

IN THE FIGHT.

Local Politics are the Excitement Now.

WORD FROM ALL POINTS.

Tickets Already Formed and to Be Formed.

THE GOVERNMENT MORE THAN HOLDING ITS OWN.

No Regular Opposition Tickets Named in York, Charlotte, Albert, Victoria, Gloucester, Queens, and but Partial Tickets in Other Counties—The Situation in Kings and Gossip of the Week in St. John.

As soon as the date of the elections were announced PROGRESS asked a number of gentlemen, prominent in their respective sections in the province to give some accurate and impartial forecast of the political situation in the different counties. A number of them have responded, and their estimate of the out-look is rather interesting.

The interest in the local contest is increasing every hour, and it is by no means yet at fever heat. Since the announcement of the dissolution only eight days ago, all kinds of facts and rumors have circulated very freely on every street corner. The friends and the enemies of the present government lost no time in getting to work when the fact was known that the election would actually take place. That was perhaps accounted for by the other fact that Premier Blair has given them no time to lose. A week from today the men who are to contest the constituencies will be nominated, and a week from next Saturday, victors and vanquished will be easily distinguished.

The gentlemen who supported the Blair government two years ago, and of and on since that time, were the first to get to work, and last Saturday evening the law offices of Messrs. Weldon and McLean were the scene of a very interesting meeting, at which very many of those who are supposed to run the liberal end of the machine were present. Among them were: Messrs. Weldon and Ellis, and that recently developed kicker, Ald. O'Brien, Mr. J. L. Carleton, Mr. H. Lawrence Sturdee, Mr. John McMillan and Editor McCready of the *Telegraph*. The discussion was a free and out-spoken one, with a tendency on the part of the gentlemen who have represented the constituency in the dominion house, to insist that the present contest should be a repetition of the one in which they last engaged. This opinion appeared to be shared by the associate of Mr. Ellis, Mr. O'Brien, who even went further and attacked the appointment of that good conservative and at the same time supporter of Mr. Blair, Alderman John Connor, to the office of school trustee.

After these gentlemen had their say, the workers of the party put in an oar, and to a man they appeared to disagree with the talkers. They were thoroughly inclined to agree with the policy of Mr. Blair and mainly said that they intended to support him. Thus agreeing to disagree, at least for the time being, the meeting broke up not knowing exactly what shape the situation would assume.

Quite late Saturday night, however, one of the gentlemen who registered at the Royal hotel was Attorney-General Blair, and no sooner had he arrived and was located than the supporters of him and his government began to gather round and discuss the prospects and choose a ticket. Of course it will be quite safe to say that none of this work was done on Sunday, though it is equally certain that quite early in the forenoon of Monday the city ticket for the local government was announced to be Messrs. A. I. Trueman, John L. Carleton, W. C. Rudman Allen, and Dr. G. A. Hetherington. Tuesday morning's papers had the further announcement that Mr. Albert T. Dunn and Mr. John McLeod would contest the county constituencies in the interests of the government.

It will be seen therefore, that no time was lost in selecting a ticket, though it had been quite freely stated that the possibility of choosing a representative four to contest the city of St. John would be one of the greatest difficulties of the government party. The ticket was consequently received with a great deal of surprise, not only on the part of the opponents of the government, but even by its friends. Perhaps for a day or two the latter were disposed to be critical, but from present appearances and comments, the selection

seems to be very generally accepted and approved of.

Mr. Arthur I. Trueman is well known as a lawyer in the city, who has been for many years a reporter of the Supreme Court of the province. His record has been a thoroughly honorable one, and there is no man in the profession more popular. Mr. Trueman has always been a consistent Liberal, and if the election were run on dominion lines, would not only secure the united vote of the Liberals, but a large personal vote among the Conservatives.

The other candidate on the ticket, who is perhaps better known among the voters than any other of those put forward, is Mr. John L. Carleton, another lawyer and also a Liberal. Mr. Carleton, though young in years, is an old campaigner. He is a fluent and forcible talker and has always been in large demand as a platform speaker during election campaigns. Mr. Carleton is a Catholic and is thoroughly well liked, not only by his co-religionists, but by all others who know him.

Mr. W. C. Rudman Allen is better known in Carleton no doubt than in the city, for that is his home. He is a prominent druggist and medicine proprietor. In opposing Mr. Smith the present representative who also lives in that section, he has his work cut out for him.

