

CIVIC AFFAIRS

The Mayor's Report.

LEADING TOPICS

FINANCE AND WATER.

MAYOR'S OFFICE,
Charlottetown, 9th Jan., 1882.

To the City Council:
GENTLEMEN: In looking at the accounts for the year ending 31st Dec., 1881, you will not fail to notice that the expenditure has not only been kept within the income, but the debenture debt has been reduced by the sum of \$2,748.88, and taking credit for the uncollected income tax, a further sum of \$4,838.20 is carried to the credit of capital account.

This result is attributable to the carrying out of a settled conviction that the annual exhibit of deficits should cease, and by the simple process of approving at an early period of the civic year, of a detailed estimate of expenditure, appropriating to each department of the public service a sum deemed sufficient, and a determination that the same should not be exceeded other than for very exceptional reasons.

After providing a sufficiency of income to cover all charges, a state of things has been reached which I have time and again urged upon the City Council, and I cannot allow this opportunity to pass without expressing to the Finance Committee my appreciation of their energetic labors, which has largely contributed to so desirable a result, and which cannot fail to commend itself to the judgment of every intelligent rate-payer.

I trust the example thus set will be followed by future City Councils, so that the debt of the City shall no longer be increased for ordinary outlay.

If debt is to be incurred, let it be incurred for permanent improvements, or some great public work.

I have said that the debenture debt has been reduced \$2,748.88. It would seem to be advisable that means should be adopted for gradually paying off the present debenture, or, at least, of reducing the interest by the issue of new ones, bearing a less rate of interest, say 5 per cent., instead of the present rate of 6 per cent.

I would again bring to your attention the desirability of—

1st, The enactment of a law prohibiting within certain localities of the city the erection of buildings other than brick or stone; and with such a law—

2nd, The appointment of a qualified Inspector to whom plans should be submitted and to whose inspection the building during erection should be subject.

3rd, A survey and plan of the City.

4th, The using of stone, instead of plank, for street crossings, and the consideration of adopting some material other than plank for sidewalks.

There is another matter I desire to touch upon:—

During the past year much has been said and written on the subject of a water supply for the City, but as it would seem to me, in consequence of no positive data, a good deal of misapprehension appears to have existed, and to some extent distrust as to the position occupied by the City Council.

I have nothing to say in regard to the views entertained on this subject by gentlemen composing the City Council, but being cognizant to the correspondence, I think that a brief resume of the same—with the action taken thereon—may not be out of place, but may possibly correct, and will certainly modify public opinion as to the intentions and acts of this Council during the past year, and as it is a question of great importance to the taxpayer of the City, I may be excused for going a little further back than the records of 1881.

In 1870 C. W. Fairbanks, Esq., C. E., was requested by the City Council to examine and report on water supply, which report of date 17th Dec., 1870 was duly published.

In Nov. 1876, the City Council entered into a contract with Mr. J. Harris to bore for water at Mount Edward, which work was afterwards abandoned.

In Sept. 1875, Gilbert Murdoch, C. E., of St. John, N. B., by resolution of the City Council was instructed "to make a survey, and report in writing the best and most economical system, and probable cost of furnishing Charlottetown with a copious supply of water, sufficient to meet the demand for domestic purposes and for extinguishing fires."

On the 2nd of March, 1881, Mr. Murdoch submitted a final and exhaustive report which by resolution of the City Council was ordered to be printed for the information of the citizens.

In my report of last year, I said:—"If it be desirable that water works be constructed and owned by a private company, I am led to believe from correspondence which has reached me (quite unsolicited) that there would not be much difficulty in securing a company to undertake the work granting them certain concession. If it should be deemed best that water works be constructed and owned by the corporation, I have reason to believe that there are gentlemen prepared to carry out their construction, immediately, taking payment in City Debentures at par."

The following letters speak for themselves:—

Boston, Sept. 11th, 1880.

Mr. W. E. Dawson:

DEAR SIR,—In conversing with some friends about constructing water works in, or near, Charlottetown, to supply your citizens with pure water, etc., in asking to whom I might best refer to in your city, your name was given me, and, I hope you will pardon the liberty I take in addressing you thus.

