

CITY SCHOOLS' EFFICIENCY IS QUESTIONED

INSPECTOR R. D. HANSON REPORTS TO THAT EFFECT

School Board Considers Matter —Vocational Committee to be Appointed—Truancy Problem.

A special meeting of the School Board was held yesterday. Several matters left over from Wednesday's meeting were dealt with. Considerable time was devoted to the annual report of Inspector Rupert D. Hanson and some of the trustees seemed to think it was not as encouraging as they might expect, especially in view of the fact that the Board aims at having the very best staff of teachers to be found anywhere. The different teachers will be made acquainted with the inspector's estimate of their success in the profession. The trustees are greatly pleased with the success of the members of the staff generally.

Vocational Education

The remainder of the session was taken up with a discussion of the Act respecting vocational education. A large amount of preliminary work is necessary before the Act can be properly launched. An hour or more before closing the session was devoted to section 5, which provides for the formation of the vocational committee which may be composed of either five or seven members, and it was decided to have a committee of five members to start with; it can subsequently be enlarged if deemed advisable. The committee will comprise the chairman and secretary of the school board by virtue of the position they occupy; three members of the committee will be members of the Board of School Trustees, one a representative of labor and the other an employer of labor. The members are appointed by the Trustees.

Committee to Report

Several other phases of the Act received attention and some matters were referred to a committee which

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Entertained at Bridge

Mrs. C. W. Hall entertained last evening at bridge in honor of the Misses Kitchen.

Weekly Roll Off

About sixty-one bowlers are qualified to take part in the weekly roll-off on Monday evening at the Palace Bowling Alleys. E. Edney leads with a pinfall of 122.

Successful Sale

The rummage sale held yesterday in a store in Westmorland Street by the Ladies' Auxiliary of the Brunswick Street Baptist Church was very successful. The proceeds amounted to \$13.

Large Market Today

A large market was assembled this morning at Phoenix Square with produce. Buyers were numerous and produce plentiful, and prices showed no inclination to loosen up. The prevailing prices showed very little change from last week.

Held Social Evening

The young people of the Brunswick Street Baptist Church held a very enjoyable social last evening. A large number of young people attending it. Games and other amusements were carried out and refreshments were served at the close of the evening.

Will Be Public Holiday

June 3rd, the King's birthday falls on next Tuesday and will be generally observed in the city as a public holiday. The Retail Merchants' Association decided on the observance of June 3rd as a public holiday at a meeting held in April.

Held Annual Roll-Call

The annual Roll Call Service was held at the Methodist Church last evening with Rev. G. M. Young in the chair. Rev. Mr. Young gave the year's report which was heard with interest by the large number present. Besides the pastor several others took part giving short addresses.

Visiting Friends Here

Mr. Gooderich Humphries of St. John is visiting friends in this vicinity. He is the guest of Mr. and Mrs. John McIntyre, Barker's Point. He is a son of Mr. Mathew Humphries of St. John and recently returned from overseas where he served three years. He was gassed twice.

Darkness Prevails

Although two new lights have been placed in front of the Stone Barracks the block on Queen Street below York and Carleton is still one of the darkest in the city. Surprise has been expressed that the proprietors of the large stores on the south side of this street do not turn on their window lights for an hour or two each evening. This is now done by F. W. Woolworth & Co. and if others were to follow their good example it would undoubtedly be much appreciated by pedestrians.

Mrs. G. W. Hodge and Miss Jean Hodge returned yesterday from a visit to Boston.

Mrs. C. A. McVey has gone to Portland, Me., to meet her brother, Capt. T. S. Tupper, surgeon on the hospital ship Araguaya, now at that port.

FIRE WITH STIFF GALE BEHIND IT CAUSED SERIOUS SITUATION FRIDAY; GOOD WORK BY THE FIRE DEPT.