Probably all the other candidates have had more to do with public life than Dr. G. A. Hetherington, whose selection was somewhat of a surprise to the more critical of the supporters of the government. It is said that a large portion of the doctor's strength lies in his connection with the orders of forestry and odd fellows. However this may be, it is also certain that some of his closest and most intimate friends will wield a strong influence in the wards in which they live. Thus if in Dufferin and Lansdowne wards in which those gentlemen referred to live, work for this candidate, he may be expected to poll a large vote.

Of Mr. Dunn and Mr. McLeod, the worst that can be said of them is that they are well known in their different sections, and well liked by the people who have sent them again and again to represent them at the council board. Both of them have been successful in their lines of industry, and both of them have large business interests in their respective localities.

Up to the time when the government ticket was announced, very little had been heard from the opposition, although it was quite freely stated that there was a great deal of pulling and hauling among themselves. At first the report was current on what seemed to be undoubted authority, that Messrs. McKeown and Rourke would contest the county constituency, that the same old four Stockton, Alward, Shaw and Smith, would be put forward for the city. It is understood that at first Smith made some demur to this and would have preferred not to be a candidate at all, but he was prevailed to change his mind and once more came to the front. After this slate had been settled apparently, there was a kick from the McKeown quarter, whose friends seemed to agree with him that it was best for him to run in the city. They were not so sure that his chances in the county were equally good with his prospects in town, though they knew that with the assistance of his Orange friend, Mr. Kelly, that the Pizarino district ought to be O. K. Thus it was that on Wednesday afternoon before the hour fixed for the decision, it was not decided whether the county ticket would be Shaw and Rourke or McKeown and Rourke.

Vigorous wire pulling on the part of Mr. Shaw's friends put Mr. McKeown in the county in the evening when their friends met. The kickers were present in full force, and among them was George McLeod, who has not yet forgotten the meeting of two years ago in Mr. Troop's office. Of the speakers four old time liberals talked and one of the principal entertainers of the evening was Mr. J. Douglas Hazen, who was a supporter of Premier Blair two years ago. If the popular M. P. had wished he might have told a story as interesting as a novel of his record in provincial politics. He could have recalled his first introduction to politics and his acquaintance with the York county electors and Mr. Wilson. Then he opposed Mr. Blair and was defeated. He might have recalled the bitter opposition extended to Mr. Blair by himself and his then legal partner. Then a change of residence, a change of scene and a change of belief; he became a convert and supported Blair. So did his law partner, Mr. James Straton. He might in the same breath have spoken of the interests of St. John capitalists in the Tobique railway and the local subsidy but he did not. He was on the platform metamorphosed again—back to his original condition—an opponent of Blair's.

The measured tones of the Alphabetical Alfred Augustus Stockton fell upon the throng present like a first fall snow storm. They shivered as they listened, whether at the enormities of Mr. Blair and

his government or because the evening was chilly will probably never be ascertained. Someone has cruelly dubbed Mr. Stockton as the "millstone of the opposition," but notwithstanding any such phrase his supporters propose to give him enough votes to strengthen the rope that ties him to the neck of the party.

Mr. King Kelly, the sub-secretary of the opposition, is in a splendid position to know all that is going on, and to report the details to the press if he is so inclined. His acquaintances credit him with a literary taste in spite of which his friends among the orangemen have worked him into the position.

IN KENT AND KINGS.

A Muddle in Kent—Mr. Domville Estranging his Kings County Friends.

The political situation in Kent county, writes a correspondent, is in a muddle so far as the Tories is concerned. A convention of its supporters is announced to be held at Buctouche on the 14th instant, the day before the nomination, to select a candidate as successor to Mr. Leger, the late representative in the Dominion house. Until this is done, it is not probable that Mr. Phinney, the present M. P., will be able to choose his running mate. Mr. Pierre Legere is spoken of, however, in this connection, as well as Mr. LeBlanc, a former member of the present government and an ex-M. L. C. The government ticket, it is likely, will be formed by Auguste Legere, the present representative, and either James Barnes, of Cocagne, or James D. Irving, of Buctouche. The correspondent adds that reliable men on both sides claim that the old representatives will be re-elected.

Two gentlemen in Kings county send quite different versions of the situation in that constituency. One of them, in Sussex, says that the government will have a hard struggle to hold their own in that end of the county, and predicts that both Mr. White, the present speaker of the House, and Mr. Domville, should he decide to run, will be two of the representatives on the evening of the 22nd. He says that Mr. G. W. Fowler and Mr. Alfred I. Keirstead are freely spoken of in connection with the Domville ticket, and that the former representative, Hon. G. H. Flewelling, and Mr. G. G. Scovil, a well-known and popular farmer of Springfield, will represent the government interests.

