

LOCAL NEWS

WEATHER

Maritime—Strong winds and gales, easterly, shifting to westerly, snow and rain today then clearing.

BOARD OF TRADE EXECUTIVE

The Board of Trade Executive will meet tonight to consider a number matters which have arisen lately.

MAY COME HERE.

It is said that Rev. Dr. G. O. Gates, formerly of St. John but now residing at Truro, N.S., may be called here to supply the pulpit of the Brunswick Street Baptist Church until a new pastor is secured.

CHATHAM WON.

The Fredericton hockey team was beaten 5 to 4 at Chatham last night in a close and exciting game. At half time the score was 4 to 0 in favor of Chatham. Tonight the Fredericton teams plays at Campbellton.

BANKER FAREWELLED

Friends of Mr. John A. Young, for the past year manager of the Bank of N.B. at St. Stephen tendered him a farewell banquet last evening. Mr. Young was at one time on the staff of the Fredericton branch of the bank. He is now in the employ of the Bank of Nova Scotia.

LATE ROBT. WIGGINS

The funeral of the late Robert Wiggins whose death occurred Thursday afternoon at Victoria Public Hospital took place this afternoon. The service was conducted by Rev. J. E. Wilson and interment made at the Rural Cemetery.

SHIFT MAY BE NEEDED

People who have occasion to go driving are complaining of the condition of Queen street at the present time. They do not like the ridge of snow in the middle of the road formed by the snow plow and claim that it is a source of danger. If it is not soon levelled off, they say that it will be necessary to make use of a shift in order to get along.

TRANSFERRED TO HALIFAX

Quartermaster Sergt. Hunt, Permanent Army Medical Corps, who has been in charge of the medical branch of No. 3 Military Depot for about two years has been transferred to Halifax. He leaves for that city tomorrow morning with his family. His successor is Corporal J. Nolan, P.A.M.C. who has arrived from Halifax.

DIED IN ST. JOHN

Mr. Harry A. Lynch of the St. John & Quebec Railway engineering staff and Mr. Charles V. Lynch of the Sophomore Class at the U.N.B., have the sympathy of many friends in the bereavement caused by the death of their mother Mrs. Mary A. Lynch at St. John yesterday. The deceased is survived by five sons and three daughters. The funeral will take place Saturday afternoon.

MUNICIPALITIES COMMITTEE

The Municipalities Committee met this morning and agreed to the bill to amend the St. John City Assessment Act. The other St. John bills were considered, and were stood over for further consideration by the Committee. The bill relating to the town of Edmundston was then taken up, and delegations appearing both on behalf of and in opposition to the bill were heard, and it will also be considered later.

A YORK COUNTY MAN

The following item is going the rounds of the Canadian press: His Honor C. W. Colter, judge of the County of Elgin since March 1904 was born on Feb. 26, 1846 in New Brunswick. For many years he practiced his profession in Haldimand County in 1893. He sat for some years as a Liberal in the House of Commons. Prior to taking up law he was for some years a school teacher and he has also dabbled in journalism.

(Judge Colter is a native of Keswick York County, a graduate of the U.N.B. and a brother of Rev. J. J. Colter of this city.)

DESERVES TO SUCCEED

Mr. W. C. Archibald, editor of the Maritime Apple, a journal devoted to fruit growing, published at Kentville, N. S., is among the visitors to the city. He is here to interview the government and Commissioner for Agriculture with a view of interesting them in a scheme for encouraging the immigration of old country people interested in fruit growing. The Maritime Apple is a sixteen page publication which is devoted to the fruit growing interests of the Maritime Provinces. It is proposed to circulate it extensively in the old country. Mr. Archibald enjoys the reputation of being one of the most successful fruit growers in Nova Scotia.

ST. JOHN POLICE BILL IN COMMITTEE THIS MORNING

Commissioner McLellan Makes Strong Indictment Against Prevailing Conditions in Police Force—Strong Lobby Against Bill

The St. John City bills were before the Committee on Law and Procedure of the House of Assembly this morning that to vest the power of appointing the Chief of Police in the hands of the City Council taking the greater part of the time. His Worship Mayor Frink and Commissioners R. W. Wigmore, H. R. McLellan and M. E. Agar were heard before the committee. There has been considerable lobbying against this bill and it would not be surprising if it were thrown out when considered in private.

