

PROGRESS.

Board of Works

VOL. V., NO. 257.

ST. JOHN, N. B., SATURDAY, APRIL 1, 1893.

PRICE FIVE CENTS.

THEY "SAVED WISELY."

ONE MOTIVE IN THE SPASMODIC "REFORM" BY THE COUNCIL.

Some of the Reasons Why Some Things Were Done and Others Left Undone—How the Mark Was Overshot in the Wild Hubbub of the Last Meeting.

This is All Fool's Day, and it is also the date on which the nominations for the Common Council must be filed.

Far be it from PROGRESS to insinuate that the coincidence is any reflection on the aldermen. Some of them are clever men and good representatives, and some are neither so clever as they think they are, nor so good as they would have others think them. The reflection, if any, is on the people, who are content to be represented by a body so big in proportion to its brains, and so busily useless in proportion to its opportunities of being useful.

The Tax Reduction association was formed on the right principle, and its program platform was in most particulars such as PROGRESS has advocated ever since the union of the cities. It may again be repeated that beyond question the vote in favor of a union was due to the exposures by PROGRESS of the ring rule in Portland, and the desire of the people that city to be emancipated from the yoke of bossism. Whether that union proved to be in the interests of the general public is not now the question. One thing is certain, that a certain amount of the leaven which caused the ferment in old Portland has been incorporated into the municipal politics of St. John. It is likely to remain there until the people take the matter of reform into their own hands.

The Tax Reform Association was a move in this direction. Its inception was due to the exposure by PROGRESS of some of the features of the Moore street job, in which Alderman John Kelly was to the front. Unfortunately, the movement came too late to be of any practical use in the approaching elections, and the guidance of the affairs of the Association did not seem to be in the best hands. Either this was the case or the committees were "captured" by wire-pullers, though the absurdity of some of the names suggested for a "reform" election leads to the presumption that there was merely blundering without crafty intent, in regard to all but two or three of the names put forward. Since PROGRESS voiced public opinion and sat on the proposed nominations, nothing has been heard of them. The T. R. A. has abandoned the field, for this election, and most of the old aldermen will be returned without opposition.

This is a pity, for at least two-thirds of the present members could be spared from the council with advantage to the ratepayer. Some of them have realized this fact since the cry of "less taxes" was raised. For aught they could tell, the legislature might act promptly, the elections might be postponed, and they, in an election by the people of the whole city, might be relegated to their proper sphere as private citizens. In this spirit they undertook to accomplish some reforms.

Nobody gives them credit for any higher motive. The only newspaper which bestows even faint praise on them clearly shows that it knows very little of what it is talking about. The men who are to the front in the latest deal for economy are not of the stuff of which reformers are made. They began too late, and the coincidences, to say the least, were unfortunate.

The "reformers" who became so suddenly developed last week, virtually proclaimed that they had been wrong all the time they were at the board in enacting and permitting what they then repealed and abolished. They informed the public that they had sat at the board, week after week, month after month, and some of the noisiest of them year after year, while thousands of dollars were over-expended with their consent and usually with their active cooperation. In all that time they had seized every opportunity to secure what they could for their own pocket boroughs, without the expression of a sentiment favorable to reform. Then, after this indifference, a scheme of "economy" was sprung, just after the T. R. A. began to threaten and just before the time of an election. The ratepayer who could be deceived by such clap-trap ought not to have a vote.

One of the motives which is said to have actuated the North End members was a desire to "save Wisely." In the theory of the framers of the union act a director of public safety was necessary in addition to the heads of the police and fire departments. Mr. Robert Wisely was one of legacies which came from the city of Portland, and a place had to be found for him as director of public safety at \$1,200 a year. Mr. Wisely is known to everybody as a thoroughly decent, well meaning man, and nobody who knows him has begrudged his place. It has been a generally recognized fact, however, that \$1,200 was an extravagant salary for the position, even if there were more duties than there are, and if the situation was held by a man qualified for it. Mr. Wisely would have been well paid at

\$800, while so far as the office is of any practical good, it need never have been created. It was therefore largely on the principle of trying to "save Wisely" that some other salaries were cut, according to the caprice of a majority of the council, and without any attempt at system in a general scaling down. Mr. Wisely's salary was also reduced \$200, but he may still congratulate himself that he continues to receive a good deal more than he ought to get.

