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# PROGRESS.

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ST. JOHN, N. B., SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 1890.

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## BEGINNING TO LOOM UP.

### SOME OF THE MEN WHO WANT TO BE ALDERMEN THIS YEAR.

Nothing Very Definite as Yet, but There are Plenty More to be Heard From—The Best Course for Ratepayers Who Want to Have the Best Men in the Council.

The advice of PROGRESS in regard to the way in which candidates for the common council should be chosen by the ratepayers has been very favorably received in many quarters. It is admitted to be the only way in which the best men can be chosen, and the only way in which ambitious, but bad or inefficient, place-seekers can be kept from the mismanagement of public affairs. The office should seek the man, not the man the office.

The individual who thrusts himself forward unasked, and is elected because the people are indifferent and the best men will not seek the place, rarely proves a good representative. He has a motive in wanting to get into the council, and if that motive is to advance the interests of himself and his friends he is the kind of man who should be left at home. Even if he has no greater object than the gratification of personal vanity, he is the wrong kind of a man to serve the people. Such a man is too easily influenced by those who have axes to grind at the expense of the people.

That men have come forward of themselves in the past have proven good representatives is due rather to accident than to the bad system which has prevailed. With the enlarged city it should prevail no longer. They ratepayers of each ward should choose the men they want, not merely follow this man or that who puts himself forward because he wants the position.

Several suggestions have been made as to the best methods of choosing candidates. One is that a few of the responsible ratepayers of each ward issue a notice calling a convention, guarding either by ticket or otherwise against the meeting being packed by persons having no business there. The less machinery there is about the matter the better. All that is needed is an expression of opinion from those having at heart the best interests of the city. To secure such an expression nothing more is required than that some one should take the lead. There will be enough fall in line to carry the idea to a finish.

A ticket thus brought to the front is pretty certain to succeed as against individuals who nominate themselves, or are the candidates of one or two ward bosses. As it is now, the ward boss and his friends represent the only organization that exists. It is sometimes easy for him to carry his men, who are thus smuggled into the council against the wishes of good but apathetic citizens.

The proper time for organization is now. If some of the candidates now beginning to be mentioned are the right men, let them be endorsed. If not, let better men be chosen.

The ward bosses are already laying their plans. It is time that the people had something to say.

To all appearance, there will be a good many candidates for the council this year. Probably none of the present aldermen will have a walk-over, and some of them be relegated to private life.

In Kings ward, the old ticket of Barnes and Blackadar will offer, and will be opposed, though as yet no one has been mentioned who would stand much chance of defeating either of the present incumbents. In any case, Ald. Barnes is pretty sure of re-election.

So, in Queens ward, is Ald. Robertson. He is a great deal stronger than he was last year, when, indeed, he would have been defeated had not Mr. J. S. Turner spoiled the chances of Ald. Woodburn. The police magistrate dismissal entered largely into the politics of Queens, and Ald. Robertson's connection with the *Globe* came very near sending him back to private life. In the recent local election, however, his position was so clearly and unequivocally defined that he may now be considered as good as re-elected.

His colleague, Ald. Jack, led the poll last year, but the causes which have helped Ald. Robertson have not helped him. It is believed that he fully realizes this fact and is hard at work endeavoring to strengthen his position.

It is understood that Mr. J. R. Woodburn will not again offer for Queens. The names of both C. E. Macmichael and W. Watson Allen have been mentioned, but if the former be selected as a candidate, Mr. Allen is likely to give him his support.

In Prince, it was reported that Ald. Morrison will retire. Ald. Knodell is in the field again, and so is Mr. T. B. Hanington, who polled a very good vote last year. Prince ward has several men who would make good representatives, and would probably serve if they were called upon, but are unwilling to bring themselves forward.

In Wellington, Ald. Shaw and Peters will seek re-election. Ald. Shaw having been elected to the local legislature has not desired to continue as an alderman,

lest the people should think he wanted the earth. It is altogether probable, however, that he will be willing to serve if, as seems to be the case, the people want him. In event of his retirement, the names of possible candidates are Enoch W. Paul, John K. Dunlap and Samuel Crothers.

So far as Dukes has been heard from, there is yet no candidate to the front who will be likely to affect the chances of Ald. Blizard and Tufts.

Ald. Smith, having been elected to the legislature, will retire in Brooks ward, and his head-clerk, Mr. C. B. Lockhart, will be a candidate in his place. Mr. George A. Davis will also offer. Ald. Stackhouse's chances are not so good as they were, on account of the part he took in the local election against Ald. Smith.

