PROGRESS.

VOL. IV., NO. 171.

ST. JOHN, N. B., SATURDAY, AUGUST 8, 1891.

PRICE FIVE CENTS

MOLASSES AND WATER.

JAIL PRISONERS DRINK IT WITH THEIR BAKER'S BREAD.

The Daily Diet and Its Effect Upon Those Who are Kept on it.-Sheriff Harding Triumphantly Shows that "Progress" was Wrong in Just One Word of its Assertion.

Sheriff Harding met the committee on county buildings, this week, and the daily papers try to make out that everything was satisfactorily explained in regard to the jail. Now, as every newspaper man knows, those who write for the daily papers have a standing order to say only what is favorable to local institutions of any kind, and that a reporter who wrote anything to left to appear in type.

The Telegraph is the most conspicuous here there is no question of dominion politics. In its report of the meeting it joyfully proclaims that "Sheriff Harding met the committee and disproved some of the allegations made against the management of affairs, one especially in regard to the cost of beef, which it was alleged cost seven cents per pound. The bills produced by the sheriff showed that the cost was only half that amount."

Progress is quite willing to admit that was mistaken in regard to the figure. 'he contractor's bill was not a thing to be prisoners, like everything else of which pleasant effects on the digestive system. mention has been made. It gave the institution credit for paying for something better than cat-meat. That was all. It does not matter a straw what the beef cost. It is there to speak for itself.

But what other allegations were disproved? Progress charged that the jail was dirty and unhealthy, that men were of the week. illegally received and held there, that they were huddled together like sheep, in stinkwith vermin of the most offensive kind. The sheriff had a chance to disprove these allegations, if he could, and the press would have emphasized his statements. As it was, out of columns of charges he refuted one line, and showed there was an error about the price of beef!

The Telegraph says the committee visited the jail, and found it "not in the condition described, but found that certain improvements were much needed, especially in the matter of ventilation."

If it was not in the condition described by Progress there has been a tremendous renovation of things within the last week

Inspector Davis, of the board of health, tells a different story. This man has had a long experience in ferreting out nuisances, and is not easily made sick by nasty sights and smells. He visited the jail before the sheriff and the committee did, and he says he never saw so bad a place in his life. He was so overcome that he was unable to finish his inspection, and his head ached for days in consequence of the stench from the cell buckets. He turned three women out of one cell in which five were crowded together, and put them in other cells three of which he found empty. He says the condition of the beds was beyond all description. There was no clothing, worth mentioning, and in two cases he found sticks of wood for pillows.

Inspector Davis may not be aware that the latter, which must have been in the "clean" cell, No. 12, are considered luxuries by the occupants. This cell has had some long term prisoners—as long as twelve months in some cases. One of these had a pair of rough indian clubs, which he left in the cell when his term ended. At another time somebody managed to get a stick of firewood, sawn to stove length. It has been the custom to place these "pillows" at the heads of the iron bedstead, with the ends of the mattress over them, so as to give an elevation to support me's head. Other prisoners had to use their boots for the purpose, so that there was always a rush for the clubs or the cordwood when a man who had been using them took his leave.

The beds have already been referred to as coarse, dirty sacking, containing a very little straw, and always abounding in fleas and sometimes in worse vermin. They get thinner as well as more dirty all the time, not only because the straw flattens out and is ground up, but because they are frequently "robbed." Old timers who have thin mattresses take occasion to replenish them by taking a certain amount of straw from the mattress of each man who leaves and adding it to their own, a needle and thread covering all trace. The next man who gets the discarded bed gets pretty hard comfort out of it.

This mattress and one blanket, often a very thin one, is all that is furnished in the way of bedding. The cells are cold even in summer, and under any circumstances has to go to bed with most of his clothes

nish an insufficient amount of warmth. The Row.

quantity of coal supplied is too small last without all sorts of ingenious expedients of wetting down and banking. There have been days when the prisoners have pinned their miserable blankets around them and walked the floor for hours to

avoid the sufferings of cold. The diet, as has been said, is the same for every day in the year. It is prepared and served by women prisoners. In the morning half-a-pound loaf of baker's bread through the wicket for each man. The bread is not what is known as the "home- fall of 1890. This is proved in a marked unsatisfying kind. This half-loaf must last the contrary, would have some difficulty in has absolutely not a taste of tea about it. recognizing his story if enough of it were It is sweetened with coarse molasses until find tea leaves in the bottom of the tin. visit the city about that time. This is a ample of this fear of offending anybody The effect of the molasses and water com- great argument for generous advertising, bined with baker's bread is to produce a fermentation in the stomach, and there are

rice and barley, hot water and a small special attractions provided to entertain piece of the beef which the sheriff says | them. costs three and a half cents a pound. It is quite enough for the "flanks and shanks," which are merely an aggravation to a man who has been used to ordinary food. Many old prisoners refrain from eating the barseen, smelt or felt, by the unfortunate ley, as its constant use produces most un-