There has been some surmise as to why the office of Adam Glasgow was not troubled, especially as there have from time to time been North End mutterings about it. The truth of the matter is the aldermen are afraid of Mr. Glasgow. If put out of his position the next election would see him in the council as the standard bearer of Brooks ward and the leader of the Carleton contingent. He has been in the council, he understands civic affairs and the men who mismanage them, and it is better for the purposes of wire-pullers that he should stay where he is.

Carleton was lightly touched in the knocking off of \$100 from the salary of Geo. F. Harding, second clerk in the chamberlain's office. The aldermen passed over the chamberlain and first clerk to make a show of economy by hitting at the second clerk. The full absurdity of this is not seen, however, until the fact is stated that Mr. Harding is paid out of the general revenue, and that the reduction of his salary does not lighten the assessment a fraction of a cent. This is how much the "reformers" knew of what they were talking and doing.

Nor did there appear to be a man at the board who knew what were the duties of Richard Seely, clerk of the public works. Ald. Chesley asserted that he had nothing to do. Perhaps he thought so, but if he did, it follows that as a member of the board of management he did not know what he should have known. The duties of Mr. Seely's position are many, various and often onerous. He and Mr. David Willett, of the chamberlain's office, are two of the hardest worked men in the city's employ. The aldermen who talked of abolishing the office were ignorant of this, but they should not have been. Thus, through prejudice on the part of a few and want of information on the part of others, a foolish and unjust act was done. It is but right to state, however, that the crowning act of folly aimed at was the abolition of the office, with a view to an impossible scheme of dividing the duties among other officials who could not have attended to them. The reduction was a compromise made by men who began to get an idea of the facts.

The amount allowed for scavenger work this year is \$5,000, for the whole united city. This is \$1,000 less than was allowed for the old city alone before the union, and it is even less than has been allowed a private contractor for attending to the streets for seven months of the year. Nearly half of this year's allowance has already been expended on winter work. What is left will not be enough to give employment to many poor and deserving men. It will be expended too, on the business streets, because the merchants will insist on it. But the microbes of grippe, diphtheria, fever and cholera, are not chiefly developed on the main thoroughfares. If the cholera comes, its centre will not be King, Prince William or Charlotte streets. It is true the council can make extra appropriations at any time, but they may be made too late, and whether they are made or not the recent action of the board is none the less a foolish one.

It is now pleaded by some that the promoters of the hastily conceived scheme of economy "did not know it was loaded." They had little faith that the council would beat the record in the Leary case by increasing its activity in proportion to its folly. They supposed it would be referred and be dealt with by the new board, and they in the meantime would get credit for their desire to curtail expenses. The aldermen lost their heads, however, and plunged wildly into a cutting and slashing which was without method, and in some instances without reason.

But the North End "saved Wisely"—for a time, at least.

He Declined to Announce It.

Rev. Dr. Sprague, of the Centenary church, objects to having the pulpit made an advertising medium for tea meetings and the like, and nobody was surprised when he carried out the idea last Sunday evening. The ladies, he said from the pulpit, had not handed him a notice of the sale to take place in the schoolroom on Tuesday evening, as they thought he would not announce it, he supposed. They were quite right, he continued, he would not do so. The congregation are still wondering whether he was in a vein of humor, or whether he got off a better thing than he intended. It may be added that the sale was a great success, more than \$250 being realized. This the ladies have wisely decided to place on deposit as the nucleus of their fund in aid of the payment of the church debt.

THEY WANTED A CHANGE

THE CITIZENS MOVEMENT OF THIRTY YEARS AGO.

To Abolish Ward Elections as They Were Held Then and Now—Some of the Names on the old Petition—Ald. Blizard and Engineer Peters on Record.