There seems to be a general impression that when tenders for coal are asked by the city, next fall, no law will be violated if a contract is given to Ald. Busby, who will then be in private life. Victoria ward may or may not return Ald. Law, and it remains to be seen how it will regard the candidature of Mr. John J. Forrest. There is probably no ward in the city which stands in greater need of active interest on the part of its leading residents than does Victoria.

In Dufferin ward it is probable that the orange and the green will not be as harmoniously blended as they were last year in the amiable understanding between Aids. Kelly and Vincent on election day. It is predicted that they will run on separate tickets and that each of them will have opposition.

Aids. McGoldrick and Connor will be opposed in Stanley ward. The name of A. W. Howe is mentioned as one of their opponents. So, also, there will probably be opposition to both Aids. Chesley and Christie in Lansdowne ward.

The indications are that there will be a lively election all round. If the best citizens combine intelligently, there ought to be a model council next year.

## A MOUSE IN THE ROOM.

### Two Methods of Giving It a Fright That It Will Remember.

There is at least one young lady in St. John who is not afraid of mice, and will go to sleep calmly with the full knowledge that there is one in the vicinity of her room.

She objects to the creature keeping her awake by gnawing too loudly, however, and has devised an ingenious plan for securing quiet when such a noise prevents her falling asleep. Previous to retiring she places all her boots and shoes on a table within easy reach, and when the gnawing is heard things one in the direction of the sound. This alarms the mouse for a time, and as often as it begins again she flings more boots at it until the creature becomes discouraged and seeks other quarters.

One of the most unique methods of mouse hunting is that which was resorted to not long ago by a well-known officer of the Fusiliers. He is said to have an aversion of mice which amounts almost to fear—just as an elephant is said to have, and has been the case with many famous military men. On the night in question he discovered a mouse in his room, and true to his military instinct seized his sword and boldly charged upon it, pursuing it from place to place until it disappeared in a convenient hole, in a convenient hole in a state of such tumultuous alarm that it never dared to show itself again. The pen may be mightier than the sword sometimes, but not when there is a mouse in the room.

## The Reason Why.

Post office employees say that the sheet showing the arrival and departures of mails is regularly posted in the lobby of the St. John office, and is as regularly torn down by the hoodlums and other loafers who hang about the place. It is, they say, impossible to keep a paper of any kind on the walls. No, it is not. A very trifling outlay would procure a small frame with a glass front and moveable back. This could be fastened to the wall, and padlocked, and put where it would be in view of the window clerks. The public have a right to the information. Whether the hoodlums have any right to take possession of the lobby is also worthy of consideration.

## It Was a Great Success.

The Salvage Corps made a discovery Tuesday night. It was that the members of the corps had been missing lots of fun every year by not having an "at home." This time the experiment was tried, and proved to be such an unqualified success that it will be repeated every year hereafter. The affair was most successful in every respect, and the cheers given at the close for Capt. Frink and his men were given with a thorough good will, because they were most heartily deserved.

## St. Stephen Flyers.

An interesting account of the fast horses around the St. Croix has been received, but is held over from this issue. It will appear at an early day.

## TENDING TO SOCIALISM.

### HOW THE CORPORATION MAY RUN THINGS IN THE FUTURE.

The Process of Evolution by Which in Time the Citizens May Have Nothing to Do but Draw Salaries—A Brilliant Prospect of Future Prosperity

It is probable that before PROGRESS reaches the public the common council will have given a decision in the electric light matter. This, it will be remembered, has been before the board for weeks which have mounted into months, and at one time it looked as though it would be likely to remain there forever.

The cause of this was, in the first place, a disinclination to offend the St. John Gas Company. That influential and respectable corporation had put in a tender for lighting the city at \$9,800 a year, while its more modest competitor, the Calkin company, had offered to do the same service for \$7,500. Obviously, all other things being equal, there was no other course than to accept the latter tender, but as the aldermen were somewhat unwilling to do this, and as the Gas company had decided objections to their doing so, the matter was allowed to drop out of sight until most of the citizens thought it was buried for all time.

It was not. In the meantime, however, the idea had been advanced that the city should do its own lighting, by fitting up its own station and running the machine in its own way. A number of the aldermen, as well as the chairman of the board of works, are in favor of this plan, and it is very possible that it may be adopted. Whether it will prove the cheaper and better plan, is something which time and experience alone can prove.

Should the city take this step, it will illustrate the tendency of the age towards socialism. In the socialist's ideal age, it will be remembered, the state or governing power does everything and the people, as individuals, practically nothing. It will apply as well to a municipality as to a more extended territory. It sees that the things which a citizen now has to do for himself will be done for him, he of course, in this instance, footing the bills.