I would like to ask you how many families, in your opinion, would be likely to take and use such water? If your city would be likely to take it for fire purposes, watering, etc., etc.? What amount of water Spring Park is capable of supplying? How soon a permit could be obtained to lay pipes from such works, etc., in the streets of your city? In your opinion how much, if any, money could be raised in your city towards the construction of such works, or if you think it best for a party to come in and do it on their own responsibility? While visiting your city, this summer, I saw nothing so much needed, and am very sorry I did not think of it more fully before leaving P. E. I.

Very respectfully, J. C. Woodring.

NEW YORK,
9th December, 1880.
W. E. Dawson, Esq., Mayor of Charlottetown, P. E. I.

DEAR SIR,—I tender you my thanks for the full reply I have had the honor to receive from your Worship, respecting the proposed water works. I am prepared at once to open negotiations for the construction of the works, based on payments in the bonds of the City, redeemable at an agreed date, and bearing interest at six per cent. per annum. Should there be an insuperable obstacle to the issue of the city bonds, which I do not anticipate, I am willing to deal with the question as a private undertaking, accepting an agreed sum from the City annually for fire hydrants and other public purposes.

By my general experience that the more satisfactory plan is that the water works should be under municipal control, as in most cases where private enterprise has furnished water supply, the City authorities have eventually purchased the works from the shareholders, at much advanced figures. Even at the present moment the Board of Works in London, G. B., are negotiating the purchase of the vast water systems in that City, involving millions of sterling capital.

I will be glad to receive Mr. Murdoch's report, as well as to place my Engineer at your disposal, if needed.

It will give me much pleasure to hear further from your Worship, in the meantime, I am, your faithful servant,

JAMES GAMBLE.

NEW YORK, May 17th, 1881.
His Worship the Mayor of Charlottetown, W. E. Dawson, Esq.

DEAR SIR,—Having read the exhaustive Report of Mr. Murdoch, I arrive at the conclusion that it is impossible to form any correct opinion as to a water supply, without visiting your city personally or sending my engineer.

With the permission of your Worship, I purpose asking Mr. Wasell, C. E., who is superintending the construction of water works for me in Yarmouth, N. S., to proceed to your city and confer with you.

If this is agreeable, I ask your Worship to send me, on receipt, a night despatch at my expense, and I will instruct Mr. Wasell accordingly. I am, dear sir,

Yours very respectfully, JAMES GAMBLE.

Mr. Wasell arrived here on the 1st June, and I arranged for his visiting the various sources of supply specified by Mr. Murdoch in his report, and I invited each member of the City Council, together with His Honor the Recorder and the Chief Engineer to accompany us.

His Honor the Recorder, the Chief Engineer and Councillors Lawson, Murphy, McLean, Byrne and Smith, with Mr. Wasell and myself, on the 2nd June visited "Winter River," "Gates Brook," and "Curtis Brook," being the streams reported only by Mr. Murdoch.

On the following evening Councillors Lawson, Byrne, Murphy, Morris, Smith and Davey (Councillors Blake, Chappelle and Koughan were off the Island) at my invitation informally met Mr. Wasell in the Council Chamber.

As you are aware, gentlemen, I then stated that as an act of courtesy to Mr. Wasell, I had invited you to meet him, so that not only those gentlemen who had accompanied us the day previous, but that you all, through the advantage of a personal interview, might have an opportunity of hearing more fully his views on the source and supply of the several streams visited. That no gentleman was expected, or desired, to commit himself; that it was not a question of whether water should, or should not, be introduced, but simply and solely with the object of gaining information.

Some two hours or more were spent in conversation and enquiring, after which Mr. Wasell submitted the following proposals:

TENDER No. 1.
We hereby offer to construct waterworks for the City of Charlottetown, P. E. I., in the manner set forth and generally described by Gilbert Murdoch, C. E., in a Report, dated at St. John, N. B., March 2nd, 1881, and numbered 2 therein, for the sum of one hundred and sixty thousand (\$160,000) dollars, in guaranteed debentures or bonds of the said City of Charlottetown, bearing interest at six per cent. per annum, payable upon completion of said waterworks.

That is to say: We will build a dam twelve feet high at the site known as "Cobbs," on Winter River, build filtering dam, culvert, pump well and engine house, pump, and place in said engine house engine, pump, and boiler, set of sufficient size and capacity to place in the reservoir to be constructed by us, 2,400,000 gallons capacity, on Partridge Hill, fifty thousand gallons of water per hour.