The idea that ward elections are pernicious and that all the electors should have a right to vote for all the aldermen, is not a new one in St. John. More than a generation ago, in October, 1859, the leading ratepayers of the city undertook to have a change in the system, and this is the petition that was circulated:

To His Worshipful The Mayor, and Corporation of the City of Saint John, in Common Council convened:

THE PETITIONERS of the undersigned Magistrates, and other Freeholders and Freemen of the City of St. John, respectfully sheweth—

That your Petitioners have long been convinced that the present mode of electing the Members of the Common Council of this City, by voting in each Ward for the Alderman and Councilor of the particular Ward only, is subject to many and serious objections, and promotive of much abuse and corruption.

That your Petitioners are firmly persuaded, that the only mode of securing independent voting at Civic Elections, (free from personal, party, or private influence), and of ensuring the election of the fittest and best qualified men to represent the people in Common Council, will be, by giving every Elector a right to vote in his own Ward for the whole body of Aldermen and Councilors to be elected, for that side of the Harbor on which such Elector votes.

Your Petitioners therefore humbly pray that Your Worshipful Body will forthwith cause to be prepared, and will take the most energetic measures for securing the passing by the Legislature, at its next Session, of a Bill enacting, that at all future Civic Elections, every Elector shall vote (in the Ward in which he may be legally entitled to vote) for the whole body of Aldermen and Councilors to be elected for that side of the Harbor, in which such Elector gives his vote.

And as in duty bound will ever pray, &c.
Saint John, N. B., October, 1859.

This petition was signed by the leading merchants of the city, the old-time solid and substantial leading citizens whose names are identified with the history of the prosperity of the city in the days when lumbering and shipbuilding were in their glory, as well as by a large number of ratepayers in various walks of life. The original petitions are now carefully treasured by Mr. Clarence Ward.

Most of the then leading men have passed away, but among the familiar names of today are those of Dr. W. Bayard, Senator Lewin, J. F. Marsters, G. E. Fenety, W. C. Godsoe, T. F. Raymond, R. Cruikshank, G. W. Whitney, W. W. Turnbull, T. A. Godsoe, Dr. B. Travers, Wm. Wedderburn, C. N. Skinner, F. Tufts, L. H. Waterhouse, R. Whiteside, Thomas Furlong, G. W. Day, A. Ballentine, Calvin Powers, C. F. Kinnear, Dr. P. R. Inches, W. P. Dole, Henry Duffell, Ald. S. G. Blizard, J. S. Boies DeVeber, Hurd Peters, W. A. Lockhart, C. H. Fairweather, S. Gardner, Charles Clerke, D. O. L. Warlock, Peter Sharkey, J. E. Barnes, Lewis J. Almon, W. J. McCordock, G. Bent, James A. Tufts, Senator Dever and others.

It will be observed that Ald. Blizard put himself on record, as he is doubtless willing to do now, and that City Engineer Peters was of the same opinion.

The petition seems never to have got very far, however. The aldermen understood then as well as they do now that an election by the people means a new council. The petition was either not received or it was referred to some such committee as has had the mayor's inaugural in hand for the last twelve months.

They Travel in a Rut.

Three persons who held liquor licenses last year have been refused renewals for this year because three convictions for violation of the law were recorded against them. This is as the act directs, and they have no right to complain. The only question that suggests itself is why these three have been convicted so often and so many others, commonly known as violators of the law, have escaped. The police methods seem to run in ruts in this and in other ways. Why should one person with a wholesale license be brought up time and again for selling at retail, while another well understood to be a like offender should publicly and with impunity violate the law? Is it because he is accounted more respectable, or because he has a "pull" with somebody? Then again a stranger, reading the papers would infer that only a certain three or four persons sold liquor without license, for their names appear with astonishing frequency while apparently there are few or no others who violate the law in the same way. For some reason or another the police appear reluctant to make discoveries outside of certain well worn paths. Why is it?

