

**OFFICIALLY COMPILED.**

**THE SOFT SNAP OF A PROVINCIAL DIRECTORY PUBLISHER.**

**He Enlists the Aid of a Postal Official, and Thereby Saves the Expense of Canvassers—The Country Pays for the Postage, Paper, Envelopes and Labor.**

An esteemed correspondent, at Bacawabac, wants PROGRESS to explain how directories are made—that is, how all the names are obtained.

The enquiry is a very proper one. Not one person in a thousand of those who consult a directory ever gives a thought to the vast amount of labor, and the expense, necessary for the preparation of such a useful book. In the city directory, for instance, every name, street and number, must be as correct as careful enquiry can make them, and a host of precautions must be taken to prevent duplications and contradictions. If a directory is not correct, it is misleading, and the publisher of such a book would necessarily suffer in reputation and in a loss of public confidence.

There is a certain publisher in a certain province who is a veteran in the business, and knows just how to go to work to secure the best results. He is a very careful man, and tries to make his books as correct as possible in every particular. This is not always an easy matter. Various kinds of men are employed to procure the names, and some of them are apt to work more with a view to their pay than with a zeal to be accurate at any cost. Such men, if not watched, may put a "p" in Thomson, or omit an "e" from the end of Clarke, spell Smyth with an "i," turn "De Vere" into Dever, and begin "deJenkins" with an obtrusive and offensive capital "D."

Mistakes as serious as this have happened in the best regulated directories. Sometime ago, but on what particular day and date deponent saith not, the publisher in question decided upon the publication of a provincial directory containing an alphabetical directory of each county, and a separate directory of the cities and principal towns, with an appendix of useful information. Concurrently with the resolve, his face is believed to have worn a more than usually contented smile.

A brilliant idea had occurred to him. Before his eye rose a vision of a provincial directory which would be in its way as correct as an Ottawa blue-book. He would no longer be at the mercy of canvassers of whose fidelity he was not assured, but would have the work officially complied by sworn employees of the government. He would enlist the co-operation of every postmaster in that particular province.

The country postmaster, as a rule, is neither overworked nor overpaid. He has an intimate knowledge of his neighbors, their affairs, and the spelling of their names. Moreover, after the daily and weekly mail has arrived and he has read all the postal cards, he has an abundance of spare time. He delights to fill out lists for quack medicine men to use for circulars, or for newspapers to utilize for sample copies. Besides, for a salary of from \$10 to \$50 a year he fills out more department blanks in a week than a civil service employee has to do for ten times the money.

There were 1,000 or more postmasters in the province in question, and the problem with the publisher was how to obtain their co-operation with the least trouble and at the smallest expense. The sending of a circular to each one, and the return postage at letter rates would cost only some \$60 or \$70, but under such a system there was no certainty that even the majority of them would respond. If he undertook to pay them all by the job, he could not offer them less than \$1 a piece, which would mean \$1,000, while if he offered say two cents a name, some rural officials might send not only the entire population of men, women and children, but might supplement the list by copying the inscriptions in the village graveyard.

To send his own canvassers around the country might cost as much as \$2,000.

The wise publisher hit upon a much better plan, by which he would not only save postage, paper, time and trouble, but would have an accurate and virtually official list. All this, he found, could be done by dealing with one man, who for a fixed and definite sum would undertake to have the work satisfactorily and promptly performed.

That man was found in the person of an obliging post-office official.

This official, realizing the importance of accuracy in such a publication, and readily seeing that the directory speculation was wholly in the interests of the public, was very willing to co-operate with the publisher. It would, of course, be out of the question for a man in his position to accept any remuneration for doing what was so clearly a duty to his country, but as the young men in his office would have to do a great deal of extra work in the matter, it would only be right that they should have something in the way of reward. That is the way he put it.

The publisher was quite willing to pay for the knowledge he wanted, and agreed to pay a sum, said to be about \$300, to the genial official.

Two of the clerks under the official's control were assigned to the work. They made cyclostyle—or some other style—copies of a circular from the official to the postmasters throughout the province, excepting possibly, some of the larger towns, calling on them officially for certain information regarding their neighborhood and its people. With each circular was enclosed an envelope for reply, bearing on its face the magical words "On Her Majesty's Service—Free," while the same inscription decorated the envelopes in which the circulars were sent. Enclosed, also, were the blank forms, to be filled up and returned without delay. Having passed from the publisher's hands to those of the postal service the preparation of the directory became an official transaction, and of course the circulars, etc., were written on the paper of the department.

