

PROGRESS.

EDWARD S. CARTER, EDITOR.

Progress is a sixteen page paper, published every Saturday, from the Masonic Building, 88 and 90 Germain street, St. John, N. B. Subscription price is Two Dollars per annum, in advance.

Discontinuances.—Except in those localities which are easily reached, Progress will be stopped at the time paid for. Discontinuances can only be made by paying arrears at the rate of five cents per copy.

All Letters sent to the paper by persons having no business connection with it should be accompanied by stamps for a reply. Manuscripts from other than regular contributors should always be accompanied by a stamped and addressed envelope.

The circulation of this paper is over 11,000 copies, it is double that of any daily in the Maritime Provinces, and exceeds that of any weekly published in the same section.

Copies can be purchased at every known news stand in New Brunswick, and in very many of the cities, towns and villages of Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island every Saturday, for Five Cents each.

Remittances should always be made by Post Office Order or Registered Letter. The former is preferred, and should be made payable in every case to EDWARD S. CARTER, Publisher.

Halifax Branch Office, Knowles' Building, cor. George and Granville streets.

SIXTEEN PAGES.

AVERAGE CIRCULATION 11,700.

HALIFAX BRANCH OFFICE: KNOWLES' BUILDING, COR. GEORGE AND GRANVILLE STREETS.

ST. JOHN, N. B., SATURDAY, SEPT. 3.

WHITEWASHING MR. LEE.

Mr. G. HERBERT LEE has "accepted a position" on the Boston Herald. Had he been a trained newspaper man, of ordinary ability and good character, but only limited gall, he would doubtless have worn his shoes out on the Boston sidewalks before the Herald would have given him a chance to earn a living. He appears to have gone on the staff as a "specialty writer," and it is not too much to say that the special line which he seems fitted to excel from personal knowledge is the line of frauds, swindles and confidence games.

Mr. LEE is probably indebted for his position to Mr. STEPHEN ALBERT WETMORE, formerly of this city but now of the Herald staff. Mr. WETMORE is well known as a good hearted fellow, who would have extended the hospitality of his home to any friend in the position of Mr. LEE, and who was not the less ready to do so in this instance because there was a "story" in the man of which the Herald would reap the exclusive benefit. That story has been republished by some of the St. John papers, and has been read with a good deal of interest. The general belief is that it was written and carefully revised by Mr. LEE himself. It does not bear the earmarks of a story written by a newspaper man. It is a case for the defence prepared by a lawyer, a plea in which necessity is argued as a justification, and an apology which could be made with equal propriety by an unsuccessful swindler of any sort. The intention of the pitifully whining story has been to enlist sympathy for Mr. LEE, but with the greater portion of those who know him it has been just the reverse. He is less respected now than he was before. It is a pity no sensible friend had advised him to hold his tongue.

The reasons PROGRESS has for objecting to Mr. LEE's story are that cowardice and deceit are interwoven in the text of it from first to last, while some of the statements are absolutely untrue. It is not true, for instance, that Mr. LEE was hampered by debt to the extent he says he was, at the time of his marriage, nor is it true that his fraudulent operations began at the recent date to which he assigns them. His story is too long to consider in detail, but the spirit of untruth and misrepresentation is in it from beginning to end. It is a good story, and well calculated to enlist sympathy from those who do not know Mr. LEE.

The writer of an editorial in Monday's Herald appears to be of the latter class. If the affair were less serious the article could be dismissed from mind as simply the silly twaddle of some raw editorial writer with more sentiment than sense, but it is more than this. It is the acceptance of LEE's lies as truths and the holding up of him as an honest and unfortunate man whom the world should equally pity and admire. The Herald remarks that the story "has all the elements that strongly enlist our sympathies"—for whom? Not for the refined ladies who trusted to him as a friend and counsellor, and whose income, as he coolly says, has only been reduced about \$1,000 a year; not for the poor old servant women whose hardly earned savings were entrusted to his dishonest hands; not for the other poor widows and orphans whose little all has disappeared in his rapacious maw; not for the crippled old man whose earnings he virtually stole and gambled away. No, not sympathy for any of these by G. HERBERT LEE, the man whose selfishness and want of principle has caused their misery.