To illustrate this, one has only to look back to the early days of St. John when every man had his leather fire bucket, and was a fire department unto himself. This state of things was succeeded by a volunteer organization, which came to a great extent under civic control, and finally by a paid department, in which the city does all the work and takes all the responsibility.

In the same way, every man, in old times, carried a lantern or had one hung out in front of his premises. In time there was an evolution to street lighting by persons whom the city paid for the service, and now the city proposes to perform the work wholly within itself.

In the matter of sidewalks, too, the original settler could put a plank or two in front of his house, or allow the mud or rock to remain, as he chose. Later, plank sidewalks were put down as they were needed, and then came the asphalt which was laid whether the lot owners wanted it in front of their premises or not, and they had nothing to do but pay the bills.

Except when they showed fight, as they sometimes did, and bulldozed the corporation out of its claim.

Then, too, people used to shovel snow from the sidewalks a good deal more than they do now. In these days the snow ploughs not only clear the sidewalks in front of corporation property, but kindly make a smooth way in front of many blocks of private houses.

This happens when one is on the line between a city official's office and his residence.

Bye and bye the snow-ploughs will do all the work, and the shovels which were piled so busily yesterday morning will be placed in museums as relics of an age of which the then generations will have only traditional knowledge.

The corporation will not stop here. Some engineer with friends in council will urge that the city do its own heating. A central station will be erected with a huge engine and boiler to send steam or hot water to every house, not only for heating, but for cooking purposes. The great arguments in favor of this will be the decreased fire risks, and increased economy. With no dangerous flues in private houses, the fire department will become practically an ornament, and Chief Kerr will wax exceedingly fat.

Then, too, since the city undertakes to make the streets passable in summer and winter, it should also see that the citizens traverse them as conveniently and rapidly as possible. Electric railways through every street will be a necessity, the bridge to the West End being also thus equipped, while ferries will run from various piers every five minutes.

The city will, of course, have its own docks, on both sides of the harbor and in Courtenay Bay.

All these improvements will, of course,

necessitate a large army of officials, who will have to be paid for their services. This will be added to the tax bills, of course, but as the citizens will have to buy so much less for themselves than they now do, it is believed the account will more than balance.

Besides, the most of them will have positions as directors or officials, and will be in receipt of an income from the city. Almost every man who wants an office can have one in the future.

To accommodate and feed such an army of employees in the most economical and efficient way, the city will have to run its own hotels, apartment houses and tenements. Perhaps it will take all the houses, big and little, by "the right of eminent domain" and run everything from buying classic statuary to polishing up "the handle of the big front door."

The vast expenditure required for capital and running expenses will be secured by taxes levied on the citizens, but a large and constantly increasing fund is expected from the presence of strangers to be attracted by summer carnivals, managed by the corporation, and held every season. These carnivals will cost nothing, because the men to do the work would be officials under regular salary, while the city will have its own plant for electric exhibitions. Besides, the rates at the corporation hotels can be doubled after the strangers got here. So can the fares on the street cars, while the normal big profit derived from the corporation gin-mills can be more than doubled by the simple and expeditious process of watering the gin.

The whole scheme is worthy of the attention of the members of the council. It is not more visionary than some other schemes which have found advocates at the board in the past.

Besides, there's millions in it, for the men who will run the machine.

## TO THOSE ABOUT TO DIE.

### Liberal Inducements Offered by the Rival Woodstock Undertakers.

The undertakers of Woodstock make things lively in that town by their rivalry of each other. There are two of them, and each has a four inch double-column advertisement in the local papers. These ads are placed close together, so that those in need of coffins can take their choice. Each undertaker has a double-column cut of a gorgeous hearse, with nodding plumes and all the habiliments of woe. There is not much to lead a stranger to choose between these conveyances, for though it is true one pair of horses is much more spirited than the other pair, yet the latter is provided with an attractive netting and the driver has a much more mournful aspect than the driver of the opposition hearse.

The most liberal inducements to die are offered by the rival "funeral directors." The first has not only "everything in connection with a first-class undertaking establishment," but has telephone connection. He asserts that "parties from the country, requiring anything in above line, will consult their own interests by calling here first," and declares that he can quote "prices that defy competition," with the great attraction of a "hearse second to none in the province."

On the other hand, his rival says he is "prepared to finish caskets and coffins at prices unheard of before," and his wares do seem to be ridiculously cheap. Fancy a casket for an adult at \$12, and a coffin for \$7, with children's prices away down at \$4 and \$5. "Give us a call and see for yourself," he says to those likely to need coffins, and he guarantees "satisfaction in every particular."