The postmasters responded with alacrity. The lists came back, were compiled by the young men, handed to the publisher and in due time became a matter of record in his valuable book.

If the genial official had been obliged to pay for the paper, envelopes, postage, labor of clerks, etc., he would have lost money. It is estimated that these amounted in value to about \$600, which the country is amply able to stand. Besides, the people at large will derive great benefit from the directory.

This is about all that will interest the correspondent who wants to know how a directory is made up. It does not concern him to know that the publisher paid his money like a man to the obliging official, who took it, and paid the bright young men the respective sums of \$20 and \$25 each. Nor will the correspondent care to know that if the official makes the young men happy by a Christmas present of the balance due them, they will be sorry they ever thought he intended to reward himself with it.

So everybody will be happy, and the wise publisher not the least happy of all.

**It Has Started Well.**

The Masonic Club held its first meeting in the new room, Masonic building, last evening. The large apartment which it will occupy during the winter has been made very bright and cheerful by Mr. John H. Leah, new gas fixtures have been put in by Messrs. Blake, and but little more needs to be done to make the place most attractive and homelike in its appearance. The committee which has had charge of the fitting up has acquitted itself well, and it now only remains for the club to complete the good work now begun. The club starts under the most favorable auspices, and will emphatically "fill a long-felt want" among the members of the fraternity.

**She Began the Day Early.**

The servant girl at the house of a prominent resident on the Douglas road got up as usual, the other morning, when she heard the alarm clock. This had always sounded at 6 o'clock, but this morning it seemed as though daylight would never come. Two hours later, when the girl discovered that she had got up for the day at 3.30, she was so mad that she packed her trunk and left. Her mistress, who thus finds herself left without help at a busy season, is very anxious to know who shifted that clock.

**Just What They Wanted.**

The willing workers of the Leinster street church will work all the more willingly now, since Sheraton & Selfridge have sent them the very welcome present of a stove for their room. It will be of more use to them than a ton of sympathy, in the cold weather.

**Doing It in Style.**

It took four policemen to seize a basket of bottled ale, in an unlicensed tavern, the other night, and then it took a coach and two horses to carry them and their booty to the police station, a pistol shot away. There is nothing like doing things in style, even if you have to wait a while for the coach to come after you.

**Just Before Christmas.**

The Boston Comedy Company, under the management of H. Price Webber, will open in the Mechanics' Institute on Monday evening, Dec. 23rd, for a few nights. The opening bill will be Miss Braddons drama, *Aurora Floyd*, and the always welcome farce of the *Royal Diamond*.

**Interesting to the Ladies.**

Mrs. L. B. Carroll is now having a great sale of trimmed and untrimmed hats and bonnets, at the American Millinery store, 149 Union St. Felt hats trimmed from \$1.25 up. Imported bonnets and all goods in the latest style, selling for one half their former prices.—*Advt.*

*Photograph Albums, lowest Prices, at McArthur's Bookstore, 80 King street.*

**SHACKELTON MADE GLAD**

**APPEALS OF "PROGRESS" MEET WITH PROMPT RESPONSE.**

**Warm-Hearted People Contribute to the Relief of the Family—The State of Affairs Not So Bad as a Correspondent Made It Appear—Some Explanations.**

A former employer of James Shackleton whose extreme need was spoken of in last Saturday's issue by a correspondent, called at the office of PROGRESS the same day and spoke of Shackleton as very worthy of any assistance, which would be no doubt exceedingly welcome, but he said that in his opinion he was not in such pressing need as the correspondent seemed to indicate. His neighbors and friends had been very kind to him since he had been ill and would not permit him to want. It is with pleasure that PROGRESS acknowledges the receipt of \$7 from the employes of A. F. DeForest & Co., for the needy family. Their prompt and generous response to the call for aid does them infinite credit. May their Christmas be all the happier for their thoughtfulness.

The people of St. John are not selfish or uncharitable. The response of the public was prompt and hearty, and whatever may have been Shackleton's case before, it is quite certain that he will want nothing in the immediate present.

In justice to the neighbors of the sick man, however, it may be said that the communication, received too late for verification, made the matter worse than it was. Shackleton was not in danger of starving, nor had the church treated him unkindly. He was undoubtedly very poor, and was known to be such by the people of Fairville. Some of them tried to help him.

For instance, Mr. Richard Thompson, his former employer, gave employment to one of the boys at \$3 a week. This was not a large income, but it was something, and in addition to this, Mr. Thompson has done much in a quiet way to help the family.

