

PROGRESS.

VOL. IV., NO. 201.

ST. JOHN, N. B., SATURDAY, MARCH 5, 1892.

PRICE FIVE CENTS.

DID NOT DEAL WITH IT.

RODNEY WHARF SCHEME IS NOT YET SNUFFED OUT.

The Council Has a Peaceful and Orderly Session—How the Aldermen Take Matters When There is Nothing Much to Interest Them.

This has not been a busy week with the common council. The committee appointed to find out a way to reduce the rate of taxation to \$1 on the \$100 has not had a meeting. Perhaps the figures furnished by Progress last week have set the aldermen to thinking the thing out a little before they begin to take off their coats and go to work. Nor has the committee appointed to investigate police matters been in session. Indeed, it is so long since the latter body did anything that interested parties are beginning to wonder if the whole matter has not been shelved. In the meantime, report says, a good deal of additional evidence has been handed in.

The council held a meeting Thursday afternoon, at which the principal business was to consider the matter of harbor improvements, according to notice of motion of Ald. Shaw. That happened to be just the particular matter that was not considered. There was not a full board and it was understood that if anything was done both schemes would be knocked on the head. Ald. Allen was away in New York and Ald. Christie was ill, while some other cause detained Ald. Nase. The matter came up about 5 o'clock, after Ald. Stackhouse had tried to put a motion to adjourn, and half an hour or so was spent in an argument as to what was the best way to legalize an adjournment without considering a motion for which the regulation 30 days notice had been given. The mayor proposed to adjourn the proceedings to a specific date, but Ald. Kelly came to the front with what he claimed to be a ruling of the recorder that made that kind of an adjournment impossible. He quoted the recorder as saying that the council could adjourn only from day to day, but the mayor had never heard of such a ruling and quoted Cushing or some equally good authority, as to the power of adjournment when special regulation existed. Then Ald. McCarthy thought that to be safe the motion of Ald. Shaw should be put and the discussion of it adjourned. Ald. Shaw did not want an adjournment to a specified date but he should not be able to be present. There was a good deal of talking, wise and otherwise, by the members, and finally an adjournment was made to Friday of next week.

There are several things noticeable about the meetings of the council.

One is that the mayor keeps very good order.

Another is that some of the aldermen who go into the ante-room to smoke while reports are read, use abominably bad tobacco.

Another is that some of them have a tired look a good deal of the time, unless something comes to the front in which they are especially interested. This something does not appear to be the condition of the departments.

The annual report of the director of public works ought to be considered a somewhat important document. The aldermen, as a rule, did not appear to think it worthy of attention. When the common clerk began to read it, some went into the ante-room to smoke and swap jokes, while others turned around in their chairs and began animated conversations with their neighbors. There was a loud buzz of talking which rapidly grew louder. Then the mayor observed, with evident sarcasm, that unless the aldermen wished to consider the report as read, they ought to keep order. The suggestion that it be so considered was snapped at by some of the aldermen, and the plea was that the report could be read when it was printed. Ald. Likely thought the newspapers needed news these times and that they would be glad to publish it. He should not be surprised if it was all in Progress on Saturday, he said. Finally amid partial order the report was read. It affirmed that there was no hope of a reduction of the assessment for this branch of the public service, and dealt with the work and property of the department, including the celebrated roller which was reported in good health and condition but of not much use to the city. A warm eulogy was given to the watering carts, and a facetious reference was made to two horses which the director recommended should be sent to the home yard one good horse purchased in their stead. The main facts and figures of the report may be dealt with at a future time. The department is living up to its income.

In the meantime the immediate matter for consideration by the public is the question of harbor improvements. The plans explaining the matter are at the common clerk's office and open to the inspection of the public. The citizens should take a look at them.

When they do so, they will not be long in forming a solid opinion on the subject.

THE NOVELTY WORN OFF.

The Opening of the Legislature not What it Used To Be.

If a stormy day indicates a ruffled session there will be plenty of fun in the New Brunswick legislature this year.

The novelty of the "opening" has worn off in the capital, and the occasion is not looked forward to with unusual anticipations by any others than a couple of hundred "trainers" and two or three scores of collegiates. They, together with the small boys and girls of Fredericton, comprised in the main the listeners to the speech of his honor.

There were a good many members present, all of them apparently in the best of humor and willing and eager to earn \$300 and travelling expenses.

