

PUBLIC MEN ARE PAID LIBERALLY FOR THEIR SERVICES IN NOVA SCOTIA.

The Salaries of the Cabinet Officers Compared with Those of New Brunswick—Halifax Police and What They Know and Think of the St. John Force.

HALIFAX, N. S., Nov. 19.—Those who have the notion that Halifaxians are not hard workers, should visit some of the large business houses on upper or lower Water street. There the heads of the concerns and their assistants may be found at their posts for hours after the average St. John merchant has gone to his home for the day. It is mostly shipping business that is done on the streets named; or, to speak more correctly, on the scores of wharves running off those streets. The West Indies trade is still a great factor in Halifax business, although, to use the words of a prominent shipper, "it is considerably cut up compared with what it was fifteen or twenty years ago."

There is the same cry here about heavy civic taxation that one can always hear in St. John, and apparently there is the same indifference about electing proper men to the city council. In saying this I do not mean to insinuate that both St. John and Halifax have not some good men at their council boards, but it requires no very great power of observation to discover that such men in both cases are in the great minority.

Halifax is behind the age in fire department matters. Just think of a city of its importance depending on a volunteer fire brigade! Among the volunteers are to be found many who would make ideal firemen under a paid system with a proper head.

Mr. Cotter is still chief of police here, or, as they call the head of the police, chief marshal. He seems to be able to retain the confidence of the public after long years of service, and is apparently popular with his men. Prominent members of the force here seem to know as much about the trials and tribulations of police life in St. John as the guardians of the peace in that city themselves. Here is the learned opinion of an old-time Halifax police officer regarding St. John police troubles. "Chief Clarke tried to bring about too many reforms at once. In doing so he divided the force against him. Many of those who did not consider themselves his pets found a chance to ventilate their grievances, though some of the newspapers, with the result that the force will be demoralized until the public, the press, and the police learn that there can be but one chief of police in every city. If Clarke is the right man for the position of chief of police, everything should be done by peace-loving citizens to strengthen his hands. If he is not, the people have the remedy in their own hands." Detective Power has been restored to his old position long ago. It will be remembered that he had trouble with the city because he would not give to "the powers that be" some information about the police force.

He preferred losing his position rather than betray private confidence, but after a time he was restored to his old place, a greater favorite than ever.

New Brunswick continued to "bob up serenely" nearly every day. Since writing you last I have met Mr. R. H. Edwards (a brother of mine) of the Queen hotel, Fredericton who is now a member of one of the biggest pork packing establishments in Nova Scotia, the firm's place of business being in this city; Mr. Frank McAdam, of Fredericton, who is connected with the C. P. R. express business; and Miss Julia Purdy, of the North End, St. John, is now the popular matron of the Halifax public hospital.

It dollars and cents count for anything, Nova Scotia appreciates the efforts of her public men to a much greater extent than New Brunswick does hers. Take the local government members of the legislatures of both provinces for instance. Premier Fielding is paid a salary of \$4,000, which is within \$200 of what Attorney-General Blair and Provincial Secretary Mitchell, both together, get. Hon. Mr. Church, minister of public works, gets a salary of \$3,200, which is \$1,500 a year more than what our own Chief Commissioner Ryan receives; and Hon. Mr. Longley gets a salary of \$3,200, which is \$300 more than the combined salaries of Solicitor General Pugsley and Surveyor General Tweedie. It may be argued that there are only three members of the Nova Scotia government holding portfolios while there are five portfolios in New Brunswick. Then, the three Nova Scotia ministers are paid \$10,400 a year in salaries, against \$8,800 paid the five New Brunswick ministers. In New Brunswick nearly all the criminal business of the province is conducted by the attorney general. Last year Nova Scotia, besides the salaries of the ministers, paid nearly \$5,000 for criminal prosecutions, and I am told that is about the average every year. During the same time criminal prosecutions in New Brunswick cost less than \$700. In other words supposing the volume of criminal business to be the same in both provinces Attorney General Blair and Solicitor General Pugsley saved to New Brunswick over \$4,000 that in Nova Scotia goes to legal gentlemen not members of the government. Add to this upwards of \$4,000, the difference in cost of criminal prosecutions in the two provinces to the salaries of the Nova Scotia ministers, and it will be seen that the five New Brunswick government members receive \$6,000 a year less than do Nova Scotia's three ministers! In New Brunswick the members of the legislature are paid a sessional allowance of \$300 each; in Nova Scotia the sessional allowance is \$500 each. I am not calling attention to these matters with a view of finding fault with what is being done in Nova Scotia, but with the hope of impressing upon the people of New Brunswick the fact that they are not treating their public men decently. As I am retiring from "behind the scenes" in the New Brunswick legislature, and am not an aspirant for government or legislature smiles or favors, I may be pardoned if I consider myself as being able to write independently on this subject. There is no reason in the world why members of the government and legislature of New Brunswick should not be compensated as well as those of

Nova Scotia. New Brunswick's income is greater than that of Nova Scotia. Why, then, should her public men have to put up with starvation salaries and sessional allowances? I think I am safe in saying that the New Brunswick legislature is the hardest-worked body in the world, and I believe it is the only legislature in creation that works morning, afternoon and night. How can the salaries and sessional allowances in New Brunswick be got up to a common-sense basis? Easily enough. By the government and opposition supporters taking a common-sense view of the situation, and agreeing on what the increased salaries and allowances should be.