The information however, that PROGRESS has from the lower end of the county indicates that there is much dissatisfaction at the report that Colonel Domville intends to enter local politics. His supporters, who certainly have stood by him through thick and thin for the past ten or fifteen years, did not anticipate that the end of all their work was a seat in the local house. They want to fight it out with Minister Foster once more, and have a thorough belief that they will be able to defeat him next time. If, however, Mr. Domville decides to enter the local field, he is sure to estrange a large number of his best supporters, who, while content to follow him in a Dominion contest, have their own aspirations and favorites in the local fight. This is especially true of one of the government candidates in this contest, Mr. G. G. Scovil, who for many years has been one of Colonel Domville's strongest supporters in the county, swinging at least one or two parishes into line for him.

Again, a number of prominent men in the lower end of the county who have always voted for Domville are not disposed to swerve from their allegiance to the local government at his beck and call and vote for the opposition. The banner parish of Kingston, which again and again has given Domville a majority, is more inclined to look after its own interests than to risk them by supporting one who if elected, is not likely to be on the winning side. At a meeting held in that parish a few nights ago, Mr. White offered much encouragement to a favorite project, namely, a steam ferry across the Kennebecasis at Gondola Point, the establishment of which means much to all the people in that section lying between the Kennebecasis and St. John rivers. If by voting for the government they can advance this scheme, it is pretty certain that they will do so. The fight in Kings, therefore, appears to be fairly even with the odds in favor of Mr. White and his colleagues.

RIGHT TO THE POINT.

The "Big Four" Tolerably Safe—Something About the French Counties.

CHATHAM, Oct. 6.—The Northumberland four—the late members—constitute a strong team in themselves, and they are backed by the lumber kings—the Snowballs, Ritchies, Burchills, etc. Hutchinson being the only large employer of labor not favorable to them. John Morrissy is out as an independent or opposition candidate, and his friends hope for his success, but the chances are strongly against him. Robt. Murray, jr., of Chatham, may be brought out also, but his chance would be no better than Morrissy's.

The government ticket—Siewwright and (Continued on Eighth Page.)

RAISING THEIR RATES.

THE GAS FOLKS TO CHARGE MORE FOR ELECTRIC LIGHTING.

Having Failed to Crush Opposition They Are Tampering with Customers Again—A History of Monopoly and Cut Rates in Electric Lighting.

The following circular was issued this week by the St. John Gas Light Co. and is self explanatory, and quite illustrative of the methods of the corporation:

OFFICE GAS LIGHT CO.

ST. JOHN, N. B., September 30th, 1892.

Dear Sir:—Please take notice that from 1st November next, our charge per current for Incandescent 16 C. P. Lamps, will be 1½ cents each, per diem, and for Arc Lights 20 cents each, per diem. By order of the Board.

GEORGE R. ELLIS, Secretary.

In order that the public may have a clear understanding of this matter, it will be well to give a slight historical sketch of the use and progress of gas and electric lighting in this city.

It is nearly 50 years since the St. John Gas Light Co. commenced operations and that at that time their charge for gas was \$3.50 per 1000 feet. A few years ago they lowered the rate to about \$2.00 per 1000 net, but it is a rare thing to meet a gas consumer who said that his bill was any lower on account of the reduction in rates, as it was affirmed that under the \$2.00 rate they used a quality of coal which was less expensive and had not the same illuminating power as when the Gas Company's charge was \$3.50 per thousand. Hence, although the price to consumers per thousand feet was less in order to secure the necessary illumination they were compelled to use a greater quantity. More than this, many of the company's consumers allege that of late years it has been in the habit of increasing the pressure at the mains, the consequence being that a greater number of cubic feet of gas was forced through the burners in a given time. These were the halcyon days when the Gas Company enjoyed a monopoly of the lighting business, and they worked this monopoly for all it was worth.

Many were the authentic cases where in the summer time the thrifty citizen would close his city residence and he away to the green fields of the rural district with the happy feeling in his mind that he had turned off the gas at the meter and that his lighting expense was stopped. Imagine his consternation when the end of the quarter came around to find that his gas bill remained constant and was virtually the same as it was the summer before when he remained in the city. Expostulation to the company coupled with maledictions both loud and deep were in vain. The bill had to be paid or his gas would be peremptorily turned off and he would be obliged to go back to the tallow dip and paraffin of his forefathers. It was also in those days no un-frequent occurrence for a tenant on entering a premises the previous occupant of which had left in arrears to the gas company to be informed that his gas would not be turned on until he paid the amount due from the previous occupant.

