

# PROGRESS.

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## MR. FOSTER GETS THERE

AND FRED. W. BLIZZARD LOSES HIS POSITION.

To Make Room for a King's County Man George M. Ryan—The Facts of the Case—A Gross Injustice—Indignant Conservatives—Our Meek M.P.'s.

Geo. M. Ryan has been appointed chief railway mail clerk, at a salary of \$1,500 per annum; Mr. Fred. W. Blizzard will retain a first class clerkship at \$960 per annum.

To many of the people who read PROGRESS every week, the short sentence printed above, may not have much significance, but behind it there is a tale of such injustice that it is a wonder it has not been given to the public before.

Fred. W. Blizzard, of the railway mail service, is not a stranger in this town, nor, indeed, in the province. He has lived his 47 years of life in this city, and spent 26 of it working in the mail service. He started at the foot of the ladder, and by persevering, faithful toil, succeeded in reaching the top. Today he is hurled from his position for no reason whatever and another man, whom he has trained to the work, learned all he knows, placed over him.

It should be stated that Mr. Ryan, the man who has been appointed over Mr. Blizzard, is an intimate friend of the minister of finance, Mr. Geo. E. Foster. He was a boy when the man of "words and weakness" did chores on the next farm. They made mud pies together—probably; went to school together, PROGRESS is informed, and were just as intimate as two boys on adjoining farms could well be. Mr. Ryan is, therefore, a native of Kings county, Mr. Foster's constituency. He comes from the same section as Mr. C. E. Black, who, many people already know, is such a friend of the government that he can resign from the post office service when it suits him, go home and look after his farm and crops, and secure his appointment again when his agricultural interests no longer engaged his attention. Several excellent clerks in the St. John office were passed over to make room for Mr. Black, a favorite of Mr. Foster, who, in return finds the post office pleasant, convenient and profitable quarters in which to spend the cold and windy winter.

For some years Mr. Ryan has been a mail clerk, running on the trains, and receiving a fair remuneration for plenty of work. It is hardly to be expected that with such friends as post office inspector Stephen J. King and the minister of finance, his old playmate, that he would be content with a mail car, and so he began to work the wires of interest and friendship to secure the position of his chief, Mr. Blizzard, who, strange to say, was chief railway mail clerk and yet was not. His name appeared on the pay sheet every month as "chief railway mail clerk," and he received between \$1,300 and \$1,400 a year, and yet he had never been actually appointed to the position since he assumed it in 1884.

This is how it happened. Mr. Blizzard may be called the father of the present railway mail service. He was sent to Ontario to learn the workings of the service and the first mail car was built under his supervision. He was the first clerk to go on the road, and the efficient and reliable service of today is the result of his work and teaching. In 1875 he qualified under the act of 1868 for the position of chief railway mail clerk and was appointed at a salary of \$800 a year. His appointment was made without a word of solicitation on his part—it seemed to be, what it really was, a recognition of good and efficient service. This appointment was afterwards, through political influence, cancelled by the government.

But, although Mr. Blizzard's appointment was cancelled no other man was appointed. His friends made such a protest that the position was never filled. In 1884 Sir Leonard Tilley induced Mr. Blizzard to accept the appointment of acting chief railway mail clerk. At first Mr. Blizzard refused to accept it as "acting" and only consented on the promise that it would be made right. Sir Leonard, however, became governor soon afterwards and the matter remained in statu quo.

It remained that way for years. No person was anxious to remove Mr. Blizzard or interfere with the existing arrangement until Mr. Foster began to look around for suitable positions for his friends. Then it began to be rumored that Mr. Blizzard was never appointed to the position he was filling, that it was vacant and that Mr. Ryan would soon fill it. Mr. Blizzard heard the rumor and, naturally enough, began to ask that the appointment so long promised him be made. He and his friends were met with the startling objection that he had not qualified for the position and could not be appointed. Mark the point well. A man who had been filling the office, doing its work well and faithfully for many years was not qualified to be appointed!

But Mr. Blizzard claimed that he was qualified by his examination under the act of 1868, and that moreover he had been appointed in 1875 under that qualification.

The claim was then set up by those interested in ousting him that he had never been appointed! and the department told him that he would have to produce that appointment before that contention of his would be admitted. It is said that it was well known that Mr. Blizzard could not produce the appointment because, like many other documents, it had been destroyed in the fire. Mr. Blizzard was "flooded" so to speak, but providence seemed to be on his side, for one day in a heap of rubbish in the postoffice cellar he came across an old letter book in which were preserved the copies of many important letters. Among them was one from Inspector McMillan cancelling his appointment. That, of course, was sufficient proof of the appointment, and the opponents of Mr. Blizzard and the finance minister were "flooded" in their turn, and he was not molested, though it is equally true that the appointment was not made.

