

THE DAILY EXAMINER.

MARCH 8, 1887.

Waterworks.

We have had another lesson. A seat of industry has been swept from our city. The owners have been compelled to meet a heavy loss. A large number of workmen have been thrown out of employment. Several adjoining buildings have been destroyed. A large portion of the town was menaced, was for a time in imminent danger of annihilation, and would undoubtedly have fallen before the fire fiend but for the heroic exertions of our firemen. It is quite possible that the factory would have been burned even if waterworks had been provided, though with a hydrant close by and a stream from it promptly applied, the shell of the building at least would probably have been saved. But with waterworks we should have lower rates of insurance, and the factory and adjoining buildings would almost certainly have been better insured. So that the loss to the citizens concerned would not have been so great, even though the fire were quite as destructive.

To bring the whole subject of waterworks once more before our citizens—every one of whom is interested—THE EXAMINER has determined to publish in full the excellent lecture recently delivered by William Heard, Esq. The first part of it appears to-day. Let it be carefully read.

Mr. Perry's Position in Prince.

THE St. John Star contains an article on Mr. Perry's position, which in some respects is inaccurate. The facts are, that at the general election for the Local House, held here in June last, Mr. Perry was elected a member to represent the First District of Prince County. Since that election the House of Assembly has not met. By the Dominion law, no member of a Local House is eligible to be elected to the House of Commons, and should one be elected the Returning Officer is not to return him. By the laws of this Island no member can resign his seat in the Local House during the interval between a general election and the first meeting of the House. This is the opinion of Mr. Davies, and it is in accord with a decision given by the Ontario Courts, the law there being the same as here. In fact, it is not disputed that Mr. Perry could not resign; and if the matter rested here, even he would not have the hardihood to take his seat, knowing full well that the party in power at Ottawa would not repeat the action of 1874 and pass an act legislating him into his seat.

There are, however, three ways by which a member's seat will, by operation of law, become vacant: (1) by death, (2) by acceptance of office, (3) by entering into a contract with the Government. Mr. Perry claims that since his election to the Local House he became interested in a contract, and therefore his seat is vacant. We have inquired into the truth of this contention, and find the facts to be: that on the 4th of August, 1886, the Lieutenant-Governor of this Island, by a commission, appointed one Edward Crossman a ferryman for Grand River Ferry, Lot 14; that previous to his nomination Mr. Perry purchased an interest in this appointment. Mr. Perry now claims that by that purchase he became a contractor with the Government, and that his seat by operation of law became vacant. The Government, however, have refused to acknowledge Mr. Perry as ferryman; and, as the appointment to Crossman was a personal one, no action of his could substitute another person as ferryman, nor could any action of Crossman create a contract between Perry and the Government.

The matter rests in this way, and will be settled either by the House of Commons or the Courts. Notwithstanding the Patriot's assertion, the Liberal-Conservatives are not afraid of the Courts. They are satisfied as to what the decision must be if brought before any impartial tribunal. If this case be not decided according to law in this Province, it can be taken to the Supreme Court at Ottawa; and there will be the less hesitation in adopting this course as, under the 106th section of the Election Act, should the appeal be successful, all costs and damages can be recovered against Mr. Strong, the Prince County Returning Officer, who, against the advice of his own lawyer, returned Mr. Perry.

There are, at least, two good and sufficient reasons for "taking the law" in this case: (1) men, like Mr. Perry, who are bound by no principle, ought to be taught that they cannot take upon themselves a sacred trust, and throw it off at their pleasure or at the pleasure of their party, independently of the law; and (2) the electors should be taught that they cannot with success elect disqualified candidates. Electors have had several lessons already; but, it appears, another is needed.

We are bound to submit to the will of the majority; and we are on that one point entitled to perfect and absolute assurance that the will of the majority shall always be constitutionally expressed by constitutional means and through men who are legally qualified for that purpose.

A number of Oppositionists met in this city to-day and selected Mr. Donald Allan M.D. as a candidate to contest the Third District with the Hon. Donald Ferguson. We await with interest a statement of the reasons of the Oppositionists for opposing Mr. Ferguson at this particular juncture.