There was considerable curiosity in regard to the improvements in the assembly room and it is not too much to say that they gave general satisfaction. There will be some, no doubt, who would prefer to lean over a rail on the floor of the house than climb the stairs to a more commanding view, and a more comfortable seat up stairs. But they belong to that class who object to everything, more especially when the government has any part in it.

Progress understands that the opposition number a baker's dozen, but what they lack in numbers will probably be made up in vigilance. There are some good talkers among them and none of them are short of "wind."

The pleasantries exchanged between the two leaders were somewhat sarcastic. The Attorney General seemed to think the recent banquet tendered Mr. Hanington a good subject and he made the most saying enough to make any ordinary man unhappy.

"Hon." James I. Fellows has not put in an appearance yet and there are some doubts that he will do so. When last heard from he was in Japan bag and baggage. That last word reminds me of a good story that has gone the rounds in the capital to the effect that a local artist painter secured a fat job when he was instructed to add the prefix "Hon." to the plain name upon his numerous trunks. Apart from this, however, Mr. Fellows made it very pleasant for all he came in contact with. In other words he made a good "impression," not an exceedingly difficult task when a man has the cash to spend and launches it out at the rate of \$650 per month.

There is one brilliant local event looked forward to. Next Thursday evening the daughter of the Attorney General Blair and the youngest son of President Randolph of the Peoples' bank, will wed.

His Pleasure Cut Short.

There was slight misunderstanding at the artillery ball Monday evening, and one of the guests left before the "wee small hours." He had received an invitation, but was anxious that a friend of his should also attend, and made a visit to one of the officers. He did not get a written invitation for his friend but claims to have gotten a verbal one from a some one in the office. Both went to the ball, and during the evening the officer asked the gentleman who was there on the strength of the alleged verbal invitation, whether he had been invited, he told the circumstances of the case whereupon, the other gentleman was interviewed, and asked what right he had to invite people. He offered an explanation, but it was not satisfactory to the officer, and he was told to leave the hall.

The affair has been generally discussed about town, and there are many versions of it. It is said that application was made to the officer to have an invitation transferred, and that he had promised to call a committee meeting, of whose action in the matter he had no doubt. On the strength of this statement, and that of the guest whose pleasure was cut short, the gentleman on whose behalf the application was made went to the ball.

Lenten Self Denial.

In one of the city Sunday schools last Sunday, a lady teacher was endeavoring to instruct her class of boys on the virtue of self-denial during Lent, recommending them to abstain from this or that luxury until Easter. When she thought they had sufficiently grasped the idea she enquired, "Now what do you think you would like to give up." Very promptly came the reply, "We will give up coming to Sunday school." The teacher sighed, and began her instruction anew.

Models of Politeness.

Chief Clark appears to have been instructing his men in matters of etiquette. During the session of the common council, on Thursday, a gentle knocking was heard at the chamber door. When the high constable responded, a policeman presented himself bearing in his hand a letter for one of the aldermen. If there had been a green baize door, as in the court room, he would have had hard work to make himself heard.

ON A DIFFERENT PLAN.

A CHANGE IN OPERATIONS AT THE HARRIS CAR WORKS.

The Firm Says There is no Strike and the Men Say There is—Their Reasons for Thinking so—The Proposed Union of all the Trades.

There is a difference of opinion between the Harris car works company and the men who were formerly employed by it, as to whether there is a strike on, at present, in St. John.

The workmen say there is a strike. They have been holding meetings and making speeches that would seem to indicate that what they say is true.

The officials of the Harris company have announced through the government organs that they are not aware of a strike being in progress; that they have all the men they need, and that work is going on in their establishment as usual. Nevertheless every man who applies for work is hired, and men who would not be allowed inside the gates last fall, because they were incompetent, are now seen there in their shirt sleeves from 7 a. m. to 6 p. m.

When the ten hour movement became general in St. John, about two years ago, the working men found little difficulty in getting the hours reduced. In a few establishments they met with opposition. The Harris works was one of them. The men struck and won.

But they never experienced the joys of victory. There was always a fear that they would be called upon to give up what they had won, and what they considered was right; and every suggestion put forward by the firm with a view of economizing, made some reference to the hours of labor. But the men were firm. Although a proposed reduction in wages was something that few men in the employ could afford to regard with indifference, it was never the cause of a strike.

A return to the ten hour system, however, was another matter, and they would not listen to it.

