

## DAMAGE TO CITY HALL BY FIRE TODAY

AMOUNTS TO SOME \$500 FROM FIRE, SMOKE, ETC.

Building Had Narrow Escape from Destruction—High Wind Blowing—Fire Under Roof.

The Fredericton City Hall had a narrow escape from destruction by fire at about one o'clock today. The blaze, was just under the roof and over the stage of the opera house which comprises the third and fourth stories of the building, in a place most difficult to get at. In the early stages there was much smoke showing that the flames had secured a good hold. Both water and chemicals had to be used to extinguish the blaze.

Damage to amount of some five hundred dollars was done by fire, smoke and water. It is believed that the fire originated from a defective chimney. As there was a gale of wind blowing when the fire began it is considered lucky that the flames did not get any great headway.

The stand pipe on the stage was found to be out of commission.

**Garrison Battalion for St. John.**  
It is reported in St. John that Major Cuthbert J. Morgan, formerly of the 236th MacLean Highlanders, lately in command of the 62nd Fusiliers' Home Service Detachment, will become commanding officer of a garrison battalion to be raised in St. John.

**Shore Line Service.**  
For some time past the service between West St. John and St. Stephen has been on the every other day basis. Effective Monday, April 29th, the service will be one train each way each weekday. Leave West St. John 7:45 a. m., arrive St. Stephen 12:45 p. m. Leave St. Stephen 2:10 p. m., arrive West St. John 7:20 p. m., local daylight time.

**Salisbury Lumber Co.**  
Wm. E. McMonagle, Ed. V. O'Toole and Charles J. Melliday, all of St. John, have been incorporated under provincial charter by the name of "The Salisbury Lumber Co., Limited" with a total capital stock of \$50,000 and with head office at Salisbury, Westmorland county. The company is empowered to carry on a general lumbering business.

**To Join Flying Corps.**  
Mr. Russell Smith of Shediac, son of Dr. Smith, Minister of Lands and Mines, is in the city, the guest of his father at the Queen. Mr. Smith has been on the staff of the Bank of Montreal at Hartland, but has resigned to join the Royal Flying Corps for overseas service. He is now en route to Halifax where he will remain a short time before proceeding to Toronto for his training course.

**Kelly-Brewer.**  
Mr. James Kelly, a well known resident of Kingsclere, and Mrs. Letitia Brewer were united in marriage at the Brunswick Street Baptist parsonage yesterday afternoon. The ceremony was performed by Rev. G. C. Warren, in the presence of a few friends. Mr. and Mrs. Kelly left by the evening train on a short wedding tour. The many friends of the esteemed couple will join with The Mail in wishing them every happiness.

**Miss Hazel McCain Appointed.**  
Miss Hazel McCain of Florenceville has been appointed supervisor of Women's Institutes for New Brunswick, in place of Miss Hazel Winter who resigned lately to accept a position in the west. Miss McCain is a graduate of the Lillian Massey School in Toronto and holds a superior license from the Provincial Normal School. Lately she has been connected with the dietician department of the Mill-Clearing Depot in Quebec. She is a daughter of Mr. Henry H. McCain of Florenceville.

**New Military Appointment.**  
There is a rumor in military circles that with the making of New Brunswick a separate district for the handling of cadet corps activities Major George Keefe, returned officer of the 26th Battalion, and at present a company commander in No. 1 New Brunswick Depot Battalion, is in line for the appointment of organizer and instructor of cadet corps in M. D. No. 7. At present Captain Robinson Black is the organizer and inspector of cadet corps work in New Brunswick, Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island.

**S. O. E. B. S., St. George's Day.**  
Islington Lodge of Sons of England Benefit Society observed St. George's Day, April 23rd, by holding an entertainment in their rooms at Church Hall. On entering, each member and each guest was presented with a rose, an emblem very dear to English hearts. Much credit is due the committee and those taking part in the most pleasing program. It was clearly proven here, too, that refreshments are not indispensable at social gatherings, as all present spent a thoroughly enjoyable evening listening to a nicely-balanced program of vocal and instrumental numbers, readings and speeches, and found it no hardship nor disappointment to do without the usual coffee, cake and sandwiches, etc. "Food will win this war." Yes, if conserved. What organization will be the next to resolve that during this mighty conflict refreshments will not be necessary or even desirable at social and entertainments?