It appears to be the opinion of the authorities that a man who gets into jail justify the belief that the crowds at the ex- Bureau. from any cause is too bad to have any hibition this fall will equal if they will not religious scruples. He has broken the law of the land, and they compel him, if not a protestant, to break the law of his church to make the main show a great success and by compelling him to eat meat every day up to date the entries have been more than

facilities for dining. It has a dirty, ing cells, and that the latter, as well as the | rickety table, two or three odd plates, persons of many prisoners, became infested | two rusty knives, two or three forks, and a spoon, as well as a dilapidated arm chair. The occupants dine in style. The other cells have none of these accessories. The prisoners sit on the sides of their beds, scoop the barley out of the tins as best they may, and if they have no pocket

> and one-eighth of a loaf of bread. The year that had the same attraction for the latter can easily be taken in the band and people as machinery hall and there was squeezed into an insignificant looking ball. Yet this miserable fare must last an able-bodied man for the twelve or fourteen hours. It is not enough for him. The jail allowance is just enough to keep him in a chronic state of hunger. When he has any money he sends out and buys an extra loaf, now and then. When he has no money, he goes hungry. In any case, the effect of the unchanging and insufficient diet is physical give the best promenade concerts in their and nervous prostration, the extent of it depending on the time of imprisonment and the constitution of the prisoner.

Imagine a man shut up on this diet for twelve months, or even a half or quarter of

The rations are served through the wicket, the girls simply asking how many are in the cell. It might be supposed an easy matter to say four when there are only three, and so it is, but as only enough for all has been given out, there will be a ration short at the last cell. There is story of a hungry wretch who once secured an extra half loaf by this trick, but when the shortage was discovered a search was made and it was found under his mattress. He atoned for his crime with three days in been entrusted with the management of the black hole, on bread and water.

horrible places they are for any man to be put for anything short of the most disorder-

That the jail leaves a man worse than it finds him, that it kills in him any ambition to do better, and that it is responsible for the perpetuation of a classs of chronic offenders will be shown at another time. In the meantime, there are but one or two other details of the jail management to which Progress need call attention.

Give Them a Good Time.

Several ladies who have ideas looking toward the greater happiness and contentment of their sex, have gone a little farther and put some of them into practice. The girls who work all day in the mills or in the factories, amuse themselves as best they can in the evenings. Some of them promenade the streets until they are far more weary than when they quit work, and others not fancying this method of whiling away leisure remain at home and do nothing. Realizing this the ladies have secured a large room in Bostwick's hall, kindly donated by Mr. Bostwick, which they propossible. They will furnish it with attractive reading matter, games, and anything in the direction of innocent amusement. They are not asking the public so much for cash as for sympathy, and if any person wishes to encourage such a movement in a practical form, he or she can communicate with Mrs. Geo. Murray, Mrs. J. J. Bostwick In the winter, small antiquated stoves fur- or Mrs. Dr. Morrison, all of Wellington

THE GREAT BIG SHOW

THE PROGRAMME FOR THE EXHI-BITION IN SEPTEMBER.

A Great Array of Special Attractions-Balloon Ascents and Parachute Descents-The Best Specialty Performers-Grand

Local Concert Arranged For. The exhibition has not been talked about so much in St. John this year as it was last, but yet there is the same faith in and a tin of what is called tea is passed its success, and a greater looking forward to it than there was in the summer and made baker's," but of the light, dry, and degree by the entries in the hands of the secretary, and by the preparations that are both for breakfast and dinner. The "tea" being made for the event. Members of the committees who have been through the provinces report very marked interest it is nauseating, and it is small comfort to | in the exhibition, and a general desire to and shows that the effect of the announcements made last season has not by any other effects which any doctor will under- means died away. The people know that the exhibition in St. John is an annual Dinner consists of the same tin-quart affair, and all they want to learn in a parsize-filled with a mixture of barley, or | ticular way are the dates, and some of the

> Progress is glad to be able to give them this information for the first time and convey some idea of the programme for the ten days show.

The committees have evidently gone to work with the thought that it is going to take some good things to attract a big crowd and the selections they have made exceed those of last year.