Last fall, as the last cars of a contract were being finished, a number of workmen were discharged every pay night. This continued until there were not more than a half dozen men in the works. When the car works were sold there was an uncertainty as to whether they would ever run again. Some of the former employes found employment elsewhere; others left the city, but the majority walked the streets all winter, hoping that work would be resumed. The North End grocers were also hopeful, although their book keepers were kept busy making entries. Several of them made so many entries that they had to close up their establishments.

About a month ago the Harris company announced that it had a contract to build 140 hoppers. Hoppers are cars used in the transportation of coal. The men in the car works used to turn out, on an average, four a day. There was a large force of experienced workmen. Every man had a certain part of the car to make. The timber was taken by the men in the mill, and when it left their hands all the outside workmen had to do was to put the cars together. Long experience had taught the men how to do the work quickly and well. They could tell for what part of a car a piece of timber would be useful by simply looking at it, and there was very little stock wasted.

And so it was in every department of the works, where between 300 and 400 men were employed.

The present contract is being turned out in a different way, and unless the firm has decided to make the change, the workmen think there is a strike.

Although every applicant is hired there are less than 100 men working in the establishment. Work was begun on the first car three weeks ago, and the men have been spending ten hours a day there ever since. Yet not more than two or three cars have been finished, and they are not painted.

Among those who think there is a strike are the moulders, who make the car wheels. They only work about seven hours a day, and think nine hours is enough for the car builders to work. The moulders knocked off last week, and have since formed a union. Whether they are on strike is another question.

The last car wheel made in the foundry was put under a hopper this week, and where the rest are to come from is a matter for speculation among the men who say they are on a strike. It is said that the firm intends to import wheels, but the men say that a moulders' union is not an original idea with them.

That is the way the matter stands. The workmen have been very active during the last few weeks, and it is proposed to form a union of all the trades in St. John. They intend to ask all the trades unions in the city to send representatives to consider the question, and if a union is formed, a strike that will be a revelation to St. John people is among the probabilities of the future.

The car builders have written for information to the Master Workman of the Knights of Labor, and, when an answer is received, intend to take immediate action.

THE COLORED CAKE WALK.

A Good Performance of Which Only the Select Saw the End.

The members of the colored lodge of Oddfellows in this city had a concert and conversation in their hall, Germain street, Tuesday evening, to raise money to pay the duty on a set of regalia they are importing from the United States. Prof. Washington announced that they had enough to pay for the regalia, but the duties were considerable of a drawback. A very good programme was given, of which the jubilee singing was the best feature; but what the audience was most interested in was a cake walk, which it was understood would be the event of the evening. As the time wore on and no mention was made of the cake walk, there was apparent dissatisfaction among the colored auditors, some of whom remarked that they could get all the singing they wanted at home, but they couldn't see a cake walk every day, and that was what they had come for. After the musical part of the programme, refreshments were in order, and colored youths and their girl friends got their chairs around and merriment ran high over cake and ice cream. Meanwhile there were numerous enquiries for the cake walk, and when Prof. Washington announced that owing to "unforeseen circumstances" it had been decided to omit that part of the evening's entertainment, there was great disappointment. As there seemed to be a general understanding among all present that the "unforeseen circumstances" was the unexpected large attendance of another color from that of the managers, this part of the audience attracted more attention than would probably have been bestowed upon the competitors in the cake walk, had that event come off. The announcement was the signal for an inspection of furs and ulsters, and some left the hall.

But they didn't go far, and those who passed out saw dusky lovers enjoying quiet flirtations in the halls leading to the street.

As the "unforeseen circumstances" found little enjoyment in being placed on exhibition as monstrosities by a colored conversation they left the hall. There was activity by those who remained. The chairs which had all been facing the platform at one end of the hall were hustled into the centre, and ticket taker Gordon locked the door, and kept an eye peeled for visitors of another complexion. Then preparations for the cake walk began in earnest.

The colored gentlemen selected their partners, formed in line, and started off to walk for the cake. It was a trial of gracefulness and endurance, and both were exhibited to a remarkable degree. Had it been a leap year affair, Mr. Robert Washington would undoubtedly have been the beau. Miss Gordon, who might be considered a blonde in such an assembly was his partner; and wore an elaborate display of red beads, artistically fastened to her dark hair. This couple was gracefulness itself, but lacked endurance.

Mr. Jones and Miss Louise Otis could lay claim to both qualifications, and won the cake. Miss Otis might also be considered a blonde, and has an imperious air which was most noticeable during the conversation, when she found a brunette in the chair next to that occupied by Mr. Jones, after she had returned from a visit to the refreshment room. On this occasion Miss Otis attracted more attention than the cornetist.

