Seal Jackets NEW CARNEGIE LIBRARY TO BE OPENED THIS MORNING

View of the New Carnegie Library in St. John.

Nov. 16 1904

This article on the opening of the Carnegie Building as the Saint John Free Public Library was originally published in the Saint John Daily Telegraph Nov. 16, 1904.

The following is a transcript of the text, for easier reading.

New Carnegie Library To Be Opened This Morning

The new Free Public Library, in Hazen avenue [sic], will be opened to the public this morning at 10 o'clock. There will be no formal ceremony. The library commissioners decided on this course at their meeting on Monday. They were anxious to expedite matters as much as possible and although the children's room is not yet in order and some shelves have still to be put in place the public will find the reading room and the circulating library ready for their reception.

The library building is well suited for its purpose. In the basement the working rooms of the library, the furnace room, etc., are situated.

The visitor, as he enters through the main doors finds himself in a circular waiting room well lighted from the dome above. The librarian's desk, etc., faces the entrance and behind it is the stock room, where are kept the books for general circulation.

On the right of the waiting room is the general reading rooms provided with tables and chairs sufficient to accommodate a considerable number of readers and supplied with a largely increased list of papers. To the left of the main entrance are the children's room and reference library.

The library will be open daily from 10 a.m. to 9.30 p.m., but books will not be given out during the last half hour, which is for the benefit of readers only.

As is generally known the new building is due to the munificence of Andrew Carnegie who, three years ago, donated $50,000 on condition that the city would provide $5,000 yearly for the maintenance of the library. The present commissioners of the library are Richard O'Brien (chairman), Mrs. W.H. Tuck, Mrs. E.A. Smith, Mrs. James F. Robertson, Mrs. R.J. Ritchie, Messrs. W.M. Jarvis, James Christie, M.D; Thos. Millidge and J.B.M. Baxter.

The new building is in the classic style and in appearance it has met with general approval. G. Ernest Fairweather was the architect. James Myles was the contractor, Ald. Robt. Maxwell having the sub-contract for the mason work, which was the principal part. G.&E. Blake put in the heating apparatus, and James Hunter did the greater part of the electric lighting work.