They have bent their energies of course satisfactory from every point of view. The Cell No. 12 is quite well provided with complaint of last year that the entries were foreign in the majority of cases cannot be made this year for the local manufacturer have gone into the work with a vim and a willingness that is more than encouraging. The large engine used last year and owned by Messrs. Goldie & McCullough of Galt, Ontario, is still in position and could be got ready for use in 24 hours. There will also, however, be engines from Small & knives, they tear their meat with their Fisher of Woodstock, an Amherst concern, hands and teeth, after the manner of dogs. and Leonard & Son, of London, Ont. Supper consists of a tin of alleged tea | There was no part of the exhibition last something more than a feeling of interest when the people stopped at the big revolving wheel and the simple yet powerful piece of mechanism that kept everything going from the printing press at one end to the trip hammer at another and making such an ear splitting clatter.

Upstairs there will be some things also the same as last fall. The bands will be present in the afternoons and evenings and power. That proved a great attraction at that time. It was something new and something taking. People who live in the country do not often have the chance of listening to good band music, and while it is but of passing interest to the city resident, his country cousin will smile when he pays his quarter when he knows that there

In the musical line last year the event that drew the largest evening attendance to the show was the grand local concert. The number of singers and their immense number of friends all combined to increase the interest and swell the attendance. same idea will be carried out this year in a little different fashion. Mr. Hall has the concert, which will be held in some There are three of these black-holes, and part of the building or grounds, and to hear it an additional admission of ten cents will be charged.

This plan has been introduced after the experience of other exhibitions has proved that it worked splendidly. It is quite probable that the majority of the special interior attractions will be run on this basis. Progress understands that a firstclass minstrel troupe is among the evening attractions, and that Milton A. Lyons, the royal conjurer, and his clever company of specialty artists will give several performances each day. Among his greatest specialties will be a clever manipulation of the old fashioned Punch and Judy show and the Rooster orchestra, which is acknowledged to be one of the greatest novelties on the road today.

A more local feature will be a museum of New Brunswick wild animals. This will be an interesting collection and an at- go leave their hotel bill and that is the end traction beyond a doubt.

The management is pluming itself this year upon a fact which was somewhat emphasized in Progress' interview. The pose to make attractive in as many ways as fair is not only called Canada's International Fair, but it is Canadian in every sense of the term. All the arrangements that have been made so far have been made in Canada. Even the fireworks, for which it has been customary to go to foreign manufacturers, have been secured in upper Canada from Prof. Hand, who has been so Successful with his displays at the Montreal cents per box, at McArthur, 80 King st.

Winter Carnival, and at the Toronto celebrations. Progress has not space in this issue to print any of the praise bestowed upon him by the upper Canadian papers, but these newspaper observations and the testimonials at hand from other cities fully warranted the special attraction committee in securing him to make the display. The programme is an extensive one, and covers as much ground as any of those previously given in this city for twice

the amount of money. Perhaps the greatest attraction to outsiders will be the balloon ascensions and the parachute falls. A contract has been made for four ascensions and parachute descents. The attraction has always been an undoubted one elsewhere, and cannot

fail to be so here. Progress has outlined much of the special work that has been done. It represents some hard work and much consideration. The chairman of the committee, Mr. W. C. Pitfield, set his hand to the task and is bound to accomplish it successfully if possible. He has made an excellant start, judging from the above, and if he and his committee continue to look out for the best available attractions, there cannot be any doubt about the crowd.

All the work done so far has been done in Canada. The custom of sending abroad for exhibition lithographs and advertising matter found no favor with the management, and the attractive lithos so prominently displayed throughout the province were done in the city, while the engraving was done by Progress Engraving

NO JUSTICE IN IT.

A Well Grounded Complaint Against An

Progress has heard before of the new and arbitrary custom's rule that all trade periodicals coming into Canada should pay duty, but the injustice has never been presented in the same plain, terse fashion as below. The letter came too late for the correspondence column, but it is worth all the prominence given on this page.

Knowing that you are always prompt to expose any injustice to the public, I venture to ask your opinion op a late "order" of the Canadian customs that all "trade periodicals" are liable to a duty of cts. per pound and 20 per cent. ad valorem. Let me give you a sample of how it works practically. A few days since there arrived in due course an English weekly drug journal to which I have subscribed for several years, but instead of delivering at the house, as usual, I was notified to call at "customs department of post office" and pay duty. Arrived there I was told by the gentleman in charge that he "guessed" it was worth twenty-five cents (he had not even opened it), and he wanted sixteen cents duty. I suggested that he open it, and pointed out to him that it was a weekly newspaper costing \$2.50 a year or five cents a copy, and that a tax of even for a "diamonds-and-steam-yacht-etc-government." Argument was in vain, he must have sixteen cents or he would confiscate the book. The next day I saw the appraisers, they said the duty should be thirteen cents a copy, and courteously and patiently explained that they must collect duty on every copy each week until the above "order" is rescinded, also that this applies to all "trade journals" such as those of the grocery, iron, leather, printers and other trades. Just fancy if you can that the United States government should become insane and demand sixteen cents or thirteen cents duty on every copy of PROGRESS that you mailed to subscribers there, and that the unfortunate subscriber had to lose in addition an hour's time several days in the week going to the custom house for his papers, if he took more than one. At the present time it stands in this way with myself-say for one year at present rates.

