this expenditure of \$135,000 which he considers unnecessary, and though the money has been already raised for the purpose he still took advantage of the occasion to enter his protest against the scheme. 'Why, asked he, are we going to this expense to provide water for this pulp concern when we have no assurance from them that they are in a position to establish their industry.' This query brought a reply from Ald. Waring who said that the water was not merely for the pulp mill. The present supply was insufficient for Carleton and must be increased.

Ald. Christie here brought the discussion back to the pipe line and said in defence of Engineer Murdoch that he had the latter's assurance that the new line would be a quarter of a mile shorter than the old line, and would give a supply of 350,000 gallons per day more than if laid by the old route. In regard to the pulp mill he assured the council that the city would not be compromised in that they would enter into no definite contract with the company but would make the same bargain with them that they made with any private citizen, and that was to supply them with water in quantity and at cost commensurate with the capacity of the supply.

Then there was some discussion about the advisability of sending an expert over the route to pass judgment upon the matter. Ald. Hamm said the present engineer was a young man and had not had experience with such grounds. Ald. McGoldrick agreed with him saying that 98 per cent. of the people in the locality were saying that the route is wrong and were making a laughing stock of the survey.

Then Ald. Stackhouse arose and said he did not believe in experts and Ald. Christie said there was no need of one. He was not a civil engineer but he ventured to say he could go over the ground and say whether the route was a good one. All he had to do was to go down through the mud and if there was gravel underneath it was all right.

Ald. Christie's opinion usually goes and the matter was dropped then and there. The arbitration will go on, the money for the work is raised, the pipe is purchased the pipe line is surveyed. Some day Ald. Christie will take a jaunt over the proposed route and strive to show that the criticism of the engineering intellect of Fairville is at fault and that the board of management and their officials, whom he defends so valiantly are right.

However, there is one thing sure and that is that many believe that when the claimants for damages have been satisfied and the pipe line laid that the cost to the

city will have approached nearer to \$200,000 than \$135,000.

The tax rate is now bounding up and it is said that this year's rate will go up to about \$1.55 as a result of the Sand Point expenditure and this new loan will send it climbing up toward \$1.60.

MOOSEPATH RACES, THURSDAY.

The Meeting Promises to be One of Exceptional Interest.

Horsemen throughout this province are taking a keen interest in the events that open the horse racing season this year. The entries for the meetings at St. Stephen on Dominion day and that in Calais on the fourth of July promises better sport than has been seen on any track in this section for years. St. John will probably have a chance to see many of the same horses next Thursday, for the enterprise of a number of gentlemen suggested and planned a meeting at Moosepath for next Thursday and arrangement have been made for practical the same field of entries to compete. In order to make the event, as attractive and popular as possible no pains will be spared to introduce features that have long been lacking at Moosepath meetings. The gentlemen who will occupy the judge's stand will be selected with the view of having the best talent in that direction. Hitherto the selections of judges has often been made in haste and at haphazard, a condition of affairs that is not apt to give entire satisfaction. So far as PROGRESS can learn the gentlemen interested in the management of the races propose not only to make this change but to see that the meeting is conducted more in accordance with the methods of modern race tracks for example the press stand which has been in the past more a resort of owners of horses and their friends than for the newspaper men will be reserved wholly for representatives of the press and friends. It is also the intention to have special provision made for the accommodation of ladies and an effort will be made to induce more of the fair sex to attend than have been in the custom of going to Moosepath. Excursions have been arranged from different points and as these no doubt will be accompanied by bands they will furnish an additional attraction. Viewing it from every standpoint the meeting promises to be an exceptional one in the history of Moosepath.

MUSIC FOR THE CITIZENS.

How it May be Supplied to the People—A Suggestion.

Many and various have been the suggestions for providing music for the people and a new one was brought forward at Thursday's meeting of the Council. Mayor Sears stated that Lt. Col. Jones had approached him with an offer from the Artillery Band to furnish music. He stated that a platform might be laid near the fountain and the people could enjoy the music from the squares. There was a discussion and some of the aldermen said the people would trample over the grass and flower beds. It was suggested that the people on such an occasion might confine their promenading to the sidewalks around the squares. After some discussion the matter was referred to a committee. Once on a time nothing less than a hedge of bayonets with the red coats behind them would prevent people from trampling over the grass but they have developed more pride in the squares and an optimistic person might now have sufficient faith in the public to think that they would respect the pride of the Horticultural Association. It is to be hoped however that the difficulty will evolve a solution and a band will be provided. An incident of the discussion was when Ald. White asked who would provide the platform over the fountain at which his worship said that if there were any dispute about that he would supply it himself.

A Vexed Question Settled.

The patrol wagon and the police alarm system have received their quietus and the aldermen manipulated the bare bodkin which performed the fell deed. Once the aldermen were all in favor of these two accompaniments of modern police methods but they have changed their minds. They had accepted the offer of the Women's Council for a patrol wagon but on Thursday they said as gracefully as possible to the ladies, take back your patrol wagon. Ald. McMullin made a feeble attempt to champion the ladies by moving that the section of the report of the safety board which referred to the matter be sent back to the board. After the aldermen, how-

ever, had expressed their views Ald. McMullin said that really he was opposed to accepting the wagon. He had evidently moved in the matter merely out of native gallantry to the fair sex.