Perhaps in my next letter I will send you some sketches and photos of prominent business men of the city. M. McDade.

THE ORIGINAL "SQUEERS."

A Yorkshireman Says Dickens was Unfair to Mr. Shaw.

A Yorkshire coach driver once told me that he had at one time driven on the great North Road, and described how the coach at vacation-time was filled by pupils going home for the holidays, accompanied by Mr. Shaw ("Squeers"). What a jolly time it was, and how hearty and healthy the boys looked! The coach was covered with flags. The boys, armed with pea-shooters, peppered all that passed by. How well they fed, and how liberal was "Squeers!" He stoutly denied that they were half starved. He allowed that there existed some schools like what Dickens described, but Shaw's was an exception.

"Then why," I asked, "should Dickens have singled out Shaw's school for exposure?"

Coachman—"I'll tell you, sir. Mr. Dickens had his information from a dismissed usher; it was a poisoned source. Dickens wrote to Shaw and asked to inspect his school. He went, and was shown into the parlour. Shaw came in, and said, 'Follow me, gentlemen.' He asked them to go through the hall to a side-door, bowed, and shut the door behind them. They found themselves in the road. They did not see the school." Dickens was accompanied by an artist friend (George Cruikshank) whom Shaw observed making a sketch of him behind Dickens's shoulder.

I asked the coachman what he would have recommended, seeing that he knew Dickens came hostilely. "Well, sir," said he, flicking the leaders with his whip, "I'd have prepared the boys in their best clothes, I'd have been very polite, and I'd have taken them up and down, and into the field and garden, till they were tired; and then I'd have asked them to stay and have a little refreshment, and I'd ha' giv'n them a couple of boiled fowls and a cut from a nice pork ham and a bottle of wine, and I'd ha' made them comfortable; that's how I'd ha' done! We should never have heard tell of Squeers's school then, no, no!" He added: "There was bad schools, but Shaw's was not bad; Dickens ruined him."

When I was in those parts I visited Bowes and saw the school-house, then occupied by a farmer, who had married Shaw's daughter ("Fanny Squeers"). My friend Mr. Harrison, of Stubb House, told me that when he went to shoot over Bowes Moor he stopped at the inn at Bowes to dine and sleep, and generally invited Shaw to dine with him, and he said he was "excellent company." The caricature of "Squeers" in the story, with his one eye, was very like him, he said.—*Reminiscences of C. W. Cope.*

ABOUT EARTHQUAKES.

They Are Due, Say Some Scientists, to the Action of the Tides.

Several shocks of earthquake which have recently been felt in various quarters of the globe at about the time of the new moon recall the interesting theory that the earth is more frequently shaken near the period of the new and full moon than at any other times. Lists of earthquakes hovering many years have been prepared, which seem to favor this theory.

The reason assigned is similar to that by which we are able to account for the greater height of the tides at new and full moon.

When the moon and the sun are on the same side of the earth, as is the case at new moon, they unite the force of their attractions in heaping up the waters of the seas. The same thing happens when they are on opposite sides of the earth, as at full moon, for then each, by attracting in an opposite direction, assists the other in pulling out the ocean, so to speak, as one might pull out the sides of a rubber ball.

According to the theory in question, the same forces of the sun and moon which raise the tides put a strain upon the crust of the earth which, by causing the strata of the rocks to slip and slide a little, produces earthquakes.

When the moon is at its quarters its pull is at right angles to that of the sun, and then, as is well known, the tides are lowest. Then, too, it is argued, the strain upon the crust of the earth is least.

It is this theory is true, how wonderfully sensitive the apparently solid globe must be to the impulses conveyed to it by the attraction of bodies hundreds of thousands and millions of miles distant!

Japanese Immigrants.

Since the Mikado of Japan permitted his subjects to emigrate to other countries nearly 100,000 of them have left their native land. There are about 20,000 of them in Hawaii, and more of them arrive there every month. There is a large number of them in Australia. They are to be found in various countries of the Asiatic continent, and some of them are in Europe. There are about 2,000 of them in California, and others are constantly arriving there to work in the vineyards. In the city of New York there may be 200 Japanese, and there are a few of them in other American cities. Wherever they go they have the reputation of being industrious and inoffensive. The population of Japan is 40,000,000.