This state of things was unsatisfactory, both to Mr. Blizzard and his friends, and when the general elections came on, the latter refused to lift a finger to assist their party unless justice was done at once. Mr. Foster was waited upon in the Royal Hotel by a number of prominent young liberal conservatives. Mr. Hazen was present. They put the question squarely to the minister of finance. So you intend to do justice to Mr. Blizzard and appoint him? Mr. Foster could not make any promises, but "would do all he could in the matter" afterward. That answer was not satisfactory and he was pressed for something more definite until Mr. Hazen broke in with the remark that he did not think they could expect the minister to say more. The delegation retired, unsatisfied. They resolved not to work for their candidates until a positive assurance was given them, Mr. Foster was telegraphed for, this time by Mr. McLeod. He came and Mr. McLeod interviewed him on the subject and the next day Mr. Blizzard and his friends received the following assurance from Mr. McLeod: "I guarantee you that, after the election, the Blizzard matter will be settled to your satisfaction and that Mr. Blizzard will be appointed."

Then the boys took off their coats, worked like Trojans and elected their men—three of them.

The election over nothing was done about the matter. No move was made by Mr. McLeod to carry out his pledge. He did nothing, but Mr. Foster did. He had the old matter of Mr. Blizzard's qualification placed in the hands of the minister of justice. No person knows what statements were made to that official. Mr. Blizzard was not given an opportunity to defend himself, but, hearing that the matter had been brought up again and this time carried out of the post office department, his friends asked Mr. Hazen to interfere. Mr. Hazen asked Minister Thompson to hold his decision until he could see him, and received the answer that the other party (Mr. Foster) had pressed for a decision and that he had given it—against Mr. Blizzard.

The undue haste cannot be explained. The matter had been standing for years and a few days more delay as requested by Mr. Hazen might well have been granted. This is the way Mr. Hazen and Mr. McLeod, in whose hands the matter was more particularly, allowed themselves to be trampled upon by Mr. Foster.

No words that PROGRESS can use will express the keen indignation felt by the conservatives, and especially the young conservatives, at this injustice. No other topic has been discussed among them since the news arrived. It is felt all the more because Mr. Blizzard was reduced to the ranks the day before Christmas—the one time in all the year he should enjoy.

Perhaps no fact could be more significant than the silence of the conservative journals on the matter. Not a word has been said either in support of the appointment or in condemnation of it. That is the penalty of serving two masters. It would not do to condemn Mr. Foster's appointment, and the St. John public would quickly withdraw support from any newspaper that upheld it.

PROGRESS is not bound by any such ties. It is free to express its honest opinion of this business, and it proposes to do so. This is not the end of it. Messrs. Hazen and McLeod will realize this statement before they are through with it. The post office inspector, who, for good reasons of his own, favored Mr. Ryan will not relish a ventilation of post office affairs, past and present. It will be interesting to know why King's county and York county men have such a "pull" in the St. John office. The examination of the clerks and the reasons why men of superior intelligence fail to pass frequently, while others, the "dunces" of the service, find no difficulty in coming off with flying colors—will furnish an interesting and entertaining article.

By all means let us throw some light into the postoffice department; let us inquire into the system of money orders—how it was worked and is worked, and the reasons for the change; into the payment of postmasters, how they used to be paid and are paid, and the reasons for the change. All of which will prove interesting and profitable, worthy of the attention of PROGRESS in a future issue.

## THEY ARE AFTER FACTS.

THE SAFETY COMMITTEE STARTING THE INVESTIGATION.

The Chief Made a Statement and Denied the Charges—"Progress" is Prepared to Prove Them, if Necessary—"Was Not Drunk and Does Not Drink."

The Committee of Public Safety, acting under special authority from the common council, met Wednesday to consider the charges made by PROGRESS against the police force and the chief inspector, relative to the carrying out of the liquor license law.

They invited the editor of PROGRESS to be present, and the chief of police was there to make a statement.

The inquiry was of an informal and preliminary character; the committee seeking for information, apparently, to guide them in future investigations—a sort of clearing away of the under brush, as it were. The committee was not long at work before it gave Mr. Clark an opportunity to make a statement. He did so and kept them listening for nearly an hour while he spoke of his record as chief of police. It is to the credit of the committee that the members were patient and attentive. The chief inspector took occasion to deny all that he could. He was not aware that the liquor law was being broken, and he had at all times done his best to enforce it.