The greatest injustice done by the correspondent was to a clergyman whose name was not given. The gentleman meant is understood to be Rev. Mr. Rice, pastor of the Methodist church at Fairville. He has been grossly misrepresented. Mr. Shackleton himself is authority for the statement that not only has Mr. Rice been to see him a number of times, but that "he never came empty-handed."

Saturday was a great day for the Shackleton family. Messrs. DeForest's employes sent their money as soon as they had read the paper, and soon after their receipt a delegation from the St. George's society called to make enquiries, and took steps to aid the needy man. The people of Fairville were in a buzz of excitement, and money and provisions were freely offered.

Sunday, however, was the field day at Shackleton's house. "It was equal to a parish election," says one. No less than 30 teams were there from all points, and all of them carried some kind of help. The poor man had never fared so well in his life.

While the case was exaggerated by the correspondent of PROGRESS, there is no doubt that the assistance afforded proved most welcome to the family, which at the best was very poor indeed. It is well that attention has been called to the matter, as now, no doubt, the neighbors who have helped the family in the past will have others to co-operate with them in the future.

*Children's Books, one hundred varieties, at McArthur's, 80 King street.*

**"PROGRESS" AND ITS PATRONS.**

**A Few Words About the New and Regular Announcements in Its Columns.**

A glance at the second page today will show the reader the handsome front of that extensive and first-class establishment, J. & A. McMillan, and there will be no need of the head line to remind one of the fact that the handsomest and best Christmas gifts to be had can be found there. There is no necessity for PROGRESS to say anything about the store and its contents. The best works of the best publishers are there. The elegant holiday editions that are the pride of every publishing house can be found on their counters. The standard authors are fully represented and the popular books of the day find a prominent place on their shelves.

Mr. W. H. Bell will not permit his pianos and organs to take a rear place at this festive season. This is the time to push them, in his opinion, and with that worth object in view he talks about them on the fourth page today. Read what he says.

Messrs. H. Chubb & Co. impress the public with the attractive fact that a World typewriter costs but \$10 and would be a cheap and useful holiday gift.

To speak of house furnishing at Christmas times seems out of place, but it is a fact nevertheless that many people take this time to add to their household equipment. An easy chair is always a welcome and useful present and one especially popular with persons who have passed the time when it

does not matter what kind of a seat they occupy, whether it is hard or soft. Harold Gilbert's furniture warerooms is a good place to go in search of such gifts.

"Better late than never, Mr. Patton, but you are a little too tardy this week, considering how many papers have to be struck off before Friday night." The sum and substance of the "ad," which will appear next week, is that Mr. Patton has beautiful and reasonable things at his store on Waterloo street.

**NOT QUITE THE FIRST.**

**The Pioneer Railway Train Was Not That Which is Claimed by Nova Scotia.**

Some of the Nova Scotia papers are telling that "Judge Fogo, of Pictou, enjoys, with Mr. J. Wier, of Moncton, the distinction of having had a ride on the first train of cars ever run on this continent. Both were present at the opening, in 1838, of the road from the mines at Stellarton, to the loading ground some miles distant, and were of the party that went over the road."

It is about time to correct the error that the Mines road was the first in America. It was not only not the first on the continent, but by no means the first in Canada. It was opened in 1838, but in 1837 there were sixteen miles of railway in operation in the Upper Provinces. The Champlain and St. Lawrence line was opened on July 21, 1836, at which time trains had long ceased to be a novelty in the United States. The first locomotive was tried on the Delaware & Hudson road as early as August, 1829, but what was really the "first railroad train" in America was that which made an excursion on the Mohawk & Hudson road, August 9, 1831. This was seven years before Messrs. Weir and Fogo made their trip at Albion mines.

**How It is Bounded.**

The Charlotte county papers are having a discussion as to the true boundaries of St. John. The *Beacon* asserts that it is "not bounded by the cantilever bridge on the one side, and Partridge Island on the other," while the *Courier* rather inclines to the belief that it is. Both papers have a rather rural and restricted idea. No such pent up Utica contracts our powers. The St. John of the future is bounded only by the Bay of Fundy on the one side and the county lines on all others. At the rate at which it is growing there is no telling where it may reach to in the future, after the dock question is settled. The St. John of the present is bounded only by the resources of its people. As these resources increase, the city will expand, until the city and county become synonymous terms. We are a live people.

**Good as a Christmas Box.**

Two ladies met in a Fredericton dry goods establishment, F. B. Edgecomb's, one day last week and as they had not seen each other for some time, living in different cities, the natural inquiry of the Fredericton lady was to ask her friend how she liked—the city she had just moved from.