Out of Sight.

We stopped before the jeweler's, And there, in beauty bright, A lovely bracelet was displayed, She said 'twas "out of sight."

She asked me if I knew the price; I did, and well I might; For I'd inquired the day before— And it was "out of sight."

Her admiration grew apace, She blushed left and right, I felt unseen, and when she turned, Why—I was "out of sight."

CLOVES AND THEIR CULTURE.

Something About the Spice That Men Get Between Acts.

Sultan Seyid Said bin Sultan, in 1830 introduced the clove tree into Zanzibar, since which time its cultivation has formed the chief occupation of the Arab planter in that part of the world, especially those residing on the Island of Pemba.

Every portion of the tree is aromatic, but it is the bud which forms the clove of commerce. The choicest are of a dark brown hue, free from moisture and with full, perfect heads. The cultivation of this important article of domestic economy is very interesting.

The seeds are planted in long trenches and kept well supplied with water for forty days, when the sprouts appear above the surface. These are carefully watered for two years, at the end of which time they usually attain a height of three feet. Then transplanting takes place, the shoots being set out at distances of thirty feet apart and watered until well rooted. After this occurs the trees require little attention, but are kept free from weeds and the earth about them is worked over from time to time. They do not bear until five or six years old, when the buds are fully formed into clusters and assume a dull reddish hue. The harvesting now begins and continues at intervals for six months, as the buds do not all mature at the same time. As the limbs of the trees are very brittle they will not bear the weight of a man, and the cloves on the upper branches are gathered by means of very peculiar looking four-sided ladders. Immediately upon being taken from the trees the buds are laid out in the sun, where in a short time they assume a brownish color, when they are placed in store-houses and are ready for shipment.

The usual yield of a ten-year-old plantation is twenty pounds per tree, while in one twice that age they often produce 100 pounds each. The stems also form an article of commerce, possessing about the same percentage of strength as the buds, but commanding not more than one-fifth their price. They are usually reduced to powder, and enormous quantities are sold, being preferred by many to the whole buds.

Pemba produces three-fourths of the entire crop of cloves, but those raised on the Island of Zanzibar, on account of being more carefully cultivated, are considered superior to all others in the market.

HOW THEY GOT A PREACHER.

The Business-Like Methods of a Congregation in Illinois.

In one of the flourishing Illinois towns between here and Chicago, there is a congregation that, a year or two back, lost its pastor. Of course the people wanted another as soon as they could get one, but they were a little particular about the man, and no end of discussion ensued as to what kind of preacher they really wanted. After they had talked about the matter till they were tired of the subject, they turned the whole business over to a prominent member, a deacon or elder, or whatever they called him, and told him to look around and get a preacher.

He was a good business man, and went about the job in a thoroughly characteristic fashion. He wrote to Chicago to the editor of a church paper there to send him the names and addresses of clergymen who would probably suit, and soon received half a dozen. Then he sat down and wrote to a prominent commercial agency, forwarding the list of names, telling what he wanted, and directed that the record of the men be looked up and sent to him. In course of time he received an answer, giving personal descriptions of each one, telling where each served last and how the people liked him, what salaries he had received, what kind of sermons he preached, what sort of pastor he was, and in what line of church work he excelled. From the data thus furnished he picked out a likely man, corresponded with him and finally secured his services. I do not suppose the preacher ever found out how he came to be selected, but he is giving satisfaction, and what more could be expected.—*Globe Democrat.*

Putting Down Codfish.

The salting of the cod is done in the hold. Each "banker" brings from France its cargo of salt, an ingredient which, it is needless to say, plays a capital role in the fishing campaign. The salting is one of the most important and delicate operations. If there is not enough salt on the fish it will not keep; if there is too much the fish is black and moist. A good salter is just as valuable to the owner of a banker as a good captain.

Four men are generally employed to salt the fish in the hold. One, with a sort of curved trident, shovels down the salt to the level of the piles of fish already made; the other receives the fish that are thrown down from the deck, and passes them to the piler, who places them with minute care in close layers; finally the salter comes with his shovel in his hand, spreads salt over the layers of fish, and looks after the methodical and regular execution of all these processes. The work has to be done quickly and well. As soon as the fish has been washed it ought not to remain on deck, but be stowed away as quickly as possible. Furthermore, if the codfish is not packed regularly, without the edges touching, and if the layer of salt is too thick or too thin, the salting is compromised, and the drying of the fish, which is done especially at Bordeaux and Certe, will give a cod of poor quality.—*Harper's Weekly.*

The "Blind Clerk."