WATERWORKS

A Review of the Subject.

INTERESTING FACTS AND FIGURES.

Most Important Civic Question of the Day.

MR. HEARD'S LECTURE.

It is a matter of congratulation, after so many years of continued effort, on the part of those friendly to a water supply, that Charlottetown has at length decided the question in the affirmative. This point has been reached through a long and determined opposition on the part of many, whose stock in trade of argument consisted chiefly in the fear of the increase of taxes. They had no objection to an increase of premium by fire insurance companies, nor to a tax of one cent a bucket for water, but the greatest repugnance to allow such an increase to be collected by the tax gatherer. In this long contest, many a good citizen paid the penalty for an opinion favorable to waterworks, by a rejection at the polls. We have now reached the point where opposition no longer reigns supreme, and where the citizens fully appreciate the importance and necessity of a full supply of good water. To succeed, we must be as one man, intent chiefly on obtaining and pursuing the best plan for the accomplishment of our object. A mistake in the start, if not fatal, yet may lead to a lavish waste of means, which would be a drag on the resources of the works for generations to come. Perhaps there is no other enterprise on which the city could embark, which requires more skill and experience, more devotion to the public good, than the enterprise which we are met to consider to-night. Before entering upon the subject proper, it may not be amiss to

GLANCE OVER THE PAST TWENTY YEARS, and try to bring back some lessons which have been taught us, but which many may have forgotten. In 1866 we had just secured an additional fire engine—the Tremont. A large tank on Queen Square had also been provided. It was thought by many that now there was no reason to dread an alarm of fire—that our resources were equal to any emergency. Those who were present on the memorable day in 1866, when the fire broke out on the Baginall property, at the corner of Powell and Water Streets, will not forget how nobly our firemen responded to the call of duty, and how eagerly the citizens strove to combat the flames. On several occasions it was supposed that the worst was past, that the fire was conquered. But it proved to be only a hope, for soon a fresh outburst, calling for renewed effort, convinced the on-lookers that it was going to be more serious than was at first supposed. As house after house was licked by the flames along Water Street and Dorchester Street, it soon became apparent that the whole block must go. The chief line of defence then was Queen Street. The greatest efforts were now exerted to prevent the flames from crossing that street. For a long time the wisdom of those who planned our city, in giving us some wide streets as fire-breaks, came readily to mind. But at last, when, from the intense heat of the fire on the west side, flames were kindled on the low old shanties on the east side of the street, it was at once seen that we were now at the mercy of the flames. It soon became in order not to count the houses but the number of blocks that were burning. The worn-out firemen could do but little, for want of water. The citizens were dispersing, each to look after his own family and property. Where it was going to end no one could tell. All that was needed to sweep up the whole city was a little breeze of wind. Four blocks were destroyed, and it appeared likely that in a few hours, not a vestige of Charlottetown would be left. And what would become of the destitute families thus deprived of home and subsistence?

A KIND PROVIDENCE on that, as on many a similar occasion, held back the wind. There was a dead calm. The rest of the city was saved. We learned a lesson at that time which has served a good purpose since, viz., that hand engines, as well as flesh and blood, have a limit. An effort had been made before this fire to obtain a steam engine. Some of our wealthy citizens refused to subscribe anything toward it. But directly after the fire, these very men were the most anxious of any to subscribe and get the engine as soon as possible. A second steamer has since been procured, with a considerable amount of hose, and some additional tanks have been built. But, however reluctant we have been to receive the lesson, we have at last realized that with all our resources we are very far behind the age. Cities, towns and even small villages across our border, are vastly ahead of us in their protection from fire and a good water supply.

THE FIRE OF 1884 had much to do with softening down the opposition to a water supply, when, in a few hours, a number of buildings on the south side of Queen Square, with their stock of goods, the Post Office and North American Hotel, were laid in ashes. The possibilities were appalling, but the winds were propitious. We have been learning lessons it is true, but at what a cost! The losses of 1866 were estimated at \$160,000, and those of 1884 at \$250,000; an amount sufficient to provide three or four such cities as ours, with efficient water works and all their equipments.