The Herald's misleading article concludes with these words:

During all this terrible struggle, it appears from his story that he never had thought of defrauding any one. The tide of things was against him. He struggled and struggled to no purpose, and when he left his home he even had to borrow money enough to take him to Boston. There was none of the cunning depravity of a once good man in his business career. He was simply trying to make the best of things amid adverse circumstances, and his story is pathetic and realistic to the last degree. It repre-

sents the trials and temptations of many business and professional men who get into holes and do not know how to get out of them. The honesty and integrity of Mr. Lee speak for themselves, and it is a brave man who turns about in the last ditch and faces the world with his whole story. There are points in this narrative which we need not enlarge upon, but which come home with terrible closeness to the untold experiences of many who are in a similar pinch.

This kind of talk needs no comment, for everybody in St. John knows what value to place on this kind of whitewashing. PROGRESS does not want to be hard on a man when he is "down," whether by the fault of others or by his own mistakes, and it has felt that some allowance should be made even for Mr. LEE's notorious misdoings. It is quite another thing, however, when an attempt is made to hold him up as a martyr and extol him as a pattern of "honesty and integrity." Any sympathy there is in this community is divided between Mr. LEE's victims and his relations.

That Mr. LEE is not brought back here and tried like any other criminal is not because of any doubt of his guilt or any sentimental regard for him. In the interests of justice it is no doubt demoralizing to the community that he should escape so easily. Equally respectable and very much less culpable men have been punished severely in the past, and there are less guilty ones serving out sentences at this day. One of the very banks that acted as LEE's pawnbroker, in receiving bonds which he now smilingly says that bank may not be able to retain, once chased a really estimable man all around the world and did not rest until he was caught and sentenced. He had wilfully wronged no one, but under pressing circumstances had committed forgery, to tide over a financial crisis. There was no systematic robbing of widows and orphans in this case. There was in the case of LEE. That is the difference between the two, as it is between LEE and a good many other men who deserved much more sympathy than they ever got. Mr. G. HERBERT LEE is made of the wrong material to be improved by whitewashing.

TEMPERANCE DRINKS.

At the recent convention of the Women's Christian Temperance Union, at Annapolis, N. S., the following was one of several resolutions passed:

Whereas, It is thought by many that the use of aerated waters is calculated to arouse a thirst for intoxicants; therefore resolved, that this convention, while not expressing any opinion on the subject, request the members of each union to ascertain the extent of the practice of drinking those beverages, collect evidence on the subject and report at the next meeting of the convention.

The dear women undoubtedly mean well. They are anxious to counteract whatever may influence people to drink strong liquors and to oppose the very beginnings of evil. Nobody can gainsay their motives.

It is, however, just a question how far there is wisdom in making an offence of things which are not in themselves offensive. Aerated waters are not intoxicants. They do not contain alcohol, and any stimulating effects which they produce are due to the presence of carbonic acid gas, which is most healthful when so taken into the human system. Tea and coffee are much more in the nature of intoxicating liquors than are such beverages as those produced by the Wilmot Spa Springs, for instance, and which furnish an agreeable drink to many who might otherwise quench their thirst with lager or ale.

The human race will not drink water to the exclusion of all other beverages. It is not always safe to do so. If man were in his normal condition and pure water could at all times be obtained, the custom might be otherwise. As it is, he has been educated to find enjoyment in sipping other liquids. In old times ale was the drink of everybody who was thirsty; but as ale is an undoubted intoxicant, the customs of society have been very greatly modified in respect to the use of it, as people have grown more earnest in promoting the principles of temperance. It is easy to understand how the use of ale may arouse a desire for other and more potent drinks, and so it is with any other beverage in which alcohol is present, including in some instances, the home-made fruit syrup made by the dear women themselves.

It is quite true that the habitual drinking of any liquid, even water, should not be encouraged in young people. It becomes a habit, and what is known to phrenologists as bibativeness is developed. The desire for drinking something is fostered, and it may in time tend to strong drink. Yet it is doubtful if aerated waters can be held to be any worse than buttermilk, so far as this tendency is concerned.