Will Depart Without a Eulogy.

The presbytery of St. John held a meeting in the Carleton church on Tuesday night when the resignation of Rev. Godfrey Shore was accepted without dissent. The eulogy expected from the congregation did not materialize, and as there was a quiet whisper that the informant of PROGRESS was present, the talk was somewhat guarded. A certificate of transference was granted to Mr. Shore to the Kingston, Ont., presbytery, where it is expected he

will at once receive a call. The pulpit of the Carleton church will be declared vacant by Rev. Mr. Burgess, on Easter Sunday. It is a singular coincidence that this festival day will be the anniversary of the denunciatory sermon hurled by Mr. Shore at a member of his congregation, of which PROGRESS gave an account at the time. This seems to be really the end of the troubles between Mr. Shore and his flock in Carleton.

IN CAPITULAR MASONRY.

The Degrees of the Chapter to Be Fully Exemplified Next Week.

The official notices have been issued for a special convocation of the Grand Royal Arch Chapter of New Brunswick, to be held in this city on Wednesday next, at 11 o'clock in the forenoon. The morning session will be devoted to routine business and the afternoon and evening will be taken for the exemplification of the four degrees under the direction of the ritual committee. The following arrangements have been made:

Work in the Mark Masters' degree will begin at half-past two, with the H. P. of Union chapter, Mr. W. K. Reynolds, as R. W. M.

The Past Master degree will be taken up at four o'clock, with the H. P. of New Brunswick chapter, Mr. Hedley V. Cooper, as R. W. M.

At the conclusion of the L. S. degree, supper will be served in the Masonic building, so that there will be as little delay as possible in resuming work.

At seven o'clock the degree of Most Excellent Master will be exemplified, with Mr. H. V. Cooper, as R. W. M.

The Royal Arch degree will be taken up at half-past eight, with Mr. W. B. Wallace of Carleton chapter as H. P.

The work will be exemplified on candidates furnished by New Brunswick chapter, under the warrant of which the degrees will be conferred. As this will be the first official exemplification of the work since the formation of the Grand Chapter of New Brunswick, and as it is most desirable there should be uniformity in points of interest throughout the jurisdiction, it is probable there will be a large attendance of companions from other parts of the province. It was with the view to accommodate these that the arrangement has been made to have all the work done in one day, rather than to divide it between two evenings, as would have better suited the companions resident in St. John.

BOOKS WITH THE POETS.

Only Four More Weeks Remain in Which to Compete for a Prize.

The name of the successful competitor for the prize of five dollars, for the best original verses published in PROGRESS during March, will be announced next week.

The following acknowledgment of the prize awarded in the February competition has been received.

E. S. CARTER, Prop. PROGRESS.—It affords me much pleasure to hereby acknowledge receipt from you of a cheque for five dollars, the prize for the best poem published in PROGRESS during the month of February last.

With best wishes for your success and the prosperity of your journal, I remain, yours,

ALEX. HERON,
Herald office, Fredericton.

The supply of poetry still continues to more than equal the space which can be given to it in these columns, but there is not so much of it as there was during February. Perhaps the weather continues too cold for the traditional spring poet to come to the front with his warbling, but the next four weeks are likely to be warmer and more favorable to the cultivation of the muse.

Coppers in Abundance

There was a great crowd at the services in St. Andrew's church last Sunday. In the evening it is estimated that there must have been 1000 people present, many of whom were strangers. When the collection was counted there were 300 coppers found among the silver and notes. This seems to bear out the theory that many interested in church work have, viz., that a big crowd is no sign of a big collection. Seven-eighths of the strangers go provided with coppers instead of silver.

The Shareholders Will Get the Saving.

Referring to a paragraph in the last issue of PROGRESS regarding a recent meeting of the shareholders of a joint stock company, it may be stated that the reduction made in the salaries of the manager and secretary was not voted to the president. In fact that motion did not come before the meeting though it was pretty well understood that it had been previously suggested but lacked the necessary encouragement to warrant it being brought up.