The system was also in vogue of allowing a discount upon all bills paid before the 20th of the month, but if any un-lucky consumer made a mistake of a day in his calculation and arrived on the 21st to pay his indebtedness, he was informed that he would be charged the full amount of the gas bill without any reduction whatever, and he was compelled to invariably pay the full amount of the bill, and this without regard to how good a customer he had been in the past.

After a while opposition began to loom up in the shape of a company, engineered by Mr. C. A. Stockton, who commenced business on Paradise Row in the premises next adjoining those of the St. John Bolt and Nut works. The gas company then concluded that it would never do for a rival company to get established as they, and the sun and the moon had an absolute right to the lighting business, so they bought up this Stockton company and enjoyed a monopoly as before. They then did move the steam and electric plant to a station they had built adjoining the gas house and commenced business, charging a rate of 40 cents per arc lights per night.

Soon after they got established in their new station Mr. Jeremiah Calkin started a small electric arc plant in a building on Princess street. The gas company, fearing a possible rival in Mr. Calkin, undertook to crush him, and in order to do this in the quickest possible time forthwith lowered their rate to 25 cents per light per night. But the old gentleman was game and his customers standing by him he bravely carried on the fight until such time as he was able to associate a number of St. John people with him.

Simultaneously with the starting of the New Brunswick company, then came another Richmond in the field in the person of the Eastern Electric company, which was founded for the purpose of operating the Edison systems of light and power.

These two companies have only barely got into operation when the gas company

undertook to put them both out of business by making another cut in their rates, which they then lowered to a point below the cost of operation, namely 15 cents per light for arcs and one cent for incandescent per night.

The New Brunswick company had hard luck and was finally merged with the Eastern into the Consolidated Electric Co. who are now furnishing light at a lower rate than almost any company in America.

It is thus to be seen that it has been the continual aim of the gas people to perpetuate the monopoly under which the city of St. John have left no stone unturned to put the public again under the same iron heel that has trampled upon them for years. PROGRESS sounds the warning once more. The people have the matter in their own hands and should watch and guard against any combination which the gas company may attempt to make. The Eastern having refused to become a party to any combination rate deserve the patronage and protection so long as it maintains this attitude.

NO SALARY FOR THE MAYOR.

A Radical Notice of Motion that May Be Merely Postponed.

The new idea of a motion paper for the common council seems to find favor and is likely to be popular with some of the aldermen. One of them, Ald. Davis, of Brooks, iscribed on it, last Tuesday, notice of a motion to reduce the salary of the mayor and to take away from him the power to issue any licenses, except for the keeping of dogs. On Wednesday, however, the alderman repented of his rash act and had the notice struck off. His worship may now rest easy, until the next time.

The idea of Ald. Davis seems to have been that the office of mayor should be one of great dignity and honor, rather than of emolument. To this end, the intended motion fixed the salary at \$50 a year—\$1,550 less than his worship now receives and \$50 less than each of the aldermen. It might be supposed that this inconsiderable sum would be allowed his worship for incidental expenses, such as car fare, ferry tolls, ironing silk hats, etc., but the alderman from Brooks seems to have thought that any man who was mayor should have sufficient enterprise to pay for such items out of his own private income. The motion therefore provided that the \$50 should be held, as it were, in trust, first for the purchase of five copies of parliamentary manuals and the residue to be expended in stationery. The licensing board, under the motion, was to consist of five members of the council, with the chairman of the treasury board as chairman. This body would issue all licenses, save those for dogs, while the latter would be the prerogative of the chief magistrate, though the fees, of course, would not be his perquisite.

It may be, though the notice of motion has been recalled, that the alderman from Brooks is merely biding his time in order to perfect his plans and make the motion still more sweeping. For aught that can be conjectured to the contrary, it may be that he proposes to make the chief magistrate contribute to the city funds in return for the honor conferred on him by the people, and that a license to carry on the business of mayor should be rated at from one to five hundred dollars. Such a charge would make quite a difference in the city revenues, were the council to agree to it.

MARRIED ON THE QUIET.

Mr. Conrad Tupper, of Halifax, Gives His Friends a Surprise.

HALIFAX, Oct. 6.—The many friends of Mr. Conrad Tupper, the genial clerk in the long room of the Halifax custom house, have been congratulating him for the past few days—said congratulations being for and on account of his having taken unto himself a wife. Mr. Tupper in leaving the ranks of Halifax bachelors, took his host of friends by surprise. Although always looked upon as a "good catch," the fair sex were never able to make much of an impression on him. He preferred the woods and his gun, and the lakes and his rod and line to the company of the brightest and prettiest of Halifax ladies.