A good many people who are as earnest friends of true temperance as the dear women believe themselves to be, are of opinion that the cause of reform is not advanced by seeking to banish every species of mildly stimulating drink. They believe in allowing for human appetites and choosing the lesser of evils. Some very good men believe that if people could get light wines and mild beers, they would drink less whiskey, and as they would drink something in any event, they should be encouraged to take that which is the least harmful. PROGRESS offers no opinion on the subject, but it does claim that what are known as temperance drinks supply to many people the beverages that would otherwise be in the nature of stronger drinks.

The desire for drinking something in ad-

dition to water has been with the human race since the first vineyard was planted, and no amount of legislation can eradicate it. It can and should be regulated. To attempt to push the principles of abstinence to an absurdity is, however, not the way to help matters. If non-alcoholic drinks are frowned down because they may lead to a desire for intoxicants, they are at once put on a level with the latter. If the general idea prevailed that aerated waters were dangerous, conscientious store-keepers would not deal in them. They would be relegated to the bars, and there they would yield to ales and wines, which are just as cheap and to many palates much more agreeable. The dear women had better stop to think before they condemn everything decently drinkable as being prejudicial to public morality.

MONCTON'S MISSING MAYOR.

The mystery of Mayor SNOW's disappearance from Moncton is dealt with by a correspondent in this issue. The ground taken is that the missing man is not, as some imagine, alive and well in an American city, though it seems to PROGRESS that the reasons given are not convincing. It is suggested that some definite action should be taken to get at the bottom of the mystery, but just how this is to be done is not quite clear. Mayor SNOW's immediate friends and many other people have made diligent search for him in the province, and had he taken his life in any ordinary manner, it is most probable that some evidence of the fact would have been found before this. It seems, too, that his friends have employed "skilled detectives" who are said to be positive that he is not in either Boston or New York, an assertion, by the way, that no competent detective would be likely to make, unless he courted ridicule. It may be quite true that Mr. SNOW is not walking around Washington street or Broadway for public inspection, but there is a considerable area outside of the haunts of the madding crowd where he might elude the observation of skilled detectives for months or years, as others have done before him.

Mayor SNOW may have become unsettled in mind and taken his life, but the probabilities are all the other way. While it was quite true he had done nothing criminal from which he should fly, yet his methods of financing were, as some St. John insurance men can testify, at least a little peculiar. If he became thus unsettled in mind, as is quite possible, that fact would account for his eccentric method of departure and his failure to let his family and friends know of his whereabouts. Instances of this kind have not been uncommon, and there have been some such in the history of St. John. Several years ago, a well-known citizen took his dinner as usual, walked out of the house and disappeared for about two years, and there have been other cases of almost the same character. In the case of Mayor SNOW, stress is laid on the probability that he had little or no money with him, but this is very far from proven. It is quite certain that he was collecting very diligently prior to his departure, and that several men are out of pocket by the drafts he made upon them, so that the presumption that he had money is quite as strong as the presumption that he was without any. From what PROGRESS has heard in one way and another, it is difficult to resist the conclusion that either with sane calculation or insane cunning, Mayor SNOW quietly slipped out of the country, leaving as little trace as possible of the direction of his flight.

When Mayor SNOW disappeared, PROGRESS endeavored to obtain a photograph of him, so that, if he were alive, his picture in PROGRESS might lead to his identification. His friends were so opposed to this that the idea was abandoned. Had his picture appeared, it might, through the wide circulation of PROGRESS, have led to some more definite intelligence of the missing man than has yet been obtained. It is a pity his friends took the wrong view of the matter at that time.

KEEP COOL, BROTHER CROCKETT.

The Fredericton Gleaner takes PROGRESS to task for its remarks on the harbor improvements in this city and the local government, and is "surprised that a journal conducted, as PROGRESS is, on the high plane of journalism, putting forward what it evidently believes to be a fact that the local government had made provision of \$2,500 yearly for 20 years as an argument against sending six representatives from St. John in opposition to the administration." Our many sided contemporary should read straight. PROGRESS only sought to draw a comparison between the attitude of the provincial and federal governments toward St. John, and to point out that although three conservative members were returned to support the central government, it had not shown the same disposition to do what was right by St. John as the provincial government, which is opposed by six members from this city and county.