When the chief had made his statement, Mr. Carter, the editor of PROGRESS, was asked to appear. Chairman Chesley made a brief statement of the object of the investigation, and said that they had asked representatives of PROGRESS (which made the charges) to be present and give them what assistance they could.

Since a portion of what transpired at the committee meeting has already been given to the public in the daily press, those questions and answers which may properly be printed will be given below.

Mr. Carter said that he was the editor and proprietor of PROGRESS and knew all about the articles referred to. The charges made in them concerning the violation of the liquor law were true in every particular. He did not think it was necessary, but it became necessary to prove the articles he was prepared to produce affidavits to prove them.

"I think you stated," said a committee-man "that policemen paid backwards and forwards before these saloons, knowing what was going on and made no effort to enforce the law. How did you know that?"

"By personal observation" was the reply "as well as by the statements of others upon whose word I can place reliance. It was a fact that on some streets where policemen passed bars every few minutes; persons, in groups and small crowds, passed in and out of them Saturday night in full view of the officers, who, if they possessed common sense, could not be ignorant of what was going on."

"Do you mean that in the case of the hotels—"

"Just wait one minute," the witness interrupted, "The hotels cannot be included in such an assertion. It would be absurd for me or anyone else to say that because a person or a crowd entered a hotel after 7 o'clock it was for the purpose of drinking. I take it for granted that a great many people pass in and out of a hotel who do not touch liquor. When speaking of places where liquor is sold after hours with policemen pacing to and fro before their doors, I was not referring to hotels."

"But do not these places to which you do refer carry on other business besides liquor selling?"

"Some of them may, but there are others which do not. In any event, the police are well aware what the crowds that pass in and out are after."

"What led to this exposure? Do you think this violation of the law has been going on long?"

"It was, no doubt, going on quietly, but during the past few months even ordinary precautions were disregarded. Liquor was sold almost as openly Saturday night as any other time during the week. These facts and other evidence that was in our possession led us to believe that the law was violated with the knowledge of the police. The suggestion was made to me as editor of the paper that we should prove what everybody was talking about—the violation of the law. When the plan was outlined I approved of it and representatives of the paper proceeded to obtain the evidence printed in PROGRESS and on which the charges were based. We believed that the violation of the law was wrong—but a greater wrong with the knowledge of the police and that it was the duty and privilege of PROGRESS as a newspaper to expose that wrong and call the attention of the proper authorities to the facts. That is as far as we proposed to go. It is no part of a newspaper's duty to prosecute offenders when there is an officer—in this case the inspector—appointed and paid for that work."

At this point several of the aldermen

took occasion to agree with this view of the case, and one of them asked whether it would not be easier for a representative of PROGRESS to gain admittance into a saloon after hours than it would be for a policeman."

"In this case," was the reply, "the gentleman directly connected with PROGRESS who was detailed to be one of the party that visited the bars, is not a frequenter of bars and does not touch liquor. There was no difficulty for anyone to gain admittance, and I do not think that any policeman who wished admittance would fail, especially as he is armed with authority to demand entrance."

There were many other questions pro and con which it would be unfair to publish. The chief of police was present all the time and was given every opportunity to explain what he could explain. One point may be referred to. When asked why he did not take action upon the exposures made in PROGRESS he stated that he was acting under the advice of the recorder of the city. The chairman of the committee explained its powers in this matter. They were to obtain all the evidence they could, and if it showed that the charges made through PROGRESS and otherwise were correct their report would be made to the council to that effect, and that body might ask the proper authorities to appoint a commission with power to summon witnesses and take evidence under oath. "This committee," he said, "at the most, can only request the presence of witnesses but cannot compel them to attend or to give evidence. If we find that the facts we can get at will warrant further inquiry then our duty is plain."

Another interesting statement gained by an impulsive alderman from the chief was to the effect that he had not been drunk and did not drink!

## THE PRESIDENT'S HAT.

An Unintentional Joke on the Teachers Institute.

At the recent meeting of the teachers institute in this city, president James Barry discovered after the first session that in place of a new and expensive hat some one had substituted an old, faded, battered and unlined piece of head gear.

Mr. Barry was indignant and as soon as he had called the afternoon session of the institute to order, he called the attention of the intelligent audience to the "evils of substitution" and the joke practiced upon their president and chairman's hat. His remarks were made in a semi-jocular vein that was amusing and there was considerable laughter. But no one returned the hat and president Barry walked through the streets with the battered crown.