"I like Fredericton ever so much better" was the candid reply. "In fact I could not have lived in—if it had not been for PROGRESS reaching me every Saturday. It helped me pass many a weary hour." And she was a minister's wife.

*Plush Goods, Bibles, Purses, etc., lowest prices, at McArthur's, 80 King street.*

**Improving our Facilities.**

This has been a great business year for PROGRESS. Its circulation has increased at a wonderful rate, and no paper in the city can show the same advertising patronage as it does. The latest addition to the office is a telephone, and all our friends and customers who have not the time to come and talk business with us can spin their yarn over the wire. But make it short and to the point.

**Experimenting With the Climate.**

A hermit was discovered camping out, under the lee of a boulder on the shady side of Lily lake, the other day. He had no fire and very few clothes, but appeared to have located himself for the winter. He was evidently under the impression that the winters are slightly milder in Canada than in England, from which he emigrated a few months ago.

**How to Weigh the Pig.**

A Charlotte county man has just killed a pig, fattened by himself, and is anxious to know the weight of it. As his scales weigh only up to 10 pounds, he proposes to weigh each piece as it is prepared for the family's consumption, by which method his curiosity will be satisfied, sometime next season.

**Sample Free.**

Some unknown poet sends PROGRESS some verses beginning:

St. John has a real Ghost  
And he's an active fellow  
A peering to a Rev man  
To be a chocolate color

The public will probably be very well satisfied to guess at the rest of it.

**CHRISTMAS IS COMING,**

**BUT "PROGRESS" HAS TAKEN TIME BY THE FORELOCK.**

**Something About the Paper That is Issued To-Day, and the Men who Helped to Make It—Not a "Boom" Edition, but Quite as Interesting.**

Today PROGRESS completes the 85th week of its existence, and is glad to announce that it is not only alive, but in the most vigorous health.

It might be said that it is also "alive and kicking"—when there are any abuses to be kicked against. When there are not it is as peaceable and well disposed as any paper in America. Just now, whatever may be hidden in public affairs, there is not much on the surface that is radically wrong, and so PROGRESS is inclined, as becomes the season, to live in peace with the world.

Last year, at the holiday season, a mammoth edition of PROGRESS was issued, showing the importance of St. John as a business centre, and giving a very good idea of the operations of the leading business houses. The people appreciated such a paper, and so did the newspapers, though some of them had not the courage to say so. Since then, however, PROGRESS having shown what a "boom" edition was, the idea has been imitated by a number of the dailies, with more or less success, until 24-page papers are no longer a novelty in this part of the world. They were unheard of until PROGRESS led the way.

This year, another view of the matter has been taken. Christmas is a very busy season, but it is not one in which people want to read articles on the business and resources of the country. They want something more in keeping with the spirit of the holidays, and this has been given them in the matter which fills the greater portion of this issue.

It will be found worth reading. All the stories have been written especially for this number, and several of them, with special local bearing are narratives of actual adventure. The readers can judge which they like best, for there is a variety of styles, and all of them are good. It is only to be regretted that, in one or two instances, the extreme modesty of the authors has led them to write under assumed names. They should not shrink from publicity when they have done such really good work.

The edition of 20 pages that PROGRESS gives to its readers today is second only in size to its magnificent "boom" issue of last year. That paper had 24 pages filled with local engravings and descriptions of business houses and firms. The holiday number today is composed of quite different material. The illustrations and stories were obtained from the best engraving firm in the business and the best writers in the maritime provinces. Both of these features were selected with the special idea of a purely holiday number worth buying and worth reading. The paper used in this edition is better than the ordinary, and the presswork is ahead of any done in the newspaper line in not only the maritime provinces, but in Canada. This is not any more the credit of the splendid new press of PROGRESS than of the painstaking and excellent foreman, James Porter, and the pressman, James Byrne. With too little time at his disposal, and the regular edition to handle as well, Mr. Porter's arrangement of the advertisements and illustrations would do credit to any printer.