We will place in the works the lengths and sizes of pipes and specials, mentioned and described and applicable to line numbered 2. in the aforesaid Report of Gilbert Murdoch, Esq., C. E., excepting the service pipes or lead pipes to dwellings, etc.; and in addition thereto we will place 4,500 lineal feet of 4 inch pipe, and 6 hydrants in that part of the City of Charlottetown known as Ward No. 5.

The several lengths and sizes of pipes to be placed in the works by us are as follows:
28,500 lineal feet of 12 inch main pipe.
11,450 " " 8-inch main pipe.
30,430 " " 6-inch " "
30,470 " " 4-inch " "

Any additional length of pipe to the above that the City of Charlottetown may order to be placed in the works to be paid for at the rate of forty (\$40) dollars per ton; and any additional work necessary on account of extending said waterworks beyond the limit embraced in this tender, to be paid for at the schedule rates, mentioned in the Report of Gilbert Murdoch, C. E., aforesaid.

Provided the City of Charlottetown will provide us the Right of Way, including all water and land rights.

This Tender is also applicable to No. 4 Line, Gates Brook.

ED. WASELL, C. E., Digby, N. S., For JAMES GAMBLE & Co., New York, U. S.

Dated at Charlottetown, P. E. I., 3rd June, 1881.

TENDER No. 2.

We hereby offer to construct and operate good and sufficient water works, for the City of Charlottetown, P. E. I., and place at the disposal of the City for all public and corporate purposes—such as the extinguishment of fires, watering streets, ornamental fountains, etc.—eighty five hydrants, under a pressure of not less than one hundred feet head, for the sum of (\$95,000.00) per annum, if preferable, payable in guaranteed debentures or bonds, bearing interest at six per cent. per annum,—our Company making arrangements with each individual or Company for the use of water outside of the Corporation aforesaid.
Provided the City of Charlottetown

will obtain for us an Act of Incorporation in terms to be hereafter agreed upon.
The City of Charlottetown to locate the hydrants, and have power to demand an extension, by paying the sum of (\$50.00) each per annum for additional hydrants; and to have power to purchase said water works at a fair and reasonable valuation.
Dated at Charlottetown, P. E. I., 3rd June, 1881.

ED. WASELL, C. E., Digby, N. S., For JAMES GAMBLE & Co., New York, U. S.

Such, gentlemen, is the history of the water works question, and of my action therein.—Correspondence unsought by me.—The visit of a thoroughly practical engineer with large experience in the construction of works of this nature—much valuable information obtained—the corroboration of Mr. Murdoch's report—and the whole at a cost to the City of but \$4.17 being the price of one 2 or 3 teleg. ans.

It is right that I should say these letters and extracts from but a small part of the correspondence which reached me, and that in all my replies (copies of which I did not retain) I was careful to state there was not any likelihood that the City Council would undertake the responsibility of their construction, and in consulting with his Honor the Recorder, his opinion was that the City Council, not having the power to convey the right to enter upon the streets or lands of the City, a charter would have to be obtained from the Legislature before any private individual or Company could operate the works. The following extracts are from letters to my addresses while absent from the Island:

YARMOUTH, N. S., 22nd July, 1881.

Mr. Gamble has been here since Wednesday last, and I have had time to discuss the Charlottetown water works question with him. He is inclined to accept the responsibility of placing water works in your city, upon certain conditions which he will make known to you, without any guarantee from or contract with the City Council for the use of hydrants.

Yours faithfully, E. WASELL.

YARMOUTH, N. S., July 22, 1881.

If you are prepared to place the matter in my hands, I will form a company and build the works, provided the necessary legal authority to do so is in existence, and the capital to be created under such authority is sufficient, should you wish it I will visit your city; but, before I do so, it is desirable to be assured that my proposition to form the Company can be accomplished.

Yours very respectfully, JAMES GAMBLE.

MONTREAL, Aug. 9, 1881.

I would be glad to tender for the whole work for a certain sum of money paid by the city or for bonds—or, I would build and operate the works myself if I was given the exclusive right of collecting the water rates for a term of years, say 25.