Mr. Jones is not a blonde. He is a sleeping car porter. A passenger who happens to wake up in the night would not mistake him for a ghost. But as a cake walker he is without an equal, and was most fortunate in selecting his partner.

Thankful For a Little.

The fact that the new hot well and pump effected a saving of \$144.60 in the consumption of coal for the ferry in four months and twelve days is something of which the ferry committee is very proud. One of them told Progress that he hoped due prominence would be given to the fact. The papers, he said, were ready to blame the council and did not give it credit when it did save money. Progress therefore gives due prominence to the statement that the ferry, which has been running in debt to the tune of more than \$12,000 a year, has begun to save at the rate of between \$30 and \$40 a month. Everything helps in the way of economy, and the public should be thanked for even a little.

How She Takes Castor Oil.

"If tomorrow is a windy day I will take a dose of castor oil," remarked a young lady recently. "It is too calm today."

Progress did not know what relation the wind bore to medicine, and expectant of a new theory made some enquiries.

"It's just this way," was the answer. "Castor oil always does me good, but though I do not dislike the taste of it, the smell sickens me. When I have to take it, I go into the yard and stand where the wind will blow the smell away. If the day is calm I cannot do this, and so I have to wait until the weather suits. Quite a good idea, isn't it?"

SOME OF THE FIGURES.

THE OUTLOOK FOR THE TAXPAYERS IS NOT GOOD.

Increased Indebtedness Seems to Be the Order of the Day—Increased Assessments Are to Come—What the Chamberlain Tells the People.

As a matter of comparison some figures of the chamberlains' reports for this year, and that are now in order. Last year, the funded debt was \$2,733,702; this year it is \$2,802,902, an increase of \$69,200. The total liabilities in 1890 were \$3,103,096, while in 1891 they were \$3,160,216. The balance of assets over liabilities is larger this year, owing to increased values of real estate, plant and debentures; and there are larger balances due from sundry accounts. Yet last year there was \$60,317 to the credit of the city at the Bank of Brunswick, while this year the sum is only \$17,609.

The street department, as shown last week, increased its indebtedness nearly \$2,000 and has gone beyond the estimates to the extent of nearly \$6,000. The police department has had a falling off in fines, but has saved something in the way of carriage hire, sitting magistrates and stationery. Last year it cost \$182 to supply the magistrate's place when he was absent, and \$104 of this went to Justice T. R. Jones. The sum is only \$40 this year. Last year, too, there was nearly \$200 for carriage hire and the like which does not appear in the present report. There was also \$226 for printing and stationery, but this item has been got down to \$211, which seems fully enough in any case.

The fire department has increased the salary list from \$16,847 to \$19,201, and in other ways increased its indebtedness to the extent of more than \$5,000. The fuel and light bill has jumped up more than \$500, while there is an item of \$920 for "new hose and electric trip." The excess of what the department has cost over what it was thought it would cost is \$6,741.

The ferry account, as everybody knows, has been in a bad way. It has gone behind at the rate of over \$12,000, and has a total indebtedness now of \$23,504. The chamberlain thinks that the deficiency must be met by increased taxation. There is power to make a special assessment to the extent of \$10,000 for this purpose, though only \$4,000 was levied last year. He thinks that the change in the fares will make a difference in favor of the city of 25 per cent. in the course of the year. Bye and bye, he has faith to believe, the institution will be self-sustaining.

Taken as a whole, the motto of retrenchment and reform does not appear to have been deeply graven on the hearts of the city rulers. There has been some good work done, which will be permanent work and add to the beauty and stability of the city. There will be much for future generations to admire as they take their walks abroad, but there will be much for them to think about when they pay their annual assessments. This may be a pleasant way for the people of the present to look at things, but it is becoming painfully evident that the present generation will have to bear its share of the burden.

And in the meantime a committee of the common council has undertaken to find out if the rate of assessment can be reduced from \$1.47 to \$1.00 by lopping a little off of the salaries here and there.

He Will Be Missed.

It is no reflection on the new secretary of the exhibition association, Mr. E. B. Ketchum, to say that Mr. Ira Cornwall will be missed in that office. He has not only given the duties of his office an unusual amount of attention, but has put an energy into his work in which few men could hope to rival him. Mr. Cornwall is one of the men who likes to work for the sake of working, whether he is paid anything for it or not. Had his salary been commensurate with the amount of energy developed by him, he should have had a snug sum laid by out of it by this time. Mr. Cornwall goes on the board as a director, and it is safe to say that in such capacity he will not be a figure-head with a mere yes or no to the propositions advanced from time to time.