PROGRESS is not a partizan newspaper, but so long as it is published it will support a good act and condemn a bad one. If report is true, or half true, the Gleaner's editorial writers change as frequently as its opinions on public matters, otherwise it should have remembered that PROGRESS has never been slow in speaking its mind when occasion called for it.

The indications of a serious breach between factions of the Salvation Army continue to increase. In addition to the large secessions in Toronto and other cities of Ontario, much dissatisfaction is reported both in England and the United States. The Canadian seceders profess to be anxious to identify themselves with the churches and work with them. It is quite possible that some time in the future the whole army will be organized into a sect with church government, as other bodies have been in the past.

If the cholera scare extends to America there will be a very cold autumn for the prohibition party. Word comes from Hamburg that so many warnings have been given of the danger lurking in water that thousands of people have abandoned its use as a beverage, quenching their thirst with beer and light wines. Perhaps this fact may lead the W. C. T. U. of the maritime provinces to modify their proposed plan of campaign against aerated waters.

The people of Halifax have been surprised by the discovery that the Camp Hill cemetery will not have a vacant lot in it three months from now. There is an urgent call for a new cemetery. Halifax has been such a live city, of recent years, that the people have not been bothering themselves about a graveyard, but now they realize that though not a long felt want, it is at least a necessity for which they must provide.

A New York policeman began his duties the other day by firing his revolver into a crowd of men in a saloon. Several hours later he clubbed two citizens and was mobbed. He had been drunk all day. If he is discharged his uniform might fit our own Captain RAWLINGS, who is likely to be in search of a job before long. RAWLINGS can flourish his revolver equal to any man in New York, when the spirit moves him.

It is charitably to be supposed that the country papers that have been publishing an extract entitled "The Gladstonian creed" are ignorant of the fact that it is a most blasphemous parody on the creed of St. ATHANASUS which affirms the doctrine of the Holy Trinity. Such compositions are of the class which "a wise man disclaims because of their folly and a good man abhors because of their profanity."

JOYS AND WOES OF OTHER PLACES.

Expected Return of the "Times" Editor. The bore will arrive at 13.40 tomorrow.—Moncton Transcript.

New Industry Under the N. P. A crowd of Gypsies have pitched their tent on the common. They tell fortunes, trade horses and fight dogs.—Moncton Transcript.

Yes, with Soap and Water. Another beer shop has been opened on Market street. Is there no way by which those holes can be cleaned out?—Picton Standard.

Chatham's Bold Burglar. The square committee will pay a liberal reward to any person who will give the name of the thief who cuts and removes the grass from the public square at night.—World.

Dr. Stewart Smells Something. A most disagreeable stench pervaded the atmosphere yesterday on the Grand Allee, near Desalaberry street, and its source should be immediately inquired into.—Quebec Chronicle.

They Gained the Experience. The pea and walnut shell racket at the circus caused several of our solid citizens to part with \$5 to \$10 each. They thought they had located the pea, but when the shell was unflinched the pea wasn't there.—Chatham World.

Good News from Richibucto. The croakers and Jeremiahs who are always bawling their acquaintances, and shouting into their ears that the town is going to the dogs, will have to seek a new occupation, for the town is not dead, nor has her trade departed from her.—Review.

Something that Should Not Be. Persons complain of a very disagreeable smell, which meets the nostrils of travellers on their entrance to town. The smell, some seem to think, emanates from a pen (?) on the corner of Kanibak and Dufferin streets. This should not be.—Lunenburg Argus.

Raising the Wind for an Organ. The people of North Lake held their annual picnic at the church, the 15th inst.; proceeds to pay for their organ. There was also a dance in connection with it, and some were seen weeding their local "grog shop" spent the night with them. The question is often asked, is it right to have dances at church picnics? We would say not, when such temptations hover round to pollute the air, and the breath of many a young friend.—Woodstock Press.

Mr. Custance's Benefit. The concert to be given by the Philharmonic club as a farewell benefit to Mr. Custance, next Wednesday evening, promises to be a most successful musical event. There will be a full orchestra of about 28 pieces and it will include no less than four bandmasters, Messrs. White, Jones, Horsman and Williams. The orchestral pieces will include "Don Giovanni," overture, selection from Mendelssohn's "Songs without Words," the favorite "British Patrol," "War March of the Priests," Handel's "Largo," etc. Mr. White will give a violin solo, and there will be songs by Mr. Lindsay, Mr. Horace Cole and Mrs. Jones. The programme is an excellent one and the house is likely to be crowded with the lovers of good music.