In the New York post office there is an official who is called the "blind clerk." His business is to decipher bad writing and to guess at the right direction of a wrongly-addressed letter. Through his skill nine-tenths of the thousands of "blind" letters received at the post office every year arrive at their proper destination. These letters are, of course, addressed in all languages, so that this clerk must be a good linguist. One letter was addressed in three languages—the name of the person for whom it was intended was in German, the name of the state was in French, and the "United States of America" was added in English. Though the name of the person was incorrect, and the state was New Jersey instead of New York, the letter at last reached its journey's end. The name of "blind clerk" is misleading, however. It is the letters that cannot see their way home, and are therefore "blind."—*Little Folks.*

The Sadler's Wells Dog.

The biographers of the late W. L. Blanchard, the play and pantomime writer, narrate a story concerning what he used to call the "Sadler's Wells dog," told as they state, to banter a previous story-teller of Munchausen-like invention, to the effect that the dog used on Saturday evening to step into the theatre, watch the performance, and mark approval by tapping on the floor with his tail, greet with a whine of pleasure a well-delivered passage, reward the sallies of a Shakespearian clown with a grin, and resent over-acting with a growl.

Another version of the story, of which Blanchard was not less fond, was that the dog in question went nightly to the theatre, perused the bill, and if the performance were Shakespearian entered the house and sat it out, but in the opposite case manifested in canine fashion his disapproval.

Blonde Italian Women.

The raven tresses of Italian women, of which poets have been wont to sing their praises, will soon be no more. For now the custom of dyeing the hair golden is becoming so common in Italy that in every town one cannot walk out without encountering women who might be taken for Northerners were it not for their fiery eyes. The new mode is becoming such a rage that even the hair of young children is dyed golden.

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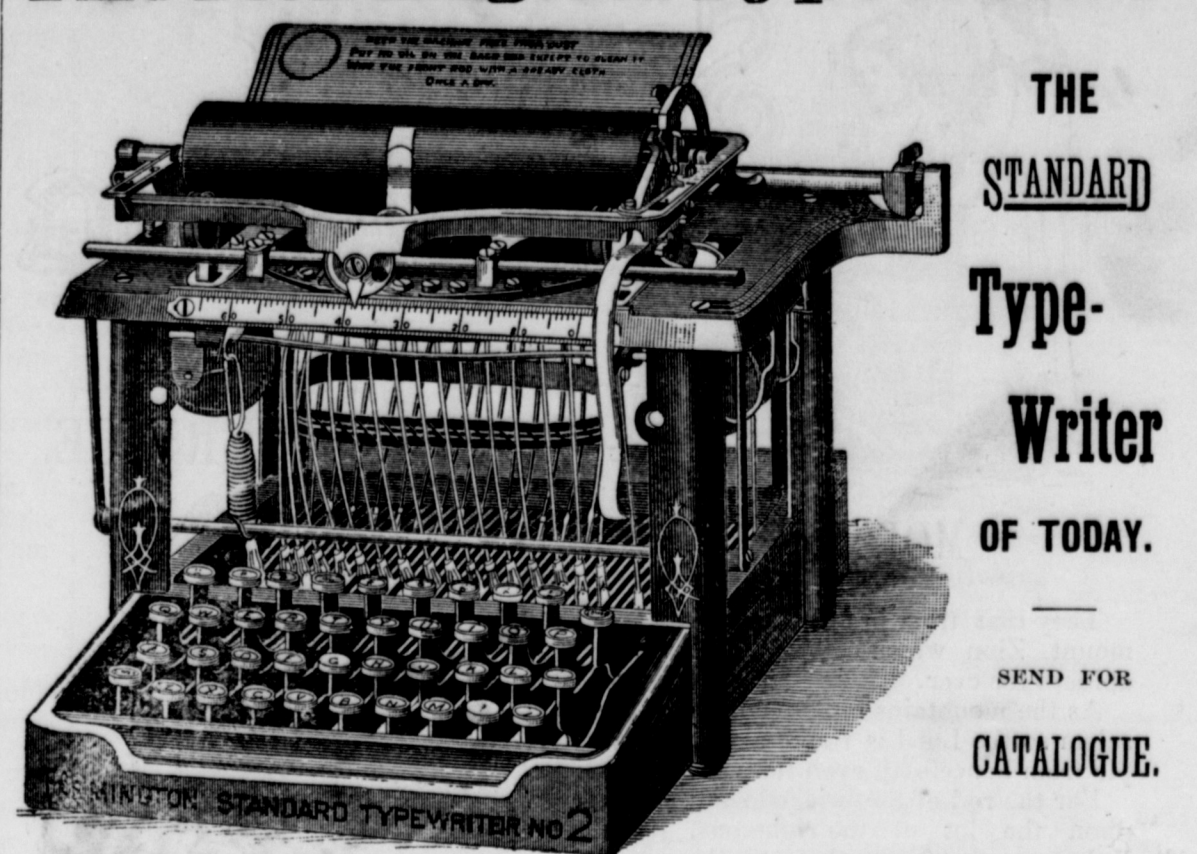
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