The next morning the assembled teachers were "lectured" again, this time more seriously, upon the gravity of the situation, and the fact that the hat had not been returned. Mr. Barry was serious] this time, and a trifle annoyed. His appeal for his hat was somewhat touching, and when he remarked "my hat cost \$3.25, and this one" holding up the time served Oxford, "this one isn't worth 25 cents," a few of the assembled teachers took the matter in their own hands, and when the institute was about adjourning a brand new shining hat, fresh from the hatter was placed upon the chairman's desk.

The president saw that the joke had been turned upon him, and he turned it off pleasantly. The sequel to the joke is the funniest part of the whole affair. It appears that the evening before the institute met there was a meeting of the Irish Literary and Benevolent Society, of which Mr. Barry and Mr. Richard O'Brien are both prominent members. In the hurry of departure Mr. O'Brien picked up Mr. Barry's new hat instead of his own "evening knock about." Mr. Barry did not notice the change that evening, and taken up with the duties of president of the institute next morning, failed to perceive the difference until after the adjournment of the first session.

## Independence for You.

Some one tells the story in St. John that there is plenty of teaming on the road between Fredericton and Marysville. The Northern & Western (or is it Canada Eastern?) has up to a short time ago taken most of the freight to Marysville, but when the management changed the cotton factory began to ship goods from Fredericton, hauling them three miles to do so, and to receive freight at Fredericton and haul it to Marysville. It may be that the rates have changed. Mr. Gibson usually knows his own business, but it illustrates how independent a great manufactory may be of a railroad that runs by his door, and especially when a great part of that road is his own property.

## On the West Side.

H. Price Weber never neglects the west side when he visits St. John. Monday and Tuesday he appears in the City Hall with two favorite bills, *Kathleen Mavourneen* and *Ten Nights in a Barroom*. Wednesday evening the company opens in the City Hall, Fredericton.

## THE NEWSBOYS HAPPY.

THEY HAD PLENTY OF CANDY AND KNEW WHAT TO DO WITH IT.

The Little Hustlers Get an Agreeable Surprise Saturday Morning, and Make St. John a Picnic Ground—Business Suspended While the Candy Lasted.

PROGRESS newsboys got a surprise last Saturday morning when they came for their papers, and there was more than the usual excitement among the little hustlers as they clamored for their bundles before day-break. They knew they were going to get something in the way of a Christmas box, but there was considerable speculation as to what it was to be. They were ready for anything, however, and when neat boxes of candy were distributed among them by the score, each face looked brighter. Every boy got a box, from the larger youths who are able to push to the front and never "get left," to the smaller ones who are not tall enough to lean on the counter.

The names of the boys who sell the paper regularly were all taken the Saturday before, as it would have been unfair to them to distribute the boxes indiscriminately and give outsiders the same as the little hustlers who work for PROGRESS summer and winter; but the names taken did not include all the newsboys by any means. Nearly every other one of them had a younger brother whom he boldly brought to the front with the explanation:

"This is me brother, and he helps me. Acorse I buy all the papers, but he sells too, and you order give him one."

If the statement was questioned, the boy with the younger brother invariably affirmed:

"Oh, yes, he is, you can ask any of the fellows. Don't he look like me, anyhow?"

There were always a dozen or so other newsboys willing to make oath to the identity of the little brother.

But few questions were asked. Every boy got a box, although at times it seemed as if every youngster in town sold PROGRESS. The two large cases of candy soon disappeared and more was ordered, and still they came. None of the boys, however, made more than one visit with candy in view.

On the streets the newsboys looked particularly happy. Business was suspended for a while and here and there a boy could be seen getting on a doorstep with his papers on his knees making the candy disappear as quickly as he would like to be able to dispose of his papers.

Germain street was strewn with paper boxes, for operations seemed to begin the moment the sidewalk was reached. The crowd of newsboys who do business at the post office made that building resemble a Sunday school when the Christmas tree is stripped, but the boys everywhere looked happy and enjoyed the treat.

And that was all PROGRESS wanted.

## On the Profit Sharing Plan.

Messrs. T. S. Simms & Co. have concluded to try the co-operative plan with their employes, and will divide the profits of 1892 with them. The plan was outlined by Mr. Simms at a gathering of his employes in Washington's New Year's eve, where pleasure and business were very happily combined. Mr. Simms thinks that employes who are interested in the business can, by united, interested effort, make it much more profitable. He will make it an object to his employes to increase the profits as much as possible by saving, excellence of work, and attention to every detail. Necessarily the plan provides for the protection of the business capital, for interest wear and tear, etc. It is a new idea for St. John, but it has been tried successfully in other places, and should succeed here, especially in such a well-ordered establishment as that T. S. Simms & Co.