Another element which has contributed to bring about this change in public opinion, is the

UNHEALTHY CONDITION OF THE WATER in our city wells. In answer to a series of questions which were submitted to all our medical men in 1876, it was most emphatically stated, that for want of proper drainage most of the wells in our city were poisoned, the water injurious to health, and productive of fever in its worst types,

that even animals did not care to drink it. Some samples of our water have since been subjected to analysis. A sample taken from a well near the old post office, was found to contain decaying animal matters, such as are obtained from drains and cess-pools, one of the most dangerous contaminations present in any water. Spring Park water contained 5 grains of mineral matter, mostly lime, while the city sample contained over 50 grains of the very worst kind. No wonder that our city wells were deserted, and a new source of occupation—water-carriers—originated. If this supply had been only preserved from contamination, it may have required longer time for our citizens to change their opinion with regard to a good water supply. But the close proximity of human dwellings to the fountain head of this spring, has tended to shake public confidence in its purity. It is now found, that if a little of this water remains over two days in a bottle or over, the smell therefrom becomes offensive.

Another factor in the change of opinion, and one which has been rigorously applied, is the action taken by the

FIRE INSURANCE COMPANIES

in raising the rates of insurance. From the returns of 1884, we learn that the amount at the risk of the combined companies in Charlottetown was \$3,047,676; the premiums on which amounted to \$30,167; and their losses for that year in the city to \$81,056. Supposing we take the increase in the rates at 100, which is a low estimate, we have a yearly loss to the policy holders of Charlottetown of \$10,000; a sum more than sufficient to pay the yearly interest on the entire cost of the waterworks, its maintenance and a sum to a sinking fund, sufficient to pay off all the claims in 25 years. It is believed that the amount of risk on property in Charlottetown, carried by the tariff companies, is about one third of the burnable property in the city. If the entire risk be taken into account—as it should be—then the increased risk borne by property holders added to that carried by these offices, would be more than sufficient in four years to pay the entire cost of our waterworks. The above statistics also teach us, that the Insurance Offices were justified in raising the rates for their own protection.

THERE CAN BE NO DOUBT

that the present monopoly will be broken, as soon as we place ourselves in a condition to supply the proper means for putting out fire. When this is accomplished we may expect a reduction of at least 20 to 25 per cent. off our present premiums which, with the competition of other fire insurance companies, would soon bring down insurance rates to their lowest level.

THIS LONG DELAY

in forming a healthy public opinion has been productive of some indirect benefits. Had the public consent been obtained in 1870, when Mr. Fairbanks was employed to find the most suitable means of supplying the city, our position to-day would be very different in the matter of taxes. You will recollect that he selected the Gates and Curtis streams, and selected Winter River as the only source from whence the supply could be obtained. He reported that there was a possible way of utilizing this river by a Reservoir on the summit of the hill adjoining, but dismissed the thought in the following words. His darling project was a tunnel to convey the water direct from the dam through the hills, to the border of the Royalty line, near the cemetery, and thence to the city, by an open brick aqueduct, or by pipes. The correctness of his calculation may be judged by the light which has since been brought to bear on this subject. His estimate for the tunnel in contrast with Mr. Murdoch's estimate is amusing. There was no provision even for contingencies by Fairbanks; Mr. Murdoch on the other hand remarks: "The great and uncertain cost of this work, combined with the fact that the supply obtained in this way would be at least a low pressure one, and as such deficient in protection power, does not commend this scheme to my judgment; nor could I advise its adoption unless as a last resort." In 1875 Mr. Murdoch was employed by the Council "to make a thorough 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." This was done, and for some cause the report lay dormant for five years. In 1881, the Council obtained this report, and from that time a

GREAT NUMBER OF EFFORTS

to put it in operation have been made. Owing to the prevailing notion that the works could be better and more cheaply built by a company than by the city, and that if it should prove unremunative, the citizens would not have to bear the loss, the opposition to the work by the city was intensified. I need not refer you to the various schemes which, down to a very recent period, have been advocated by such companies or their friends. You may, however, form a very correct opinion now of the difference between the results if a company had undertaken the task, as compared with its prosecution by competent men for the city.