"KIT" IS ALL RIGHT.

She is a Huge Success as a Special War Correspondent.

Mrs. Blake Watkins, otherwise "Kit" of Toronto went to Florida at the beginning of the Spanish-American war, as special correspondent for the Toronto Mail and Empire and one or two New York papers. She is doing excellent newspaper work and even experienced men of the pen acknowledge that she is finding "copy" where they never dreamed of looking for it. A correspondent of the London, England, Mail says of her:

"In the evening, after supper, when the band was playing on the verandah, and the customary conversation was in full swing, we observed that the lady correspondent knew everybody worth knowing in about a quarter of an hour. We had introduced her to one or two of our officers at first. In a little while she was introducing us to generals and colonels. She talked to the Cuban ladies, and casually informed us that she had got an interesting statement of the personal experience of one of them, which she thought would throw a good deal of light on the Cuban question. We heard her talking to the Cubans—she was chattering away in fluent Spanish. There was a French family with the Cubans. We heard her talking with them in French. Before the evening was out she gave us the full details of a most important little expedition which was to be sent in advance to Cuba with arms and stores for the insurgents—news which we had been unsuccessfully endeavoring to get for ourselves."

THEY OUGHT TO WEAR A BELL.

Wheelmen Have Troubles of Their Own With Pedestrians.

It was suggested by PROGRESS some time ago that pedestrians wear a bell for the benefit of bicyclists, and it would seem that in view of the many knock downs reported lately that such a course would soon be absolutely necessary. These mishaps are occurring almost hourly, and while they may be only an episode in the life of a wheelman or wheelwoman they are far from pleasant to the victim. On Thursday afternoon one of these incidents occurred and that it did not have fatal results was not the fault of the bicyclist who figured in it. He came along Charlotte street and turned into Princess street just as a young lad of seven or eight years carrying a parcel was about to cross the street. The wheelman rang but the noise of an approaching car drowned the sound. The little fellow looked around, made an attempt to step aside, and in a second was knocked down, with his head almost touching the rail. The car was only a short distance away—perhaps a dozen yards—when a man jumped forward and picked up the half unconscious boy. The wheelman dismounted and hardly waiting to find out the result of the accident—said "you young devil, what do you mean by getting in the way. You might have been killed," and with the utmost indifference mounted his wheel and was off in a hurry.

A Valuable Industry.

Pulp mills and water supply seem to be correlated subjects. The fate of the Cushing pulp mill is intimately connected with the success of the Spruce Lake water extension and vice versa and now it seems that the Mooney pulp mill has something to do with the water supply of the city proper. It appears that Mr. Mooney has been negotiating with the board of management for a lease of certain city lands at Mispec and the matter came up at Thursday's council. Ald. Millidge assured the aldermen that there were some very delicate and nice points of law involved in the request and while the aldermen were desirous to assist the Messrs. Mooney they were also anxious to protect the city's right in regard to water supply. Ald. Christie also vouchsafed the information that the board of management wanted so much from Mr. Mooney and Mr. Mooney wanted to pay them so much. The questions were left to the board of management to deal with and it is to be hoped that it will reach a conclusion satisfactory to all concerned. It is stated that the company will spend \$142,000 here annually in wages and materials so it is an industry worth encouraging.

HE WANTED A DIVORCE.

BUT HE GOT INTO THE WRONG PLACE FOR LAW.

An Aged Man Decides Upon a Separation From the Partner of His Joys and Woes and Thinks a Newspaper as Good as a Lawyer—Story of His Wrongs.

PROGRESS had a queer visitor late Thursday afternoon. He was a man of about seventy years of age, and was almost out of breath when he reached that part of the building in which the editorial rooms are situated. He was invited to a seat and after he had somewhat recovered proceeded to make known the object of his visit.

"I want a divorce," was the rather startling announcement that deprived the staff of its breath. "Yes I do. How much will it cost?" And the man who had evidently found marriage a failure drew out a pocket book that looked as though it might contain the price of a divorce—in some countries.

"But you've come to the wrong place," the visitor was told "It's a lawyer's office you're looking for isn't it." "Well I'm not over particular" was the cheerful reply—"it's the divorce I'm after. You see I got married here two years ago. My wife's nearly thirty years younger'n me but we got along pretty well till last spring, when she took it into her head to go out nights after I was in bed. I woke up one night and heard her talking to a man on the steps but she said it was the postman and she was giving him some letters to mail. It wasn't though, and by jingo I watched her pretty close, and now I've found she's got a different postman or somebody every night. I've talked and talked but it ain't no use, and if there's any law, goin' I guess I can get a divorce."

The old fellow didn't quite know how to go about trying to regain his freedom and was very desirous of getting whatever points he could on the interesting process. He was supplied with the names of half a dozen men of the law and went on his way rejoicing. He had only fallen into the common error of thinking that it is a newspaper's province to furnish everything under the sun from a divorce to a burial permit.

