

[From the Saint John Courier.]

THE CITY CHARTER.—The Committee of the Common Council, appointed to report upon the amendment of the City Charter, submitted a second report at a meeting of the Board last week. The report recommends the division of King's Ward—Charlotte and Garden streets to be the dividing line; each ward to have two representatives in Council, as at present, but both to be styled Aldermen, and to have equal powers; the Aldermen not to be required to reside in the wards which they may be chosen to represent, so long as they are residents of the City. Vote by ballot and registry of votes are recommended, and the elections to be held by commissioners. Changes in the City Court are suggested—the Court to be held weekly, and to have its jurisdiction extended to cases where the sum in demand does not exceed Ten Pounds, instead of £5, as at present—the Aldermen to issue precepts as well as the Common Clerk, and persons to be compelled to appear on the summons, or to suffer judgment to go by default. The appointment, by the Council Board, of a Stipendiary Magistrate is recommended, who is to be placed upon a salary, and to have the sole right of deciding in cases of assault, &c. in the City—all fines or fees to be paid over to the Chamberlain. The Committee also recommend that people of colour, who are British born subjects, be allowed to take out their freedom, and to enjoy all the privileges of Freemen of the City.

BUILDING SOCIETY.—On inquiry we are glad to find that there are now one hundred members enrolled, who hold from one to five shares each in this Society. The Directors have already lent out one thousand pounds of their funds, and an advertisement in our columns to-day offers £600 more, to be disposed of by ballot, on Wednesday next.

New shares are taken every month, and the facilities which this Society offers, enable persons of even the most moderate means to become members. A saving of six pence per day enables any one to become a member, and entitled to a loan of £60, or to £120, payable 11 years hence. The money deposited can be withdrawn at any time, if required, with the interest thereon, at the rate of one-half per cent. per month.

All inquiries respecting the Society should be made of the Secretary at the office, from whom the fullest information can be obtained.—*N. Br.*

In Canada papers, received yesterday, we observe a notice of the disposal of two Building Society loans at Kingston, last week. Nine hundred pounds of the Kingston Building Society were sold at a bonus of 24 per cent. and £300 of the Midland District Society were sold at an average bonus of 49 per cent.

QUICK WORK.—We are informed that at the Steam Saw Mill of James Kirk, Esq., in Portland, 333 thousand feet of trimmed lumber were manufactured in the last six days, from two gangs of saws. The Mill is under the superintendence of Mr. Joseph C. Littlehale, and the performance, we believe to be unequalled by any of our numerous fine Saw Mills.—*Chron.*

FIRE.—About half past twelve o'clock on Saturday night, a fire was discovered in a house in Princess Street, owned by Mrs. Appleby, and occupied on the lower flat by Captain Gillis, and on the upper flat by Mr. F. Neill. Circumstances led the inmates to believe that it was the work of an incendiary, as the fire was first discovered bursting through the floor of the back room, near a partition, and coming from the cellar, the door of which was discovered to have been burst open. The flames ascended between the walls to the second flat, where they rapidly spread, and destroyed a large portion of Mr. Neill's furniture, and, we regret to add, part of what was saved was afterwards stolen away. The house was nearly wholly destroyed, and, we learn, was uninsured.

We are informed, that after the fire was got under, the lower part of the house was examined, and in a small room the remains of shavings were discovered, and this and other appearances led to the belief that the house was purposely set on fire.—*Id.*

The officers of the Water Company afforded every facility for obtaining water from their tank, which had a plentiful supply in it at the time, and the fire was thereby prevented from spreading to the adjoining buildings.

DESTRUCTIVE FIRE AT OROMOCTO.—About ten o'clock on Sunday morning last, a fire broke out suddenly in a large moulding shed, in Mr. Scoullar's shipyard, at Oromocto, which destroyed that building, with about one third of a new ship in the yard, and a large quantity of timber and other building materials; also a large store, with dwelling house and two barns, owned by Mr. Abner Seeley,—comprising property to the amount of £2000.

There was insurance on an interest in the ship to the amount of £300. There seems to be but little doubt that the fire was the work of an incendiary. We understand that an investigation of the circumstances will take place, and we sincerely trust that the perpetrators of so daring a crime will be discovered and meet with the punishment which they merit.

POTATO DISEASE.—The Novascotian, in noticing the progress of the disease among the potatoes in the Peninsula of Halifax, gives the following directions for securing the tubers against the spread of the disorder:—

"Where the potatoes have been planted early and the blossoms are already shed, it has been confidently recommended that as soon as the plague spot is visible, the stems should be pulled up without disturbing the tubers. This can be easily done by passing along the drill, and pressing the feet firmly on each side of the plant,—while the stalk is extracted by this means, the potato, although it will not increase in size, it is said, will be secured against disease."

Two young men, recently arrived at St. John's N. F. from New York, have been arrested under suspicious circumstances—for having in their possession, several Notes of the Manchester Branch Bank of England, which were some time since advertised in the London Times, as having been carried away by a person named William Francis M'Naughten, who absconded from Manchester. The whole amount advertised as stolen was £1900—and in the trunk of one of the parties £1500 of the Notes as described in the advertisement have been discovered.

The persons arrested passed under the names of William Philip O'Kelly and Thos. Bradshaw—the first of whom, who suits the description of M'Naughten, and burst into tears when the purse containing the notes, found in his trunk, was produced. A note for £100 presented to Bishop Fleming, either for his opinion as to its genuineness or for change, by a Bookseller, to whose hands it had been entrusted for the latter purpose, led to the arrest of the parties named, his Lordship recognizing it as one of those he had seen advertised.—*Halifax Sun.*

HUDSON'S BAY.—The Montreal papers mention the safe arrival of Sir George Simpson, from his annual tour of inspection of the Hudson's Bay Company's trading establishments and settlements lying between Lake Superior and the northern shores of Hudson's Bay. We copy from the *Montreal Gazette*, the following particulars of the journey:—

Sir George reports favourably of the condition and prospects of the settlers in those northern regions. The Agricultural population of the Red River Settlement amounts at present, we learn, to more than 5000 inhabitants, of whom 2000 are householders, owning 100