A Flourishing Scotch Society.

Clan Mackenzie is a growing society, largely because the merits of the organization have been presented to the public in a new and more vigorous fashion. Six new members joined this week and others are looking forward to soon finding themselves on the roll.

THEY HAD A GOOD TIME.

ST. JOHN ALDERMEN AT FREDERICTON FORGET ECONOMY.

A Church Waiting For a Rector—Too Many Officials in Both Police and Fire Departments—A Lack of Rank and File at a Recent Fire.

When the common council proposed to send the Mayor and Ald. John Chesley to Ottawa to explain what the city wanted in the matter of the Mill street crossing, somebody naturally enquired why two men were required where every possible explanation could be given by one. Ald. Nickerson rose to the emergency by a speech in which he said that it was a good plan to send two men in case one man should die on the road. Perhaps the same theory has been followed in the case of the bill committee which was instructed to send a delegation to Fredericton to explain one or two very simple bills. The committee consists of Ald. Kelly, Chesley, Blizard, McGoldrick, Baxter, White, McKelvey and McLaughlan, and every one of the lot, with the exception of Ald. McKelvey, took a trip at the expense of the ratepayers. They were accompanied by the recorder, and the expense of their holiday will probably be a snug little sum, judging by the accounts in which some of these gentlemen have figured in the past. Just why Ald. McKelvey did not join the merry party is not stated.

The parishioners of the church of St. Martin's in the Woods, at Shediac, are in want of a rector, and a rector in St. John would doubtless be glad to go there, if he could, as possibly he can in the course of a week or two. He was living in Durham, Ont., when he received a call from the church, as he supposed, and getting his effects together he and his family started for New Brunswick. The effects and family are now at Shediac, it is said, but he is here waiting for the decision of the Bishop of Fredericton as to whether he shall go there as rector or not. The decision will not be given until the week after next. The hitch, or at least a part of it, is reported to be that the alleged two-thirds of the parishioners who voted to call him were not all legally qualified to vote. It is said that some influential churchmen at Shediac, who want this rector, are somewhat excited over the matter. In the meantime the rector is the guest of a well known parishioner of St. Mark's in this city. The clergyman in question is a Wycliffe college man, and of the evangelical party in the church of England.

While the wisdom of reducing the police force may be doubted and it is quite certain that the fire department cannot safely be made smaller, there is a general impression that both of these branches of services are as overcrowded with officers in proportion to men as the valued Telegraph is equipped with editors in proportion to reporters. It seems absurd to try to apply to the handful of police in St. John the systems that are found necessary in cities the size of Boston and New York, but this seems to be the idea. The city, for instance, gives no official recognition to police captains, but the chief does, and so instead of a sergeant reporting directly to him he reports to a captain and that dignity reports to the chief. There seems to be a good deal of nonsense in this and other details. Every fourth man on the roll is an officer of some kind, and from the fact that the response to an alarm from box 231, the other night, was made by eleven officers and four men of the fire department, it would seem that full privates are getting to be considerably in the minority.

So Far Rumor Is Responsible.

There has been considerable talk around town, about the journey of a city lawyer to the West Indies and his mission there. Rumor has connected different parties with the object of his trip but so far as PROGRESS can ascertain Dame Rumor is about the best authority that the report can be traced to. Perhaps the one circumstance that added color to the report, was the attempt to put some professional gentlemen off with the idea that the destination of the lawyer was Chicago instead of the Indies. The former would be far the more likely place for divorce proceedings.

Hartley Marshall's Missive.

The last number of London Tit-Bits has the following item which will interest some of the readers of PROGRESS across the bay:

A novel way of seeking a wife has been brought to light by a wholesale fruiterer at Eastbourne. In the centre of a barrel of apples, which had arrived from Nova Scotia, was a particularly fine apple, and around it was wrapped a portion of a diary, on which was written the following message: "If any young lady who chances to eat this apple is desirous of matrimony will she please correspond with Hartley Marshall, Falkland Ridge, Annapolis County, Nova Scotia?"