Sold to Pittfield & Co.

Messrs. W. C. Pittfield & Co. have purchased the Turner & Finlay stock and the goods are now being sorted and remarked. The King street store has been rented until the first of May. When the work of remarking is completed notice will be given, and genuine bargains are promised, as the stock was purchased for cash at a low figure, and will be retailed at unheard of prices.

A Comedy Band.

The music at the Palace Rink Tuesday evening during the fancy skating contest did not seem to meet with the approval of the spectators that the work of the contestants did. The St. John Comedy band was in attendance, and as musical comedians they were more than true to life.

NO FELONIOUS INTENT.

A Principle That Might Hold Good in Many Cases.

A city policeman was sent to Fredericton last week to arrest a man who had appropriated a lot of clothing, etc., from the hotel where he had been staying in St. John. The prisoner was brought back and explained that he had not supposed the articles were of any value, and thereupon the prosecutor was induced to declare a belief that there was no felonious intent. The prisoner was thereupon released and went on his way rejoicing. A moderate estimate fixed the value of the articles he had carried off at \$10. Others believe they were worth more than that sum.

It is quite possible that the man had such a dim idea of the value of property and the right of ownership that he did not intend to steal anything, but he took the clothing and would have kept it had he not been forced to give it up. He may congratulate himself that the court was in a good humor that day.

If the principle applied in this case holds good, the court will have an easy time in disposing of a great many of the cases brought before it. All that is necessary is for the accused to work upon the sympathy of the prosecutor and that is an end of the matter. In the meantime a good many men are sent to jail for longer and shorter terms for offences which cannot be construed to have arisen from any felonious intent. A man may get six months close confinement for taking a glass too much and breaking in a door, while another may get four months for breaking a window. The man who gets drunk in the majority of cases, has no bad intent when he starts. Why not average up a little, and have as easy a method for one class as for another?

How He Takes Advice.

When the board of public safety holds its investigation into public affairs, some very interesting revelations will be made. It is said that members of the committee have received considerable information in regard to the doings of the police that is not found in the reports, and that when the investigation begins will prove interesting. Just now, however, harbor improvements and the probabilities of re-election are engaging the attention of the aldermen, but it is said that the police committee will have a meeting shortly.

Ald. Lon Chesley is chairman. When the two officers were found in a barroom a short time ago the chief went to him for advice. The alderman gave it reluctantly, but was in favor of giving the men another chance. The chief listened attentively, then went to the central station and discharged the men. In reply to a question, he said he had acted on the advice of Ald. Chesley. The latter has been wondering ever since whether his colleagues at the council board usually understand what he says as well as the chief.

No Fun In It This Weather.

The firemen did considerable toward earning their salaries this week. Wednesday was not a night that people would crowd to a fire, and the firemen were pretty well frozen up before they left Douglas avenue. Most of them went to bed early Thursday night, and listened to the wind as it blew the snow into huge banks. Then the bells rang out about 11 o'clock and solitary firemen who looked as if they would like to resign their positions immediately ploughed through snow banks to Winter street.

A Great Thing for the School Boy.

The exhibition car from the North West proved a popular resort while here. As the supply of circulars seemed inexhaustible, everyone who came out of the car had enough reading matter to last them a week. They were all about farming, big turnips and squashes. The school children of the dominion will be well posted on such matters before the car is sent tracked for good, if all Canadian youngsters appreciate colored pictures as much as those living in St. John.

Mr. Foster's Grievance.

The sidewalk in front of Foster's grocery on St. James' street is a favorite place of meeting for the young men who live in that vicinity and have spare time on their hands. There are so many of them, however, that no matter how attractive Mr. Foster makes his show window, passers-by never get a chance to look at it. Mr. Foster has made frequent objections to having his store front obscured in this manner, and has informed the police about it. But the crowd still meets.

Waiting for the Storm to Clear Up.

The people who intended going to Boston in the State of Maine Thursday, had an excellent opportunity for a personal inspection of the steamer before starting on their journey. There were quite a large number of passengers for this time of the year, and they all spent the day on the steamer, some of them coming up town for their meals, while friends who wanted to bid them farewell had innumerable opportunities to do so before the storm eased up.