In Brief \$5 worth of newspapers will cost me only \$14 in money, a loss of at least that much more in time, and a feeling of annoyance and of unjust treatment that goes beyond money value. What do

What can any fair minded man think of it? There is no excuse for such an outrage and no conservative politician in the land who ever hoped for election again would dare uphold that act of his government.

Summer Travel Off.

There is a very general impression that summer travel this summer is not up to that of other seasons. Progress talked with the hotel people and ascertained that it was the case beyond any question. One of the clerks had evidently summed up the situation pretty thoroughly, and made some comparisons with last year's business. "I am not exaggerating at all," he said, "when I say that there are not twothirds the Americans in town this year. Our books show the fact and the other hotel people will bear out my story. There is one other thing that we have noticed-in fact could not help noticingthose people who do come are not of the spending kind. They come of it. Last summer there was not a day when several carriages were not ordered and tourists were on the go all the time. There is some of it this year but not one quarter the amount of sight seeing. The livery people will tell you the same story. A citizen who had the same facts from another source had a ready reply for the cause. "A number of my friends came here last summer and went away saying they would come again when we erected a first-class hotel."

HIS BILLS WERE LEFT

FOR OTHER PEOPLE TO LOOK AFTER IN HIS ABSENCE.

A "Gallant" Fredericton Military Officer Out of Town When His Notes Come Due-There is Wailing and Gnashing of Teeth-Poor Prospects for his Return.

Fredericton has at present on hand the

biggest sensation it has enjoyed this season. The principal is a young military man-to wit, an officer-and his absence from the Celestial is the cause of all the talk. Although reported "missing," no one has any fears regarding his health or safety. He went away on leave of absence some few weeks ago, and had he provided for various notes at some of the banks, he might have delayed his return as long as he pleased. But people will talk, and if they have to take up paper which they had endorsed for the accommodation of this man or that, some of them are liable to feel annoyed, particularly if the maker of the notes is out of the city without explaining them enjoy it. why he remains away after his notes are The military man and his family have

been living in Fredericton about a year. It is not saying too much to state that they were general favorites. Society leaders received them with open arms, and would be society leaders patronized them to the fullest degree. The word went out soon after their arrival at Fredericton that they had prominent and wealthy connections at Quebec, and that the gallant young officer had done military duty both at the ancient capital and at Winnipeg. Making friends quickly, why should he not do some of them the honor of permitting them to endorse some notes for him? This was a natural question and he acted on the suggestion. Just to prove, perhaps, that Orangemen would as soon do a favor for one who was not qualified for membership in the order as for anyone else he allowed a prominent defender of the memory of pious King William to endorse for him to the tune of \$190. There was a brother military officer fairly well to do in town and why should the new comer pass him over when distributing his favors? There was no reason why he should, and so he did not deny him the opportunity of putting his name on a note for something less than \$200. And then there was the good natured and obliging Dr. himself a military man. Why should get name \$150? No sooner said than done. Was he not well acquainted with a young

Carleton street lawyer and with a Queen street business man? He was, and he might as well get their endorsements for amounts of \$150 and \$125 respectively. He did so. In addition to these matters he seems to have forgotten to have settled with his grocer or with a house furnisher. Rumor also has it that he has neglected his butcher for quite a sum, but the son of the latter denies this statement. There are some not without hopes that the young officer will return and settle up with all the parties in full. These

people say that his absence means that he has gone among friends in the upper prov- all day if he inces in order to raise the wind there, and that he will show on his return that he is at least an honest man. Others again, and they are in the large majority, have no hopes of ever seeing him again.

The affair has shocked society, and it will be a choice subject for gossip for some time to come, whether or not the principal returns to Fredericton.

THE PROGRAMME PRIVILEGE Secured for a Neat Sum by the Publisher of "Progress.

The announcement that the opera house programme and the privilege of its advertising had sold for such an unexpected sum as to more than net six per cent upon the paid up stock, caused some comment among the stockholders of the opera house this week. The question asked by advertisers was: Who has got it.