The Elephant Frightened It. The steam roller has been heard from in a new role. This time Wm. Briggs threatens to bring a suit against the city because of injuries and loss by his horse becoming frightened at the uncanny looking object, and running away.

IS THIS ITS LAST YEAR?

The St. John Athletic Association—Likely to Go Under for Want of Support.

The last season of the St. Johns! One of the finest athletic grounds in Canada, the result of years of work and the expenditure of thousands of dollars, likely to be closed for want of support!

There is a good deal in the statement and the fate of the club will have to be settled at an early day. The St. Johns are no worse off than the other clubs, but it is the only one, with the exception of the Shamrocks, which is burdened with expensive grounds.

This has been a poor season for sport in the city. The boys have turned their attention to other matters, and clubs that flourished a year or two ago, now exist almost in name only.

Those in a position to know say this is the result of having so many different clubs in the city, not one of them having enough active members to make it a success. Other reasons are given, but when they are sifted down all amount to about the same thing.

Last year the Beavers, Y. M. C. A.'s and the bicycle club all joined the athletic association for the use of the grounds. The former guaranteed 40 members each and got tickets at a reduced rate. The bicycle club joined on condition that a first-class track would be laid. This was done, but the wheelmen claim that the corners were not raised to suit them; and that the ball players interfered. They became dissatisfied, and this year did not go near the grounds. The other clubs could not come to an arrangement, and only a few of the members who wanted to use the grounds joined.

Another reason given for the lack of interest in the bowling alley in St. Andrews rink. It was started this summer and the sport became popular. Over 120 bought membership tickets at \$10 a piece. The bowling alley flourishes. Many of its most active members formerly belonged to the Athletic association. They were the solid men of the club in the days of base ball. Now they are just as enthusiastic over the ten pins as they were over the ball team.

An effort was made to boom lacrosse this year. The St. John people took it up, formed a team composed of the best players of the Unions, and gave them all they wanted. The club got in trim, but found that they were the only team in the city. That was discouraging.

The membership of the St. Johns dropped to 25 per cent. of its usual membership.

It seems to be a pet hobby of some of the best athletes in St. John to run an athletic club, no matter whether it is composed of three men or one hundred. This is the only reason that can be given for the multiplicity of clubs. When the ambitious ones failed to get offices in the St. Johns, they apparently determined to start out on their own hook.

This is not the right spirit. It is not in the best interest of sport in St. John. It would be far better to have one good representative club, a club that all could take an interest in and make a credit to the city.

The St. Johns have the grounds, they have everything, in fact, needed by athletes. All that is wanting is the enthusiasm, the united effort of all the clubs, to make it the grandest association in the provinces.

PROGRESS talked with a number of representative members of the different clubs, this week, and all seemed in favor of united effort and a representative club. The wheelmen spoken to thought that if the track was put in shape every member of bicycle club would join the St. Johns. They would still have their own club, however, as they claim that a bicycle club is different from any other athletic organization, and the St. John men have rooms fitted up for their special purposes.

There is dissatisfaction in some quarters in regard to the personnel of the managing committee of the St. Johns. Some who are not athletes and do not give necessary attention to the affairs of the club. It is thought that if athletes were put in office, men who have been able to maintain an interest in the smaller clubs, and who would put forth their best efforts in the field and in committee to make the association a representative one, next season would see the St. Johns in a different position.

It is claimed that a membership of 200 could carry the club along and make the books balance at the end of the year. Once the interest was revived and the idea of a representative association impressed upon the athletes, it should be an easy matter to get a much larger membership. The season is too far gone to do much this year, but the future of sport in St. John should be seriously considered.

Why not begin early and work toward the amalgamation of the clubs? At present there are the Beavers, Y. M. C. A., the Bicycle club, the lawn tennis club and the lacrosse interest. If all these joined hands St. John would have an association that the people would be proud of.

Director Smith was the Man.

