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**The Watchman.**

THURSDAY, JAN. 12, 1893.

**Our Fire Department.**

The fire on Friday night last certainly demonstrated to the public that there are serious defects in our fire department and it is high time that the necessary steps were taken to remedy those defects, or the Underwriters Association, one of the most powerful organizations on the continent, may step in and raise our insurance rates to the highest notch, thereby taking out of the pockets of the people thousands of dollars annually, which might be saved by the judicious expenditure of a few hundreds at the present time.

That the equipment of the Fire Brigade now is not worthy of a town of the size and importance of Lindsay no person will have the hardihood to deny. It would do discredit to a village of five hundred people. This is a progressive age and corporations must keep up with the procession. In many respects Lindsay ranks high and keeps well in advance, but in this respect very little progress has been made in twenty years.

While our neighboring towns of Peterborough, Belleville, Cobourg and others have been re-modelling their Fire Departments, our town has stood still, or almost so, and in case of a large conflagration the town would practically be at the mercy of the flames. True, Lindsay has been exceedingly fortunate in the past, but fires are liable to occur at any time and it is a duty that the council owes to the ratepayers to see that our means for fighting fires are sufficient and reliable, so that when the time for action comes, the appliances will be ample to stay the destroying element.

The officers and men, are of course practically all volunteers, but they are alert and active and considering the great disadvantages under which they have labored in the past, they have accomplished wonders. It is said, however, that even the worm will turn if trod upon, and the members of the brigade are now speaking with no uncertain sound, and as they are backed up by the people, the council must soon take action.

The hose reels are almost useless while the burlesque on a hook and ladder truck has long been the laughing stock of every person who has seen it. Horses have taken the place of men, as motive power, in every place of any size except Lindsay and the days of "running with the masheen" have long been numbered. The supply of hose is of good enough quality but in quantity it is woefully deficient and in case of an alarm, while the hose is being dried in summer, or thawed out in winter, a serious delay is likely to occur, at any time, and a reserve stock should be kept to meet a possible emergency that may arise.

What the council should aim at is efficiency at a moderate cost. We are not advocating the establishment of a costly paid department but would suggest replacing the present reels with a waggon, such as is found in all good departments and the purchase of a truck of modern construction, having

reliable ladders, a couple of extinguishers and the other necessary equipments. The town could hire or purchase a horse and employ one man as driver. He would be on duty all the time and could have the hose at any part of the town in a few minutes and with a good reliable staff of firemen, all of whom should reside in the vicinity of the station, and our splendid waterworks, the citizens would be assured of reasonable safety.

The present system of fire alarm is also antiquated and one in connection with the telephone exchange could be constructed at a small cost.

We trust and expect that the new council will deal with this very important matter at once.

**Editorial Notes.**

THE board of trade banquet at Toronto, on Thursday night last was a great affair. Lord Stanley, Premier Thompson and Mowat, Hon. Mr. Laurier and Mr. Foster were among the notables present. The speeches were all good but the Dominion Premier had nothing new to say regarding his policy.

THE record of failures in Canada for 1892 as reported by the commercial agencies is a fairly satisfactory one. As compared with 1891 there was a marked decrease both in the number and liabilities of insolvents, coupled with a considerable increase in the amount of assets turned over to the creditors. The total number of failures in the Dominion for 1892 was 1679 as against 1839, showing a decrease in number of 9 per cent., whilst in the matter of liabilities the total for last year was \$11,566,210 as against \$14,848,000 in 1891, a falling off of \$3,281,790 or 22 per cent. in favor of 1892. On the other hand, the assets were put at one million dollars more than in the preceding year. Turning to the provinces, the number of failures and the amount of liabilities in Nova Scotia, Manitoba and British Columbia were greater last year than in the previous, whilst in all the other provinces, notably in Ontario and Quebec, the record was a decided improvement on 1891.

THE re-appearance of Cholera lately at several points in Europe is regarded by health authorities in the United States as a sure indication of its spread westward with the coming spring. It is pointed out by eminent medical authority that people must now accustom themselves to annual visitations of Oriental plagues instead of at intervals of years as heretofore, on account of the facilities afforded by railways and fast steamships for the spread of such diseases. By the construction of the Caspian railway, connecting Western Asia and Eastern Europe, a journey is now made in a single day that formerly would have taken several weeks, and consequently the opportunities for the spread of the Cholera plague have increased a thousand fold. The situation may become grave enough in the near future to result in international legislation for the protection of civilized countries against the spread of this Eastern scourge. Meantime, however, the great safety of Canada and the United States lies in the adoption of prompt measures on the part of local health authorities, in addition to the seaboard quarantine and the prohibition of importations likely to convey infection adopted by the governments of the two countries. Perfect cleanliness and proper sanitary measures in our cities, towns, and villages are the safest and best precautions, and it behoves local boards of health to exercise the strictest vigilance in these matters.