THERE CAN BE NO QUESTION

that a city corporation such as ours, could borrow money for such a purpose, from 1 to 3 per cent. cheaper than a private company, nor is there any doubt that a company would be unwilling to engage in such a speculation, unless there was a prospect of very good returns. If it would pay them, it would pay the city much better. We are not left to inference on this point. Other towns have had the experience of trusting to the tender mercies of such companies, as have so kindly offered to undertake the work for us, and they have bitterly regretted their folly. An engineer of high standing in his profession—residing in Massachusetts—writing on this subject, a few days ago, said:—"It is only within a few years that the company business has been so popular. There are quite a number of companies all over the country, who make a regular business of getting charters in this direction. Some of them are good and substantial, while others have no bottom at all. One concern has a large number of petitions before the State Legislature for Acts of Incorporations, whose note I would not take for \$25. The town of Spencer, Mass., affords an instance of

THIS KIND OF FOLLY.

Their waterworks were built about five years ago, by a company, at a cost of

about \$60,000, and within two years after their completion, were purchased by the town for \$240,000!!! "It is well that we have escaped this ordeal, better still, that the city has decided to build and own their own works. During the last winter I had the opportunity of enquiring into the success attending waterworks in different parts of England. One town in the west of England, was compelled to provide waterworks and to rebuild their sewers, owing to the unenviable notoriety which it had attained, as the unhealthiest town in England, although built on the side of a steep hill, on hard rock. Typhoid and smallpox were of frequent occurrence. The death-rate had reached above 30 to the 1,000, yet the citizens were unwilling to shoulder the expense, until the Government compelled them to undertake the work. Water was obtained at a distance of about three miles, and brought into the town. The sewerage was also rebuilt. The results were simply marvellous. The death-rate fell to 11 to the 1,000. The town soon gained notoriety of an opposite kind, as one of the healthiest spots in England. Residents flocked in. Not a house wanted a tenant. Building operations started in all directions, until nearly every available spot was occupied. Business of all kinds flourished, and prosperity soon followed. The income from the water rates has been sufficient to pay the cost of maintenance, the interest on the capital, and enough for a sinking fund, which has nearly paid off the whole amount borrowed. In a few years the entire income from the waterworks (less working expenses) will be available for town purposes or for the reduction of taxes.

(To be Continued.)

Above all other earthly ills, I hate the big, old-fashioned pill; By slow degrees they downward wend, And often pause, or upward tend; With such discomfort are they fraught, Their good effects amount to naught. Now, Dr. Pierce prepares a pill That just exactly fills the bill— A pellet, rather, that is all— A pleasant purgative, and small; Just try them as you feel their need, You'll find that I speak truth, indeed.

MARRIED.

At the residence of the bride's mother, by Rev. J. J. Skinner, on the 3rd inst., Mr. William G. Schuman, and Miss Ada B. Schurman, all of Free-town, P. E. Island.

DIED.

At Lot 48, Feb. 26th, Catherine, widow of the late Wm. Morrissey, aged 89 years.

At Georgetown, on the 17th ult., after a long and painful illness, borne with patience and resignation to the Divine will, Dr. J. C. McKeown, aged 84 years. Much and deservedly regretted.

A Rare Chance for Business at Tignish.

I WILL rent, for a term of years, with privilege of purchase, my establishment at Tignish Railway Station, consisting of— 1st. Large, commodious Shop, Office and Warehouse, with Dwelling attached, also Coach-house and Stable. 2nd. A Warehouse, 3 stores, 6x10. 3rd. Large Yard, with Shed for 20 horses. 4th. Large Warehouse alongside Railway track. The Stock Book shows \$1,400 general merchandise and shop fixtures, which will be sold on long terms. Possession can be given immediately, and my clerk will stay with the next occupant if desired. For terms, &c., apply to GEORGE W. HOWLAN, Ch'town, March 8, 1887—ex pat jour tmo