Mr. J. R. Smith of Hartland, is registered at the Queen.  
Mr. J. P. D. Lewin of St. John, is a guest at the Queen.

## ROYAL COMMISSION ON CHARGES AGAINST THE HON. WM. CURRIE; LIVELY DEBATE ON THE MATTER

Mr. LeBlanc and Mr. Baxter in Sharp Interchange—Member for Restigouche Intimates that Reasons Existed for Delay in Making Charge—Attempt of Opposition to Make Minister of Health Offer for Re-election Fails—Minister to Have No Salary.

In the Legislature this morning Hon. J. P. Byrne, Attorney General, introduced a bill for the appointment of a Royal Commission to investigate certain charges made against Hon. William Currie, M.P.P., for Restigouche, Speaker of the House. On the ground of urgency the bill was given its second reading. Mr. Baxter, prior to the presentation of the bill in pursuance of motion made a charge against Hon. Mr. Currie and moved for a committee of the House to investigate it. Premier Foster in amendment moved for a Royal Commission, Mr. Baxter accepting the amendment.

Later the House went into committee and continued consideration of the Public Health Bill. Hon. Mr. Roberts moved an amendment to the effect that the Minister of Health be any member of the executive designated by the Lieut. Governor in Council, to serve without salary or remuneration. To this Mr. Baxter moved an amendment to the effect that the Minister of Health unless already holding a portfolio, offer for re-election in his constituency. The second amendment was defeated and the amendment of Hon. Mr. Roberts was carried.

### Lively Interchange.

During the discussion with regard to the appointment of the Royal Commission there was a lively interchange between Mr. Baxter and Mr. LeBlanc of Restigouche, who claimed that on the finding of the Royal Commission either Hon. Mr. Currie or Mr. Baxter should vacate his seat in the House. Mr. Baxter after making the charge moved for an investigating committee of the House.

Hon. Mr. Foster in reply stated that instead of appointing an investigating committee the government would appoint a Royal Commission. If a committee were named it would be necessary for the House to remain in session. As the date was late it was advisable that a Royal Commission conduct the investigation. The government would not hesitate a moment to have the charge investigated. If proven it would be serious for the accused and for those who made the transaction possible. On the other hand if the charge was shown to be baseless those responsible would be placed in an unenviable position.

Mr. Baxter said he was pleased that the government had taken the action it had. He agreed that the appointment of a Royal Commission was the

more satisfactory. There had been every effort to avoid a political complexion in this matter. There had been too many Royal Commissions to investigate charges and their appointment had not done the province any good in the eyes of those outside. The attention of the leader of the government had been called to this matter and he had conferred with the hon. gentleman concerned who had been given an extraordinarily good opportunity of placing his case before the House. He should have relieved his leader of the necessity of beginning an investigation. It was because he did not take that course that this matter was placed before the House and an investigating committee asked for. He accepted the amendment of the leader of the government.

### Mr. LeBlanc.

Mr. LeBlanc said he had been under the impression that a charge had been laid by one hon. member against another hon. member. This morning he was told that no charge is made but that there is an innuendo or something of that nature which a Royal Commission was asked to investigate. He believed the government should not investigate the matter.

If the charge was not proven the hon. member for St. John county should forfeit his seat. If this hon. gentleman technically claimed that he made no charge, he should make a charge. That hon. member had gone about this matter in a nice, smooth way. There might be another reason why the hon. member did not press his charge. It should be understood that after the Royal Commission comes in with a finding either one or other hon. member should not hold his seat.

Mr. Baxter said he would set the mind of the hon. member at rest. He had made a charge on Tuesday. If the House should think he acted unwarrantably the House had the right to censure him. The words about forfeiting his seat were nonsense.

Mr. LeBlanc—"The" late Premier Clarke said either Mr. Dugal or Hon. Mr. Flemming should resign."

Mr. Baxter said he did not care who said it. It was not correct. The House might declare a seat vacant.

Hon. Mr. Foster said the matter could be left until after the finding was reached.

Mr. Baxter said that was right and the hon. member for Restigouche might well keep his remarks for the

(Continued on page 4.)

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