At the late municipal elections, in addition to the election of our "city fathers," the voice of our ratepayers was heard on two important side issues—the free library, and the question of the reduction of hotel licenses. As to the latter question the vote shows that our citizens are about evenly divided, and as a result it is altogether probable that the number of licenses for the present year will be the same as last. There is of course a difference of opinion as to whether in a town of 6,500 population there is more evil results from the issue of 14 than from the issue of 9 licenses. It will be generally admitted, however,

that where the license system is the law of the district, the most important question really is whether the law is properly observed and enforced or not. We believe that Lindsay will compare favorably with other towns in this respect, and it becomes the authorities to see to it that the record improves rather than otherwise for the year. In the matter of the free library, it is doubtful whether the ratepayers have had an opportunity of fully weighing the question in all its bearings. The funds for the support of mechanic institutes and libraries come now partly from the public purse, in the shape of a grant from the provincial legislature, and we believe the time is not far distant when these institutions will be supported and controlled by the municipalities, just as our schools are. However, it has been decided otherwise, and pretty strongly so, so far as the town of Lindsay is concerned, and it is to be hoped that the directors of our mechanic institutes and library will not feel discouraged by the vote, and especially that our citizens will support them as they have done hitherto, by becoming members, in large numbers, of so worthy an institution.

**RIVAL ARCHBISHOPS.**

THEY HAVE A LIVELY CONTROVERSY IN THE U.S.

Two Archbishops in the United States Fall Out and the Pope is Called Upon to Reconcile the Offenders—Mgr. Satolli's Mission in Proving Most Arduous.

NEW YORK, Jan. 11.—Since Mgr. Satolli has arrived in the United States as a representative of the Vatican, and possessed with almost unlimited power to dispose of matters concerning the peace and welfare of the Roman Catholic Church in America, there has been brought before the public that which leads to suspicion that the sequel to Dr. McGlynn's restoration to his full rights as a priest, will be disastrous to one or more of his colleagues whose names are well known as his own.

The discussion which followed the action of Mgr. Satolli in reinstating Dr. McGlynn disclosed to the press the probability of a conspiracy among some of the church leaders to represent the results of Mgr. Satolli's mission as likely to do more harm than good, with the alleged design of persuading the Pope to recall his special representative. To what extent the press has been mixed up in the matter can be seen by this excerpt from The Chicago Sunday Post.

"Formal charges of the gravest character have been preferred against the Most Rev. Michael Augustine Corrigan, the Roman Catholic Archbishop of New York, by a brother prelate. His Grace of New York is accused by the Most Rev. John Ireland, Archbishop of St. Paul, of having engaged in an unlawful conspiracy to weaken or undo the effect of the Pope's decisions in respect of church matters in America and of having had recourse to methods unbecoming a bishop, designed to discredit and disgrace Archbishop Ireland and Monsignor Satolli, the Papal delegate to America. These charges, duly formulated, are now on their way to Rome, where they will be presented to the highest tribunal in the Roman Catholic Church."

The Post avers that it has unearthed the alleged conspiracy through securing a letter from Archbishop Corrigan to a layman in Chicago, requesting the publication in a widely-circulated Western paper of an article in the form of an interview with a Catholic ecclesiastic at Philadelphia.

The substance of the article is that Archbishop Ireland is endeavoring to have Catholic children in his diocese gradually educated to the custom of attending State schools without considering themselves in anything but a natural position while there; and that the effect must be to wear these children from desire for combined religious and secular instruction, inasmuch as State laws prohibit the introduction of religious instruction in any form in the public schools.

As an offset to this charge it is known that Archbishop Ireland has arranged for special religious instruction for these children after and before regular school hours, and that he desires these children to be educated in the public schools because the schools are supported by the state, because they offer greater educational advantages and because teachers may be Roman Catholics as well as Protestants.

The Rev. Father M. J. Lavelle, rector of St. Patrick's Cathedral, New York, who was accused of being the chief of Archbishop Corrigan's alleged New York bureau for the dissemination through the west and elsewhere of newspaper literature hostile to Mgr. Satolli and Archbishop Ireland, says:

"Suppose that the archbishop had (which you must not take for granted; I do not believe that it is true) used the press for the purpose of upholding his side of the controversy, could it be possible our friends, with their broad American ideas, would find fault with him for doing what they themselves are reported to be practising every day and to have been practising for years?"

From this it is evident that the trouble between Archbishop Corrigan and Ireland is that the former distrusts the liberal views and actions of the latter in school matters, and that the disaffection may spread until the priesthood of the country becomes divided on the situation.

The promise is fair that Archbishop Ireland's position will be sustained by the Pope, inasmuch as the Pope is well in accord with the reinstating of Dr. McGlynn, whose views are and have been as liberal, possibly more so, as those of Archbishop Ireland.

The Vatican has caused an enquiry to be made into the motives and the extent of the opposition to the Satolli mission. The Pope holds absolutely to his policy that ecclesiastical affairs in the United States shall develop themselves along moderate lines and in a spirit of harmony with the institutions of the United States.

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