Yours truly, C. E. TORRANCE.

It remains to be seen whether those gentlemen are still prepared to undertake this work, accepting the risk of the citizens taking the water, just as for instance, Telegraph Companies take the chance of the community using their wires, the Gas Company consumption of its gas, or Railway Companies of freight and passenger traffic, and if so, I presume there will be no difficulty in their obtaining a charter from the Legislature.

I have the honor to be, Gentlemen, Your obedient servant, W. E. DAWSON, Mayor.

Tributes to the Memory of Col. McGill.

At a regular meeting of the Charlottetown Branch of the Irish National Land League, held on Monday evening, the 9th inst., the following resolutions were unanimously adopted:—

Whereas, It has pleased Almighty God to take from our midst a most respected member of this community, and First Vice-President of this Society in the person of the late Hon. Col. WILLIAM MCGILL, it is

Resolved, That we, the members of the Charlottetown Branch of the Irish National Land League, tender to his relatives in this Province our most sincere sympathy. By his decease the friends of salutary measures of political reform have lost an earnest and energetic advocate; while the cause which we endeavor to advance could have had no more honorable or fearless sympathizer. Nor can it be forgotten that, during the period which our fellow-colonists had to battle with Landlord tyranny—for the same right to occupy the soil that is now so justly demanded by the Irish people—the Honorable WILLIAM MCGILL was ever strongly in accord with them on the platform, as well as in Parliament, till the fullest measure of justice was secured to those who are now destined to make our Province one of the happiest portions of the great Dominion.

Resolved, That a copy of the foregoing resolution be conveyed to the relatives of the late Vice-President, and published in all the Island papers.

RICHARD WALSH, Sec'y.

At a special meeting of the Caledonian Club held on Monday the 9th inst., immediately after the Clansmen had attended the funeral of their late Brother, Col. Wm. McGill, the following resolutions were, on motion of the Hon. A. A. McDonald, seconded by James McDonald, Esq., unanimously adopted:—

Whereas, It has pleased Almighty God to remove from our midst suddenly by the hand of death our Brother Clansman Col. Wm. McGill, who was for so many years one of our most prominent and influential members,

And Whereas, We desire to place on record our sorrow for his loss and to express our sympathy with his relatives and other sorrowing friends:

Resolved, That in his death we mourn the loss of a Brother Clansman who, at all times, took a most active and prominent part in all matters pertaining to the welfare of the Caledonian Club, and of a friend, whose kind and so noble qualities endeared him to all his acquaintance;

Resolved, That the foregoing resolution be entered on the minutes of the Club.

Further Resolved, That the same be published in the daily papers. JOHN MCPHUR, Act'g Secy.

January 10, 1882.

The Pall Mall Gazette and St. James Gazette have appeared as penny papers; though unchanged in form.

GREAT SALE
-OF-
BOOKS

-AND-

FANCY GOODS

-AT-

REDUCED PRICES.

BREMNER BROTHERS

shortly intend closing their Holiday Store and conducting all their business in the Old Stand, and to all

CASH PURCHASERS

who call at once, Special Discounts will be given on their new and splendid stock of

Books, Bibles, Prayer Books,

Albums, Desks,

PHOTOGRAPH FRAMES, &c.

AS FOLLOWS:

General Books, Bibles, Prayer Books, &c., 20 per cent. discount.

Toy Books, 25 per cent.

Photograph and Autograph Albums, 20 per cent.

Desks and Work Boxes, 20 per cent.

Photograph Frames, 25 per cent.

Games, Balls, &c., 25 per cent.

1 in Toys, 50 per cent.

Shop Work Books from 25 to 75 per cent.

REMEMBER!

These discounts are only until the closing of our No. 2 Store, and for Goods contained therein, and for cash only.

No better opportunity can be had for replenishing Libraries, &c., at a small cost.

As we have no Catalogue of the above mentioned Books, the public are invited to call and look through the Stock.

BREMNER BROS. Jan. 10, '82—61, pat 1w

TENDERS.

THE CITY OF CHARLOTTETOWN, CITY CLERK'S OFFICE, January 10, 1882.

SEALED TENDERS will be received at the office of the City Clerk until Monday, the 16th January, at noon, from persons desirous of contracting for keeping the Pumps and Wells of the City in order. Form of Tender to be seen at this office.