LOBSTER FACTORY FOR SALE

WE will Sell by Public Auction, On TUESDAY, the 22nd Instant, COMMENCING AT 2 O'CLOCK, P. M., the Valuable Lobster Factory, situated at Park Corner, New London, lately occupied by Andrew J. McLeod, together with Cook House, Bail House, Stable, &c. ALSO—Boats, Traps, Rope, Fishing and Packing Gear, Cooking Utensils, Stoves, &c. Also, about 20 Empty Boxes and about 100 Boxes, Cans, and sundry other articles too numerous to mention. Terms made known at sale. ANDREW BOWNNESS, BOWNNESS & ANDERSON, Auctioneers, Kensington, March 5, 1887—tl sale

SELLING OFF.

GRAND Clearing-out Sale, for one month, at Reduced Prices for Cash, of Clocks, Watches, Jewelry, Silverware, Spectacles, &c.

As I want to make room for a new stock, and have on hand a large assortment of the LATEST STYLES OF GOODS, I will sell at prices that will defy competition. Old goods sold regardless of cost. G. G. JURY, North Side QUEEN SQUARE, opposite New Post Office, March 8, 1887—2a w & wky tf

WANTED.

A SITUATION as Book-keeper with a good responsible merchant. Have had four years' experience, and can give best of references. Apply to "H," care of P. O. Box 53, city. March 8, 1887—3t bid pd

COKE PLATES.

3,000 BOXES, BEST BRANDS GUARANTEED, TOGETHER WITH ALL OTHER

Lobster Packers' Supplies and Tools AT SPECIAL LOW PRICES.

P. WALSH, HALIFAX, N. S.

March 8th, 1887—1 mo

LONDON HOUSE.

House-keeping Goods, New White and Gray Cotton, New Printed Cottons, Bleached Sheetings, Unbleached Sheetings, Pillow Cottons, Table Linens, Towels, Toweling.

THESE goods have just been opened for Spring Sale, and having been bought before the recent advance in Cottons, will be found extra value.

CARPETS! CARPETS! Brussels, Tapestries, Hems, Floor Cloths, Matting, Hearth Rugs, Door Mats, Lace Curtains,

Tailoring Department.

A lot of Spring Tweeds just opened.

HARRIS & STEWART,

SUCCESSORS TO GEO. DAVIES & CO. Ch'town, March 7, 1887.—wky

SEE!

30 PER CENT DISCOUNT!

WE will Sell our MAGNIFICENT STOCK at the above discount, for cash, to clear by the 1st of April. This is a Genuine Sale, as we want to commence in our new premises with an entire New Stock

This Discount is for Cash Only.

JOHN MACLEOD & CO.

Ch'town, Feb. 19, 1887—cod & wky

James Paton & Co.

Those who have not inspected our Stock of Dry Goods and House Furnishings should do so at once.

Remember, the time for buying all kinds of House Furnishings will soon be at hand, and bear in mind we lead in this line.

Our Carpet and Oilcloth Show Room is loaded with nice new patterns, for Spring Trade, from the cheapest Hemp Carpet to the best Velvet Pile. We have the Largest Stock of Carpets and Oilcloths on the Island.

Also, a large assortment of Sheetings, Pillow Cottons, Tickings, Gray and White Cottons and Print Cottons, at Lowest Prices for Cash.

JAMES PATON & CO.,

Successors to W. A. WEEKS & CO., Market Square. Ch'town, Feb. 17, 1887.—dy wky

CHARLOTTETOWN SASH AND DOOR FACTORY!

Penke's No. 3 Wharf, R. PALMER & CO., PROPRIETORS.

We are now manufacturing and will sell at the Lowest Cash Prices:

Sashes, Doors, Window and Door Frames, Architraves, Spouting and Conductor Mouldings, Ballusters, Newel Posts, Stair Bases, Twist, &c. We are prepared to do all kinds of Jobbing, in Planing, Joining, Morticing, Tenoning, Jig and Free Sawing, Turning, &c.

All kinds of Gothic Windows for Churches made at shortest notice.

With new and first-class Machinery, and the latest appliances, we can insure the utmost satisfaction to all who favor us with their patronage.

Jan. 5, 1887.