But Cupid is up to date with his ammunition and is on the lookout for just such attractive prizes as the handsome customs official. The lucky lady is Miss Rhoda Mason, daughter of Nathaniel Mason, of Inkerman, St. Margaret's Bay. The ceremony was performed by the Rev. Mr. Norwood at the rectory. PROGRESS joins in the congratulations that are being showered upon the happy couple.

Is a Fourth Assessor Needed?

The applications for the position of assessor, made vacant by the death of Mr. John Wilson, are likely to remain on file until the first of next year. There are a number of them, for the fact that the work does not interfere with a man's ordinary occupation and the salary is \$400, makes the position by no means to be despised. Some of the applicants are beyond

question fully qualified to fill the place well—if anybody is really needed. A good many people are of the opinion that, if three assessors are at all fitted for their work, there is no more need of a fourth than there is of a fifth wheel to a coach. A board of four is an unusual one, and it is conceded that one of three would be much better, if composed of competent men. Some claim that all of the three now in office do not rank as such, and that for this reason a fourth, who will be a good man, is needed. This seems to be poor reasoning, but it is the best that is offered for filling the present vacancy.

Candidates for Tennyson's Position.

Yesterday's *Telegraph* undertakes to advise Mr. Gladstone as to the appointment of a poet laureate in the place of A. Tennyson, deceased. It thinks a choice might be made in Canada and names Wilfred Campbell, Prof. Roberts or H. L. Spencer for the place. It is probable the article was written by another poet, Mr. Hannay, who is quite too modest to suggest his own name for consideration, and PROGRESS therefore does it for him, reserving the right to bring forward any other local poets, such as E. G. Nelson, Casey Tap and R. H. B. Tennant for instance, should it be found they are anxious for the situation. This does not happen to be one of the positions with which the local government has anything to do, or the lawyers who failed to get ahead of Brother Skinner in the hustle for the probate judgeship would doubtless be heard from. It is not known that any of them are poets, but possibly they think they could "get the hang of it" after a little practice.

How the Students Were Left.

A number of law students who went to Fredericton this week with the expectation of passing their examinations for attorneys met with an unexpected obstacle in the shape of a regulation which for a long time has not been enforced. It appears that a student is expected to give three months notice of his intention to pass an examination, though, as a matter of fact, many of the young gentlemen have carried their notices along in their pockets when they went up for examination and posted them on the day they went in. Three or four of them attempted the plan this week, and found to their astonishment and regret that the regulation requiring three months notice was to be enforced. It appears to PROGRESS that some public notice of the intention of the examiners might have been given, and the students saved not only the expense of the journey, but the delay which must necessarily ensue before they can go up again.

An All Fresco Wedding.

Lepreau has come to the front with something new in the way of weddings. Rev. H. M. Spike officiated at a marriage, the other day, where there were so many guests that it was out of the question to perform the ceremony in the house and give all a chance to see and hear. An adjournment was therefore made to the adjacent field where, standing beneath the shade of an apple tree, the words were spoken by which the twain were made one. The advance of the season is likely to prevent the idea being adopted in other places this year, but residents of the rural districts who have matrimonial intentions for next summer will do well to bear it in mind when their happy day arrives.

Dr. Hopper Bore No Malice.

Owing to the circumstance of Rev. Sidney Weldon having been arrested on a charge of conspiring to defraud by a system of graveyard insurance, that gentleman, though out on bail, did not preach to his congregation last Sunday. Dr. Hopper occupied the pulpit in his place. Considering that Dr. Hopper was the subject of a good deal of vituperation by Mr. Weldon, when St. Martin's seminary matters were discussed last year, it would seem that the doctor exercised a christian spirit under the circumstances. That is what a minister ought to do, isn't it?

Fredericton Is Proud of It.

Because of the unusual demands upon the columns of PROGRESS by the political situation that the story of a very successful provincial exhibition at Fredericton is not told in this issue. The people of the capital and all others who have made the show what it has been have good reason to congratulate themselves and to be congratulated. It has been a big week in the celestial city.

Only Nine Years Old.

In speaking of Miss Pauline Biederman last week, PROGRESS erred in stating that she was twelve years of age. She is only nine, a fact which renders the part she took in the silver service contest a more remarkable one. She asks PROGRESS to convey her thanks to those not mentioned in the last issue, who were kind enough to send her coupons.