Mr. Haystead Is Here Again.

Mr. Chas. H. Haystead was in town again this week arranging for the coming of the Josie Mills Company. It is not the same organization that was here some time

ago. The members of that, have scattered to the four corners of America. But the name and "Josie" remain, and there is no brass band attachment. Provincial people will have a chance to judge the show by its merits, and what PROGRESS can tell them after its appearance here.

NO FUN IN THEM SO FAR.

The Civic Elections Are Likely to Beat the Record for Dullness.

The legislature adjourned for the week on Thursday evening, without passing the bill of the Tax Reduction Association. This means that the civic elections will be held at the usual dates this year, for the nominations for aldermen close today, and after that the elections of aldermen must take place on Tuesday.

That is to say, if they deserve to be called elections where the aldermen are not really chosen by a majority of the people, but are allowed to retain their seats, because no other candidates are after them. The uncertainty about the T. R. A. bill, rather than that the people are satisfied with the council, will account for this state of things.

At the time of writing, the aldermanic elections give promise of being the dearest and dullest known for many years. Unless something is developed at a late hour there will be a contest in Brooks ward only. There, too, until a day or two ago, there was no thought of opposition. Ald. Davis had declared that he would not run, and it was believed that Ald. Baxter and C. B. Lockhart would be elected by acclamation.

This week, however, Ald. Davis has reconsidered his rash resolve and is in the field, so that there will be a triangular fight, the result of which it would take a wise man to predict.

One new man at least will go to the council and that will be T. Nisbet Robert son, as representative of Queens. He has come out in response to a requisition of representative citizens, and is sure to be elected, even if he has opposition, which is most unlikely to be the case.

Some interest is felt in the mayoralty election, but it lacks the spirit of many former contests, despite the fact that there are four candidates in the field. Mayor Peters still appears smiling and apparently easy over his prospects, while Hon. T. R. Jones is no less confident of success than he was at the outset. He is figuring on a strong support in Portland, but Mr. Sturdee also looks to the North End for the rounding out of a majority. Both have claims there on entirely distinct party grounds. Mr. Tufts is not understood to be locating his strong point in any one section, but has a right to expect a strong support from the temperance party apart from any other considerations.

The interest in the contest is likely to grow warmer in the next week, and the final pull up of the candidates may prove a good deal more lively than is indicated at the present time. The T. R. A. has not so far shown a special leaning towards any of the candidates, and the members are apparently free to take their choice of the lot.

FOR READERS EVERYWHERE.

Provincialists Abroad Will Now Get More News Than Ever.

"The only thing needed to make PROGRESS complete is a list of deaths," wrote a subscriber in the United States once, when renewing his subscription. At frequent intervals, also, other provincial people abroad have suggested that this feature, as well as a list of marriages, would be of interest to readers in many climes, very many of whom depend on PROGRESS for a knowledge of what is happening in their old home. With a view to meeting the wants of this constantly increasing class of readers, as well as a matter of historical record, PROGRESS will in future publish a list of the births, marriages and deaths in the maritime provinces, as far as they are readily obtainable. They will be found on the sixteenth page.

No charge will be made for the insertion of such notices when sent to this office, but it will be readily understood that the length of the list requires that the information be in the most condensed form, of the style shown in the list in this issue. In every instance, too, a responsible name must accompany the information.

The new departure will doubtless be hailed with pleasure by readers of PROGRESS in every part of the world.

Is This The First Spring Butterfly?

Last autumn Mrs. Captain Masters, of St. Martins, laid away on a bracket in her dining room at Bencliffe, a large old fashioned brown and black caterpillar, which Wednesday took wings and greeted her on the breakfast table, a beautiful brown leghorn butterfly. The beauty travelled all over the breakfast table, as if admiring everything on it, and then flew to a rose bush, where it enjoyed the green leaves for a time. At last, tired and exhausted with its long tramp, it took refuge in the window. Mr. Murray carried the beauty away with him and has it on exhibition at the Medical Hall.