Apart from the merit of the stories, of which we have spoken before, the advertisements form an important part of today's issue, at least to the publisher, who but for such generous patronage would find little comfort in a 20 page illustrated edition at even five cents. The average reader will find the special business announcements in this issue of genuine interest. A firm like W. C. Pitfield & Co. takes a full page to tell their friends that they have done well the past season and are ready to do better, to fill all and every order in their line and to satisfy new customers as well as old. PROGRESS can add to this and say that the immense advertisement on the 13th page of this paper is simply indicative of the rushing business done by W. C. Pitfield & Co. From early morning until late at night there is nothing but business in that establishment. The spirit of progressiveness is always about it and "Onward" appears to be the first motto of the firm and its employes. The one guiding force of this rapid advance is the head of the firm, W. C. Pitfield. With indomitable energy and first class business ability he has brought the house to its present standard, and it is recognized in the city and provinces to be solidly prosperous.

No more complete and comprehensive retail announcement has ever been given to the readers of PROGRESS than that of Manchester, Robertson & Allison, which appears on seven different pages of this paper. There are many ladies who read PROGRESS and it may safely be ventured that there is not one of them but could find what they want in the Christmas dry goods line in such a list of articles.

**THE TRUTH ABOUT JOHN MILTON.**

**Only Two Special Editions of "Paradise Lost" Are Copyrighted in Canada.**

John Milton's works are not copyrighted in the abstract in Canada. The law reaches only certain special editions of *Paradise Lost*. One of these, with introduction, life of Milton and notes, edited by Francis Storr, is copyrighted by Rivington & Co., of London; the other, with notes, a glossary, etc., edited by C. P. Mason, is copyrighted by Adam Miller & Co., of Toronto. This is explained in a letter from the Department of Agriculture. The first order received at the customs, however, was so sweeping as to exclude anything bearing the poet's name.

The editions above mentioned cannot be imported into Canada under any circumstances, but as there are several other good editions having the English copyright only, the booksellers are not so circumscribed as they were led to suppose. An English copyright work can be imported on payment of the usual duty of 15 per-cent. and 12½ per-cent. in addition as royalty.

If the authorities at Ottawa had taken the trouble to explain the situation in the first instance, there would have been no necessity for sending back books not of the prohibited editions, ordered for the St. John holiday trade, but which will now be rather late it ordered again.

**What Do They Intend to Do?**

The scarlet fever is around the city again this winter, though it does not yet appear to have gained such a headway as to excite alarm. Neither did it when it began last year, but as the months went by it developed into what was almost an epidemic. The question this season is, what do the doctors and the board of health intend to do about it, if it continues to increase? Will the former obey the law, or treat it with contempt as they did before? The question is a serious one for the board of health to consider, and the labors of that body are not lightened by the fact that the infection is among the class who resent interference and are attended by physicians who are inclined to aid in the suppression of facts. In the cases of scarlet fever, which is much more fatal than small-pox, there should be no mincing of matters. The law is plain and should be enforced. Had the right course been taken last year, the progress of the disease would have been materially checked. As it was, it was not until PROGRESS began a crusade, in the interests of the people, that the doctors began to do their duty. There should be no repetition of the reprehensible course taken by some of the medical men last year.

**Deferred for a Season.**

It has been decided that the Masonic fraternity will not attend church in a body, on the Festival of St. John the Evangelist. The matter was mooted by some members of the craft, but the Grand Master believed that it would be better to have such a gathering at a more propitious season. The weather on St. John the Baptist's day, 24th of June, is much more favorable for out-door demonstrations, and the festival does not fall at a season when everybody is either very busy or wishes to enjoy the holidays by the family hearth. The members of the craft are pretty good church-goers individually, and their religious interests will not suffer in the meantime.

**Purely Imaginary.**

It was announced the other day that the boarders at the Hotel Dufferin had been given notice to quit, as it was intended to close the house after the first of the year. The reason for this extraordinary step was said to be that the old structure was to be demolished and a palatial hostelry erected on its site. Landlord Jones smiled sadly when asked as to the truth of the rumor. He was sorry to say there was nothing in it. The report arose, he supposed, from some measurements of the premises having been taken, for an entirely different purpose. All the rest of the report was purely imaginary. It was merely driftwood that had come in with the tide.

**Perhaps They Don't Mean It.**

Christmas cards are so cheap now that, despite the old time prophecies, they are as much in demand as ever. The people buy them, because they can get something really pretty, to send to their friends, at a very moderate cost. For the same reason they send them earlier than in former years. They don't have to wait now to see that the tokens of friendship are not wasted on those who will not reciprocate. No one will doubt the intentions of a friend when a card only costs 10 cents. It was different when a quarter of a dollar was involved. This, at least, is what some of the ladies say.

**Here's a Suggestion.**

The directors of the Victoria rink have decided to open it this year to subscribers. General admission tickets will not be sold. What would a boy or girl appreciate more than a rink season ticket Christmas morning?