PROGRESS hastens to correct a slip of the pen by which the director of public safety was charged with the unauthorized introduction of moribund trees on the King square. Everybody knows that the director of public works was the man. The business was neither managed wisely nor by Wisely.

LAZY COPS ON THE CARS.

Policemen Who Stand on Car Platforms and Watch the Sidewalks.

Policemen on the City Road and Brussel street beats have a strange way of tramping their beats. Those people who read the papers will remember that a few days ago paragraphs went the rounds, that the postmen had been forbidden to ride on the street cars, as they had done, free of charge. It appears that no such rule applies to policemen. It is a rare thing now-a-days to see a Brussel street or City Road car passing along with one or two policemen standing on the platform. They start, say from the corner of Union street, and watch the sidewalks from the platform of the car. It seems to be far easier to do this than to tramp their beats. When they pass the other car it is even chances that they meet a comrade or two coming in the opposite direction, or, if they are alone on the beat they jump from one car to the other and return as they went. Of course it is only the business of the Street Railway Company as to whether policemen ride free or not. If the policemen give the Street Railway Company a quid pro quo, no doubt the company will not object to their riding free, but it occurs to PROGRESS that the people have something to say about it. It may be easier for the policemen to put in their time standing on a street car platform, but it is an open question if the lives and property of the people are as well protected by their doing so. The present officers seem to be making for themselves a reputation for drunkenness and laziness that has not been equalled within the memory of this generation.

After all, the truest indication of a newspaper's prosperity is its circulation, and nothing pleases PROGRESS half so much as to receive in the morning mail a number of new subscribers or an increased list of orders from its many newsdealers. Perhaps last week was not a fair example of an ordinary issue, because the contents of PROGRESS may have been more than usually attractive and popular, but it was certainly a remarkable stride in the way of circulation. When the order was given to run so many extras, it was with some apprehension that the demand would not be equal to the supply, but as early as nine o'clock on Saturday morning there was not a paper to be had in PROGRESS office. A telegram to the branch office in Halifax brought a reply that the supply was also exhausted there. One of the agents in Fredericton sent word that he could at least have sold double the number of extras that he ordered, and postal cards sent to the principal dealers throughout the three provinces brought back the small number of twelve copies. The city sale alone was more than eight hundred copies above the usual issue, while from nine o'clock in the morning until six in the evening it was one continual cry of "all sold out," "no more papers," to the scores of newsboys who thronged to the counter. At the time of writing this, Wednesday of this week, increased orders for the issue of September 3rd had been received from Campbellton, from Amherst, from Harcourt Station, from Yarmouth and from Fairville. Very many dealers of Halifax and a large number in this city have also increased their orders.

Mr. Custance Complains of Injustice. EDITOR OF PROGRESS:—Will you allow me through your columns to bring before the public the exceedingly unjust treatment I have received at the hands of the Davenport school board. Last week I applied to this board for a testimonial as to my work in the Davenport school during the past year as classical master and (for a time) head master. This they have declined to grant, on the ground that they are not competent to judge of my teaching powers, never having been invited to examine the boys, and referring me instead to the parents of the pupils. I take it that if any school board feel uneasy as to the capabilities of one of their teachers in their employ, it is their bounden duty at once to satisfy themselves by practical examination whether that teacher is doing his work satisfactorily or not. But on the other hand, if the Davenport school board felt this uncertainty in my case, why did they request me to take the headmastership last term? Why did they issue a circular stating that they had every confidence in me? Why did they give prizes themselves in the subjects taught by me, and ask others to do so, unless they were satisfied as to the instruction given? And lastly, why were they anxious that I should still remain as classical master for another year? If they did these things without feeling any confidence in me as a teacher, I can only say that things look very like gross misrepresentation on their part; if otherwise, why do they decline to give my usual testimonial on leaving? In conclusion, I would only state that I worked hard and honestly for and at the school, and many parents of pupils have testified their entire satisfaction at the progress made by their sons while under my charge. I am the more anxious, therefore, to lay before them and the public generally the injustice I have received at the hands of the school board, before I leave St. John, so that people may know exactly what has taken place in this matter.

ARTHUR F. M. CUSTANCE, Union Club, St. John, N. B., Aug. 31.