The lowest or any tender not necessarily accepted.

By order, WM. B. MORRISON, City Clerk

[pat 2aw]

A MUSICAL & LITERARY ENTERTAINMENT

WILL BE HELD IN

ST. PATRICK'S HALL,

—ON—

Thursday Evening, 12th inst.,

under the auspices of St. Vincent de Paul Society.

The proceeds to be devoted to the relief of the poor.

Doors open at 7.30; to commence at 8 o'clock. Admission 10 cents.

Jan. 9-4 J. A. MCKENNA, Secretary.

Bank of Prince Edward Island

CHARLOTTETOWN, Jan. 9, 1882.

STOCKHOLDERS are reminded of the General Meeting, at the Banking House, on Thursday next, the 12th, at 12 o'clock, noon. Personal attendance specially requested.

JOHN LONGWORTH, President.

LAST CHANCE.

THE Drawing in the Holiday Gift Enterprise comes off on FRIDAY NEXT, in Athenaeum Hall, beginning at 10 a. m. Ticket holders wishing to be present must show their tickets at the door. Agents will please make full returns on or before Thursday, 12th inst., at noon. Parties intending to purchase tickets should do so at once, if they wish them properly registered.

E. H. BABBITT, Manager, Kent Street.

Ch'town, Jan. 9, '82—41 pd

MEACHAM'S ATLAS

OF P. E. ISLAND.

THE subscriber having purchased the entire stock from the publishers, J. H. MEACHAM & Co., now offers them at

\$3 PER COPY.

The subscription price was \$12.50. Orders by mail promptly filled on receipt of price.

E. H. NORTON, Post Office Box 192, Charlottetown, Dec. 9, '81—61 2aw pd

SUBSCRIBE for the DAILY EXAMINER, the Cheapest and most Newsy Paper Published in the Province.

THIS IS A GRAND TIME TO PURCHASE ALL KINDS OF GOODS FOR THE SEASON,

—AT THE—

LONDON HOUSE,

as we are offering special inducements to

CASH BUYERS,

and can meet the wants and means of all in Town and Country.

—:—

WE HAVE AN IMMENSE STOCK OF

DRESS GOODS,

Special Values, at 9, 10, 12, 16, 20 and 25 cents per yard.

—:—

BLACK & MOURNING GOODS, ALL PRICES.

A large lot of Ladies' Felt, Cloth and Knitted Skirts, from 50 cts. up.

Ladies' Sacques and Fur Lined Circulars.

A lot of Colored Table Cloths, many of them at Half Price, to clear.

Wool Tweeds for Men's and Boy's wear, at 50 cents per yard, up.

Wants and Ulster Cloths, double width, 50 cts. per yd. up.

Grey Union Flannels for 16 cents, up.

All Wool Flannels, in all prices.

A LARGE STOCK OF

Ladies' Wool Squares.

Bales of Buffalo and Wolf Robes.

Coon and Buffalo Coats.

Waterproof Tweed and Rubber Coats,

JUST OPENED.

A VERY LARGE STOCK OF OVERCOATS & ULSTERS,

\$5.00 UP.

Reefing Jackets, \$3 up.

A GOOD LINE OF BOYS' CLOTHING,

SUITS FROM \$1.50 UP.

Boys' Ulsters and Storm Coats.

Men's Wincey and Flannel Shirts 50 cents up.

Men's Woolen UNDERCLOTHING and CARDIGAN JACKETS.

A Good Selection of Ladies' and Men's Fur Caps.

A VALUABLE STOCK OF BLANKETS,

IN WHITE AND GREY.

BACHELORS' QUILTS, \$1.10 UP.

HORSE RUGS, \$1.25 UP.

Excellent Value in Grey and White Cottons, Tickings, and all Staple Goods.

—:—

A FULL LINE OF GROCERIES

Superior Teas, in Chests, Half-chests and Boxes.

—:—

Our House has long been popular for the quality of its Goods and the Cheap rate at which it has supplied its customers, and with greatly increased facilities for trade, we intend that its reputation in this respect shall be fully sustained in time to come.

GEO. DAVIES & CO.

Charlottetown, Nov. 21, 1881.