## Very Cheap Brass.

Mr. McCann, a junkman, etc., got a lot of brass cheap some time ago. He got it too cheap some say, inasmuch as it has been valued at \$40 or thereabouts, and he got it for 60 cents. Three energetic lads, not too honest, thought it would be a good idea to take some brass from a mill in Indiantown to the junkman. Before they did so, they broke it up. Mr. McCann gave them 60 cents for it. The owner of the mill found out who the energetic boys were, and their parents had to pay \$13.50 each for the brass. It is said that they propose to make the junkman pay its value.

## Is This Cause and Effect?

The following free "ad" appeared in PROGRESS of December 19:

FOR SALE—Wards. For terms and other information apply to Geo. E. FOSTER, Minister of Finance.

The only answer to date reads as follows:

OTTAWA, Dec. 29th, '91.  
Proprietor PROGRESS,  
St. John.

You are hereby notified to discontinue sending your paper to the Department of Finance from December 31, 1891.

## ACCOMMODATE THE PUBLIC.

The Post Office Should Bend a Little in the Holidays.

An apology is due many of the subscribers and agents of this paper for some delay in the delivery of PROGRESS last week. At the same time it should be said that it was not the fault of any of the employees of PROGRESS, many of whom worked from early morning until late at night Christmas day in order that the paper should be in the usual places at the usual time.

Unfortunately for us the post office was closed, and all of PROGRESS had to go to a very late hour in the afternoon to be carted to the station, where it was taken on the trains through the courtesy of the mail clerks in charge.

The closing of the post office was no fault of the clerks. They are acting under orders, and, of course, had to obey them; but it is a strange thing that, with the full knowledge that PROGRESS is printed and mailed on Friday, the courtesy of some notice of the fact should not have been extended to it. But for the courtesy of the mail clerks on the trains, PROGRESS would have sustained serious financial loss, to say nothing of the consequential damage.

In this connection a suggestion may be made to the postoffice authorities. During the holiday season everybody is rushed—everybody keeps open a little later than usual for the convenience of their customers. The postoffice has more patrons than any establishment in the city. Why should it not keep open an hour or two later Christmas eve and such occasions for the accommodation of those who wish to mail parcels. There is no place where large parcels can be mailed except the postoffice, and large parcels are the rule in the holiday season.

Again, the staff of custom house officers in the postoffice department of that institution, while working night and day, could not handle the parcels in time. The staff was increased, but not sufficiently, and many people were forced to wait days for parcels which their notifications called for earlier.

Since the above was written PROGRESS is informed that while the usual entrances for the public were closed the private entrance for carriers and clerks was open and that clerks were within. But private entrances are not supposed to be hunted up by the public.

## The Fusileers Take the Stage.

The Fusileers had number of new attractions on their programme Tuesday evening at the Opera House, and with the exception of a few tiresome intermissions, the audience got more than was looked for. The concert was military throughout, but the bayonet exercise by Capt. Magee's company was somewhat of a surprise. Aside from a little nervousness when the company first made its appearance, the men gave a great performance, handling the rifles with such ease, that the audience were likely to forget how much they were likely to weigh. The scene was a very pretty one. Capt. Magee's company is composed of young men who take an interest in military drill, and have an officer who spends considerable time among them. The bayonet exercise was taken up last winter, the members of the company opening a club room and giving some time to the drill. Tuesday night, however, was their first public appearance, and the performance showed that they had been highly successful in their efforts.

Had there been a few more soldiers on the stage to make a continuous line of march, or made it unnecessary for the men to run themselves out of breath "behind the scenes," the spectacular part of the programme would have been a grand success. Nevertheless the tableaux were well carried out. The man with the newspaper and dog, and cat, his family, the younger members of which seemed more interested in the audience than the passing regiment; the smiling piece of giddiness in the balcony; the band in the distance; the soldiers; the sleeping drummer; the vision; the return of the regiment, and falling snow—all were shown with good effect, but would have been much better had the "waits" not been so long.

## He Knew All About It.

A teacher in St. James's church Sunday school tried to teach his class something about Christmas, and why it was observed. The little ones were fresh from the feast of Friday, and all the good things, and what they came from were uppermost in their minds. "Now who can tell me" began the teacher, "who was born on Christmas day." There was a moment's silence, then the smallest boy in the class broke in,

"I know."  
"Who?"  
"Santa Claus."

## A Welcome Addition.

Mr. W. K. Reynolds, a well known newspaper man and vigorous, trenchant writer joins the editorial staff of PROGRESS Monday.

Board of Works

8 May 92