IT ENDED IN DISASTER.

A Boy Escaped but the Policeman Came to Grief.

A funny sight was witnessed one night this week on one of the principal streets in the city. It was shortly after ten o'clock, and the crowd of pedestrians had thinned out considerably, when a small boy of perhaps ten years bolted along the street, running like a deer. He had his cap in his hand, and in his eyes a frightened look, that told not only of a guilty conscience, but a deadly fear of the big police. A man a few feet behind and who was also slipping along at a lively gait, evidently in hot pursuit of the boy. The few who saw the chase watched to see how it would end.

"Say," called a sympathizing urchin from the other side of the street "git up in that alley. He can't catch you there."

The boy acted on the advice and in a second or two had disappeared in the darkness of an alley near by. The policeman made for the alley also, but he wasn't quite so sure footed as the boy. He made a quick turn and—a headlong dive, and the next thing the surprised watchers saw was a big guardian of the peace measuring his length on the muddy crossing, and a billy and a cap landing in the middle of the street. When the policeman regained his equilibrium he abandoned the chase and began to gather up his belongings.

Valuable to Tourists.

Soon the tourists will be our guests in large numbers and may they come in greater numbers than ever before is the wish of all. The Tourist Association are getting out a neat booklet which will be handed to every tourist who comes here. It will tell him where to go and what to see while here and all information necessary to his comfort and pleasure. It will be handsomely illustrated and among the illustrations will be a long folding plate of the harbor showing it in all its proportions from Partridge Island to the Strait Shore. These books the tourists will carry away to do missionary work for the city in their homes.

As She is Spoken.

Quite frequently it falls to the lot of most people to hear some choice examples of the sporting vernacular, but the terse

description of a visiting ring follower given a few days ago when an American cruiser was the subject of an animated interchange of opinions, so far caps the climax for poetic beauty. The man with the navy blue suit and jaunty headgear said—"Say, he's a beaut and one of de swellest wot ever toed de rezum; an' dat ain't no dream, see!"

PLEASED WITH THEIR VISIT.

A Larger Number Than Usual at the Teachers Association.

The Teachers Institute has been in session here this week, and the bill of fare has been a veritable feast of reason and a flow of soul. The brightest intellects of the province have exchanged ideas and no doubt the result will be noticeable when teachers and pupils meet again at the close of the holidays. The Institute is an excellent thing and the teachers' annual visit to the city should be made as pleasant as possible. Their path in life is not rose strewn by any means, their work during the greater part of the year is worrying and, at times, discouraging but they bravely surmount all difficulties, and their bright faces and hearty pleasant ways, when they come to attend the Institute are something good to note. A very large number attended the meetings this year, and all professed themselves delighted with the work done.

A MEAN DISPLAY OF POWER.

A Man Dismissed for Going to get a Drink of Water.

Some men when they get a little authority become in a short time the possessors of fearfully enlarged heads and the least provocation brings from them some very unpleasant actions and words. Here is one of these frequent cases:

A board piler at one of the Indiantown mills left his work for the short space of exactly two minutes to refill the water can for himself and fellow workmen to drink from, for it was one of the hot days of this week. When he returned to the mill, the foreman told him to put on his coat and quit work. He did so but the other employes have lost all the little love they ever had for their "boss," and Indiantown people in general consider the exhibition of petty power anything but manly and fair.

For Men of Serious Mind.

The first number of the New Brunswick Magazine will soon be issued with the name of Mr. W. K. Reynolds as editor and proprietor. It will have no fiction and no abstract writing. It will be entirely historical and descriptive and containing as it will good solid reading dealing with the resources of these provinces and seeking to clear up interesting historical questions it should commend itself to the public. The magazine should receive hearty support and it is to be hoped that it will be longer lived than the average run of Maritime province magazines. In the list of contributors are enrolled the names of some of the best of the serious writers of Canada and the initial number will be watched with interest.

He Lost the Ring.

A marriage which took place here not so very long ago had a little incident connected with it that proved most embarrassing for the groom and caused some knowing comments from the superstitiously inclined. At that part of the interesting ceremony where it is necessary to produce the ring he didn't produce it. The fact was that he had lost or mislaid it, and it was only when another ring, the property of the bridesmaid, was furnished him that he began to feel happy again. The missing article turned up later on.

An Excellent Institution.

The Calendar of the University of St. Joseph's College, Memramcook N. B. has been received and contains most interesting information regarding the general work of the institution, its rules, etc. together with a list of the pupils from September '97 to June '98. This seat of learning holds a leading place among the educational institutions of the province, and is ideal in situation. Greek has recently been made optional, the faculty very wisely deciding that a thorough knowledge of French would be of greater benefit to the average young man.

Will it End in a Strike.

The Ship Laborers have a difficulty on hand that threatens to lead to serious results. It is to be hoped that the trouble will be averted by recourse to a strike, which has been strongly talked of this week. A meeting was held Thursday evening and the matter discussed by the members.