Progress is not aware that there is any secret about it-the tender was made by the publisher of this paper and was ac-

There are but few advertising specialties that are really worth the money paid for the advertising in them, and the theatre programme is one of them. The privilege of advertising in the programmes of American theatres sells for large sums quite frequently, and for certain advertisers they are considered the best possible medium outside of the newspaper and the magazine.

Provided Progress did not get a line of advertising for the programme it would pay the publisher to print and furnish it to advertise his newspaper. There is no place in the world where a bit of reading matter is so thoroughly appreciated as in the theatre. The long waits before and between the acts give everybody an opporthat a small advertisment is very prominent. There is every chance to make neat advantage that Progress proposes to use to the utmost is the assistance of its engraving bureau in preparing advertisements.

performance.

PLAIN HALF HOLIDAY TALK.

From a Merchant Who Signed the Recreation Agreement.

There are a good many workers and employers interested in the half-holiday movement. The latter are more interested than they care to acknowledge, though they are not saying much about it, for the very good reason that they have not had a chance. The clerks proposed the change and rushed it through in such a style that there was no chance to argue or object.

There is no reasonable doubt but the boys-and the girls, too, for that matterenjoyed the half holidays. It is a question though if their employers did. The latter are uneasy and some of them are beginning to talk-beginning to question the advisability of half holidays in the week.

They are talking too late and had better spare their eloquence and arguments for this season at least. The boys have got their holiday and have only a month to enjoy it in. Progress is in favor of letting

Still that there is some alarm about the movement becoming more general and extending over a longer time, is quite evident from the letters of one kind and another that have been sent to this office, and from the talk on the streets and in the stores.

The recommendation of the mayor and the president of the board of trade, that Friday be made a pay day instead of Saturday, is regarded seriously in some quarters and with amusement in others. Some employers go so far as to say that they do not know what they are talking about, and others say that it makes no difference to them when they pay, only it seems more natural to square up the week at the end of the week, instead of in the middle. Manufacturers and others have good reasons why Friday should not be a pay day. They cannot help knowing, they say, that a certain proportion of their employes are bound to spend a part of their wages at the bar, and if it were not for the fact of Sunday intervening between pay day and Monday now, but few of the "lushers" would be on hand when work

A large grocer who signed the half holiday movement and is keeping it religiously had some straight talk upon the subject. "I will not be the one," he said, "to stand in the way of what the boys think their enjoyment and so I signed the paper against my judgment. Why? Because this town is not large enough, not prosperous enough to be idle any of the time. Because it is unfair to our country customers who come to the city when they can and if it happens to be Friday afternoon they might as well stay away. Because a certain proportion of perishable goods are bound to spoil if not sold as quickly as possible; because it is against the interests of the clerks themselves to have a holiday. You look surprised. Let me explain. My clerks know that any day in the week except Saturday one of them can get away for wishes to. You may be sure they have taken advantage of the liberty and gone, but they go no longer. They cannot consistently want a day off and a half holiday as well, and between you and me I don't think they are half pleased over the new move. It is all nonsense to say that nothing is lost by a half holiday. I believe thoroughly that once you lose the chance to sell a customer, you stand a poor show of making the sale again. I won't insist on this point, but if you have the time interview the business people upon their cash sales for the weeks including the half holidays, and compare them with those of last year and note the difference.

"Now don't mistake me," continued the merchant as Progress moved away, "I do not object to recreation for the boys. It does them good and they should have it. I practice what I preach by, as I told you, letting my clerks off when possible, but what I do say is, don't let pleasure and half holidays interfere with business; don't shut up the stores."

Here's a man that needs conversion badly. He is not half hearted about anything, and if he can be convinced that a halt holiday is a good thing will go in for it might and main. The boys will find out that there is some missionary work to be done before next summer.

The Death of Judge Watters.

As Progress goes to press (early Friday) the news is rapidly circulating throughout the city that Charles Watters, tunity to read not only the programme but judge of the county court, and revising every bit of reading matter and every ad-vertisement in it. The sheet is so small John, chairman of the board of health, John, chairman of the board of health, and an honored member of other useful striking announcements that will be sure to | bodies, is dead-died when in the act of catch the eye of the theatre goer. One dressing for the day. His taking off was painless, but fearfully sudden. Many citizens saw him on the streets Thursday There is much truth in the statement -as bright and cheery as ever. For four that the programme is read in the majority | years he has been ailing from ossification of cases not only by the theatre goer but of the arteries, and that was the cause of is taken home and passed around to the his death. No man in the city was more members of his or her family, who read it just as eagerly as if they had been at the is done, and the city and community is better for his living and laboring in it.