

## LOCAL NEWS

## HANDSOME DONATION.

Mr. H. G. Kitchen of this city, has given the Fredericton Brass Band an advance of twenty dollars to meet recent expenses.

## PROVISIONAL LIEUTENANT.

Mr. John T. Gibson of Marysville, has been appointed a provisional lieutenant in the 1st York Regt. He will go to Halifax to qualify.

## NO RENT CHARGED.

On the motion of Ald. Wilkinson, the City Council last night gave the Fredericton Brass Band the free use of the City Opera House the night that organization gave a concert there.

## COURT ADJOURNS.

The Court of Appeal adjourned yesterday afternoon until Wednesday, April 26. Chief Justice McLeod will complete twenty years on the bench next month and it is stated that this will be his last court.

## THE RIVER.

The river at this point is now pretty well clear of ice and it is expected that the work of swinging the booms will begin early next week. It is said that there is open water all the way from St. John to Grand Falls.

## KITCHEN SHOWER.

Mr. and Mrs. J. W. McCready have leased the dwelling on George street near York and will occupy it as a residence after May 1. Last night friends of Mrs. McCready made her a kitchen shower at the residence of Mr. J. D. Palmer.

## TWO NEW BATTALIONS.

It is reported that two new battalions of infantry are to be authorized and a second French-Canadian battalion for the Maritime Provinces. Recruiting will not begin for them, however, until existing battalions are recruited to strength.

## CONVENTION ENDED.

The Retail Merchants' Association completed its convention yesterday afternoon. The choice of a place of meeting in 1917 lies between Moncton and St. Stephen. Yesterday afternoon the delegates visited the factories of the Hartt Boot & Shoe Co., the John Palmer Co. and the Palmer-McLellan Shoeback Co.

## FOUR MONTHS IN FRANCE.

A letter received by a friend from Capt. J. P. McPeake of this city, states that he had been in France for four months at the time of writing and was with the 1st Canadian Division, which, he wrote, is considered the third best division in the British army in France.

## AT BUXTON, ENGLAND.

A card from Lieut. N. A. MacKenzie of Chatham, who left here with the 24th Field Battery, and was appointed a lieutenant in the Royal Engineers, states that he is with the 12th Company, R.E., Army Troops, Buxton, England. The card shows a group photograph of the company.

## RECEIVES IMPORTANT COMMAND

Capt. Walter C. Gillis of Ottawa, well known in Fredericton, has been appointed to the command of the Montreal company of the 4th Divisional Train, Canadian Army Service Corps. Last summer he commanded No. 5 Company, C.A.S.C., at Valcartier. He is a graduate of the U.S.B. in civil engineering and is a son-in-law of Mr. and Mrs. R. W. L. Abbotts of this city.

## MUNICIPALITIES COMMITTEE

The Municipalities Committee met this morning and took up the bill to amend the Municipalities Act, which had been referred back to them for further consideration. A proposed addition to the bill to permit the Municipality of St. John to place a poll tax of not exceeding \$10 on non-resident labor employed in the county was supported by Mr. J. King Kelly, county secretary. Some discussion also took place upon the selection of members of the Municipal Home. After hearing the delegation the Committee adjourned to take up the further consideration of the bill at a later date.

## SPECIAL THEATRE TRAIN.

Arrangements have been made with Mr. Melanson, general passenger agent for the Intercolonial Railway, to hold train No. 237 until after the close of the performance of "The White Feather" at the Opera House on Saturday night. Train 237 is the suburban which leaves Fredericton for Marysville at ten o'clock, but on this particular occasion, to accommodate the many Marysville patrons who have expressed a desire to witness the wonderful play, "The White Feather," the train will be held, thus enabling everybody in Marysville to reach home in safety and in ample season.

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HARRY M. BLAIR DIS-  
MISSED FROM OFFICE  
BY GOVERNMENT

Order-in-Council Passed Last Night  
---Secretary Held Office up to  
This Afternoon---Formal Notice  
Expected.

Mr. Harry M. Blair was dismissed from the office of secretary of public works of New Brunswick by an order-in-council passed by the provincial government last night. Up to two o'clock this afternoon Mr. Blair had not been served with notice of his dismissal and this morning signed several letters as secretary of public works. He stated to a reporter of The Mail this afternoon that he was prepared to step out of office whenever notified.

It is understood that Mr. Blair spent some time this morning packing up his effects and papers and preparing to remove his personal belongings.

The retiring secretary of public works was appointed to that office in 1911, when Mr. Donald B. Winslow of this city, resigned in order to go to the Canadian West. Prior to that appointment Mr. Blair held a clerkship in the department of the Auditor General, being appointed in 1908, shortly after the Conservative party came into power. Before becoming a government official Mr. Blair had been a student-at-law in the office of Mr. Harry F. McLeod in this city for several years. During that time he was a prominent worker in the ranks of the Conservative party in York county.

There is much conjecture concerning Mr. Blair's future course of action and also concerning his successor at secretary of public works. The name of Mr. H. W. Woods, M.P.P., of

STAR CHAMBER  
SESSION OF CITY  
COUNCIL LAST NIGHT

Appointment of Officials Considered  
And Meeting Adjourned Until Tues-  
day--Reported City Clerk's Salary  
Will be Reduced.

The City Council, in "Star Chamber" session, last night, considered the appointment of civic officials for the year beginning May 1. It is understood that no changes in personnel are to be made except that there will be no appointment as road commissioner in the place of Mr. Harry C. Jewett, resigned. It had been expected for some time that there would be no appointment to that service.

The Council met in committee for upwards of an hour, the press representatives being excluded. A meeting of the Council was then held in the Council Chamber for the purpose of adjournment until next Tuesday night. The Council then again went into secret session.

It is understood that considerable time was devoted to consideration of the office of city clerk and that the final decision was that the present incumbent, Mr. J. W. McCready, would be reappointed at a reduced salary, also that he would again be appointed manager of the City Opera House in place of the city treasurer, Mr. G. R. Perkins, who has performed the duties for some time. It is also said that the reduction in the salary of the city clerk is to be made in order to partially meet the expense of the city solicitor.

The appointments will be made at next Tuesday's meeting and salaries will be fixed at the same time.

Welsford, is mentioned in connection with the vacancy.

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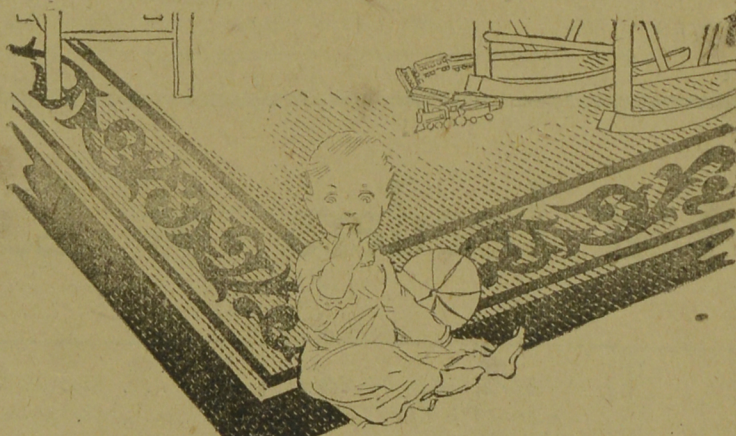
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