The Committee convened this morning at 9.30 o'clock with Attorney General Grimmer presiding.

Mr. Daniel Mullin, K.C., appeared in opposition to the bill. Mr. Tilley who had presented the bill to the House moved for its consideration, and asked that Mr. McLellan be first heard.

COMMISSIONER McLELLAN

Mr. McLellan said that he occupied the position of Commissioner of Public Safety and under this head he had control of both the fire and police departments. In the first place he claimed that any opposition to this bill did not come from the citizens themselves. He then referred to the work of the police department. Shortly after assuming office he proceeded to install a patrol system, and after it had been working for a few weeks he gathered considerable information how the patrolmen act, and several cases were brought to his attention of misconduct. An investigation was held and the patrolman was found guilty and the officer was dismissed. He learned that the night of the investigation the Chief overhauled the policemen who had given evidence against the officer. General investigation followed into the whole police department, and the decision of that investigation was forwarded to the Government, together with a memorial praying that the substance of this bill may be passed. Mr. McLellan said that he had no personal feeling in the matter and that it was untrue that he was seeking the head of the chief of police. He then referred to the investigation. He said that he held in his hand the evidence taken, which consisted of some 495 pages, and included the testimony of 65 witnesses and he said that from that evidence that there could be no doubt that the Commission was justified in asking for a change. There was no other city in Canada where a chief was appointed by the government, and a city like St. John should certainly have the power to select its chief of police. The Legislature, he said, may be disinclined to give up powers which it now possessed, but since the law was enacted there had been several changes, and the conditions much altered. Referring to the evidence as a whole, he said that it showed that the men on the police force were guilty of brutal assaults, thefts and perjury, and yet they were still allowed to remain on the force. In cases thefts had been admitted, but on some sympathetic appeal the man

was allowed to remain. Mr. McLellan cited cases of where goods were taken from merchant's stores by policemen. He went into the evidence at some length, and in conclusion said that in order to have a proper system, the man who was commissioner should have power to control those under him.

Mayor Frink and the other Commissioners corroborated Mr. McLellan, and claimed that it was absurd for a man to be at the head of a department and yet not have the control.

STATEMENTS IN OPPOSITION

Mr. Mullin, who appeared in opposition, claimed that there was no good reason for the bill, and he produced an affidavit of one Douglas McArthur and a statement by Chief Clark in support of the Chief's efficiency. He cited a number of cases in which the Commissioner had interfered with the Chief's work. He claimed that all the Commissioner was after was the scalp of the Chief.

Mr. McLellan denied this, and Mr. Mullin asked him if he had the power would they re-appoint the Chief.

And yet says Mr. Mullin, you say you have no personal feeling in the matter.

CHIEF CLARK COMMENDED

Mr. Mullin spoke highly of Chief Clark's qualities. He had been Chief for over twenty-five years, and no serious charge had ever been made against him, and it remained for this star chamber investigation to produce this mass of evidence. He claimed that the bill was wrong in principle. At present the Chief is an officer of the government, and any change would make him subject to the control of the Commissioner for the time being and so he would not be a free and independent officer.

Mr. McLellan briefly replied.

After a brief discussion, the Committee said that the bill could be taken up in the House.

Mr. G. Earle Logan of St. John, is in the city.

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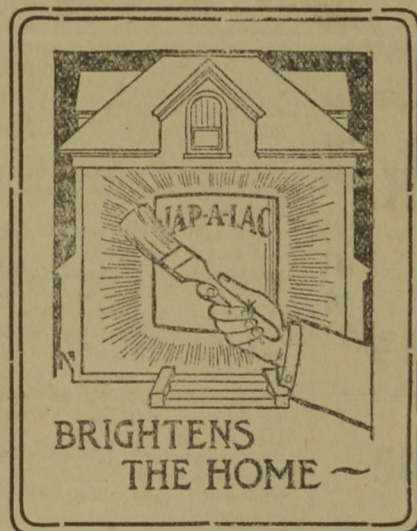
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