Property of F. B. Edgecombe, Court House Square, Destroyed With Other Buildings—Flying Embers Ignited Residence of Hon. O. S. Crocket, George Street, Making Second Fire —Many Buildings Caught From Original Fire—Two Tenants Lost Heavily.

A fire broke out yesterday afternoon at 26 and 28 Court House Square in the wooden double dwelling three stories high, owned by Mr. F. B. Edgecombe, which although it caused a loss which is moderate as fire losses go, caused the Fire Department and citizens of Fredericton greater anxiety than any in years. This was on account of the northwesterly gale which not only fanned the flames but which also spread blazing shingles and embers over a wide area starting fires in a score of places. The most serious of these secondary blazes was at the residence of Hon. O. S. Crocket, George Street, about half a mile from the first fire. The roof of Judge Crocket's residence was much damaged.

Got Great Start

The Edgecombe house was occupied by Joseph Murdock, a city employee, and Corp. A. Lavoie of the staff of the Fredericton office of the Department of Soldiers' Civil Re-establishment, and their families. Neither was in the house at the time the fire broke out. Mr. Murdock being at work on the highway in the eastern part of the city and Corp. Lavoie being at the river-bank. Members of Corp. Lavoie's family were out also. When the fire first was noticed it was in the rear of the lower flat occupied by Corp. Lavoie and had a firm hold on the building. An alarm from box 31 was promptly responded to by the fire apparatus. Chief Rutter was early on the scene and ordered two lines of hose at once. While they were being laid the chemical engine was used.

Had Narrow Escapes

Although the fire was spreading with great rapidity firemen and others salvaged some furniture but the greater portion of the furnishings was destroyed. Chief Rutter and Capt. William Grannan had a narrow escape at this juncture on account of the very rapid spread of the fire through the building and Fireman Thomas Dougherty was burned about the face. Later Assistant Chief W. M. Clarke was severely cut about the head by falling bricks.

Six Streams Were Used

In all six streams were used on the fire, five at the principal fire and another in King Street where several buildings caught. The department also was called to cope with a second blaze at Judge Crocket's residence when the first fire was at its height. There was

some criticism of the pressure by spectators at first but Chief Rutter says that the pressure was all right. As the fire progressed the pumps worked up a pressure which was beyond criticism. One hydrant was found to be defective in that it could not be turned off when it was desired to shift a line of hose.

Spread Rapidly

The spread of the flames was rapid. A barn on the property of Mr. J. F. McMurray formerly that of Dr. W. J. Weaver, which abutted upon the rear of the Edgecombe property caught early and like the building where the fire originated was totally destroyed. Later the disused dwelling in Court Square owned by Miss Elizabeth Adams caught and was much damaged. The fierce wind caused the gravest anxiety and early in the fire owners of neighboring property assisted by others used garden hose and buckets to wet roofs and walls and to extinguish incipient fires.

Many Buildings Caught

The Globe Laundry building owned by City Clerk G. R. Perkins was afire several times. Other buildings on the southerly side of Queen street which caught were the residence of Mrs. F. I. Morrison and the wooden building owned by Mrs. George N. Segee which has historical significance because the first New Brunswick Legislature which met in Fredericton held its sessions within its walls. The residence occupied by Mr. Thomas Chapman in St. John Street was afire at one stage and along Chancery Lane several buildings caught. The same was true in King Street where the dwellings of Mr. M. Rapaport and Charles O'Connor were afire at various times. All these small blazes were extinguished before any damage was done by them, a careful watch being kept. On the northerly side of Queen street buildings caught repeatedly but the damage was not great. The brick residence of Mr. Thomas Rainsford escaped any damage and the wooden building of Mrs. John Hughes suffered but slightly. The residence of Mr. J. F. McMurray was kept thoroughly wet and escaped with slight damage. The B. N. A. Branch of the Bank of Montreal also escaped any but minor damage. A stable on the rear of the property owned by Dr. S. F. A. Wainwright caught fire in its

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