The rivals of Woodstock are apparently trying to rob death of its sting by lowest cut rates and energetic advertising.

## The Want of a Minute.

Mr. Cowie was one of those careful travellers who invariably spent 25 cents when he purchased his railway ticket at the station and covered his life with \$3,000 accident insurance for the day. The only reason why he did not do so a week ago Saturday was lack of time. The last gong was ringing when he paid for his ticket, and ticket agent Hanington, knowing his custom, said:

"You haven't time to wait for your accident ticket, Mr. Cowie."

"Never mind," was the hasty reply, as he started hurriedly for the train, and said, "I guess it won't matter this time."

But it did matter.

## Books for the Library.

The heart of Miss Martin, the librarian of the Public Library, has been made glad this week by the receipt of a consignment of new books from England. They are now on the shelves, and include a choice assortment of standard fiction, belles lettres, etc. The public will feel a renewed interest in the library with this valuable addition, and the effect is likely to be shown in a largely increased patronage.

Long, selected chair cane is used in all chair seating, by Duval, 242 Union street.

## AFRAID OF CRITICISM.

### THE WAY IN WHICH AN ALDERMAN TRIES TO SPITE "PROGRESS."

His Plan to Make the Council Decide that the People's Paper Shall Have no more City Advertising—Is He the Man to Represent the Citizens?

At a meeting of the Treasury department of the common council, on Tuesday, Ald. Busby introduced a resolution that no more advertising be given to weekly papers, or in other words, to PROGRESS. A clause to that effect was inserted in the report, according to custom. If Ald. Busby had moved that no coal be bought by the city from anybody but himself, it also would have been inserted. The board leaves all suggestions to be dealt with by the council.

When the report was taken up, section by section, in the council yesterday, Ald. Peters, chairman of the treasury board, moved that this section be not adopted. This was seconded by Ald. Blizard, another of the board, who got the floor just ahead of Ald. Nase, who rose for the same purpose. Ald. Vincent also endorsed the motion, which was carried unanimously. Ald. Busby was not present.

The animus of Ald. Busby is due to the fact that PROGRESS has from time to time published facts which show that he is wholly unfit to represent any ward in the common council. It has not gone out of its way to do so, nor attacked his record when, as a member of the old Portland council, he was chairman of the worst managed fire department this side of Japan. It did not say, as it might have said, that a man who had shown himself so utterly inefficient in a responsible position had no business in the present council. It took the view that as he had got in there by a "fluke," he would have to stay until the time came for the intelligent electors of Victoria ward to choose a better man, and it was prepared to endorse him in any good measures which he might advocate or support.

Unfortunately, he did not give an opportunity for such endorsement. When there was a right and a wrong thing to do, he appeared to choose the latter. One of the first acts which brought him into prominence was his putting in a sham tender to supply coal to a department of which he was a member. This tender was accepted, and PROGRESS in the interests of the citizens referred to it in clear and unmistakable terms. There have been other reference to Ald. Busby, in his capacity as a member of the council, none of which have exceeded the bounds of fair and just criticism.

In return for this he proposed to prostitute his position and use the machinery of the city to avenge himself.

The city advertising is not essential to the success of PROGRESS, but it claims that it is as fully entitled to patronage as any newspaper in St. John. It has, indeed, taken more interest in public affairs, and done more to point out existing or threatened evils than any other paper. It has told the truth about public men, whether they advertised with it or not, and it has not, like the city dailies, accepted patronage as a bribe to keep silent when justice demanded that it should speak. If it has hit some public men, so much the worse for them. They should have behaved better. If they were sensible men, as some of them were, the criticisms did them good.

The members of the common council do not "run" the city, except as the servants of the ratepayers. The best of them may sometimes err and their acts may be open to comment by an independent paper. But it may be laid down as a sound principle that an official who is afraid of such criticism, who fears the light of day upon his acts, and who tries to gag the press or avenge himself upon it, is not fit for his position. He is not put in office to do as he pleases, but as the best interests of the people require.

Only men who realize this truth should be sent to the council. A man who abuses his position to suit his own ends, either in the way of grabbing boodle or gratifying spite, or who allows himself to be made a tool in the hands of designing men, has no right there.

And the electors should see that no such man gets there.

## Everybody Will Go.

There is scarcely need to call attention to the concert to be given by the Fusiliers' band, next Thursday. It is probable that seats will be at a premium before the opening hour that evening. If they are not, they ought to be. Everybody likes to hear that band, to say nothing of the excellent local talent which has been engaged to assist it. Besides, the proceeds of the concert are for a most deserving and charitable purpose.

## A Good Motto.

There is an interesting letter on another page from the widow of the Hon. James E. Lyonn, St. George, to the inspector of the North American Life. A man who insures his life in a good company proves his regard for his family. "Prompt payment" is the motto of the North American Life.

## A GREAT PICTURE.

### "Heavenly Love," A Great Masterpiece to be on Exhibition Next Week.

The people of this city are to have a rare treat next week, when that famous picture "Heavenly Love" will be on exhibition for the first time in this country. The picture arrived this week from Limburg on the Lahn, in Germany, and the agent E. Scholl, proposes to have it ready for exhibition purposes by Wednesday of next week. This picture is one of J. B. Scholl's great masterpieces "Earthly Love" and "Heavenly Love" and has attracted the attention and admiration of thousands wherever it has been shown. An extract from the artist's life translated from the German by a gentleman in this city, says:

In 1850, by the demise of a relative, Scholl's wife inherited 9,000 florins, with which he and his friend Engel designed and erected a large studio in Roedelheim for the purpose of painting two large oil pictures, one entitled "Earthly Love" and the other "Heavenly Love." The former represents a dream of a bridegroom who lies asleep; over him Hymen, the deity of marriage, appears, surrounded by cupids hovering in the air, and presents to him the form of his destined bride. The latter, a vision of the highest ideal, is revealed to Scholl, the artist. In a dream he is seated before a canvas, his hand extended in the act of taking the pencil from a scapud to delineate the pure and seraphic figure of a mother and child, representing the purest love. Carl Engel and other geni assist in the preparations of colors. Looking out upon an ideal world appears the Taunus Mountains and the artist's house at Roedelheim. After the completion of these two great paintings, people interested in true artistic work came far and near to inspect them and they met with universal admiration. These paintings were sent to the Exposition Universelle at Paris. They arrived later than the time officially set for the reception of exhibitions, but, such was their merit, that a special permission was extended, and they were retained after the regular show was over for further exhibition.

St. John people are rarely privileged to see the masterpiece of a famous old country artist, and no doubt they will crowd Jack's assembly rooms from next Wednesday until the closing of the Exhibition.

## WHAT BECAME OF HIM?

### A Rumor Which Has Reference to One of St. John's Missing Men.

Several years ago, a young butcher of St. John made preparations to take a business trip to the United States. He was provided with a large sum of money, and night before he was to leave he took "a turn around town with the boys." They left him, at a late hour, at the corner of Orange and Carmarthen streets, and that was the last ever seen of him by his friends. He disappeared as utterly as if the earth had opened and swallowed him. It seems absolutely certain that he did not leave the city, and it is almost equally certain that he was the victim of foul play.

There was at that time, in the lower part of the city, a certain notorious house, which still exists, but is under different management. The woman who was proprietor of the house at that time subsequently left St. John, and at a later period died.

A rumor, which cannot be traced to any reliable source, has been current of late to the effect that in her last illness, and while delirious, the woman repeatedly talked of the missing man in such a way as to leave the impression that she had a knowledge of the manner of his disappearance and place of burial. The rumor, indeed, has been so definite as to locate the latter. There are other rumors in connection with the matter which, in the absence of better authority, it would be unwise to publish. Whether or not the story has any foundation is a matter which may be worth investigating. A good many men have disappeared from St. John, most unaccountably, in the last score of years, and in a very few instances has there been found a trace of them afterwards.

## Good Sample Rooms Wanted.

There is hardly a commercial traveller who will not say that St. John lacks good sample rooms. There is no building in the city that is known as a centre for sellers and buyers. In conversation with PROGRESS a few days ago, a well known citizen interested in real estate intimated that if sufficient encouragement was held out, he would not hesitate to erect a building for such a purpose. Speaking of a certain central lot he said he could erect a building there 70 by 70 which would contain at least 14 good sample rooms. "I would have them comfortable," he continued, "intended either for permanent or transient occupation, well finished, well heated, and with a janitor always in attendance to assist in handling sample trunks. An elevator would be a necessity. These rooms would have to be well lighted, and they would be large enough for a man to stretch himself and show his goods to advantage. There are few rooms in the city now that are not cramped for room, dark and uninviting. Since the Short Line was opened this town has been, more than ever, a centre for commercial men, and such a building as I have thought of should be a convenience to them." A call for replies from travellers, elsewhere in this paper, is worth reading.