

PROGRESS.

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BACK FOR THE LAST TIME.

THE ALDERMEN HAD AN UNUSUAL-
LY SOFT SNAP THIS YEAR.

Nearly All of Them Have Been Returned
Without Opposition—The Change in Wel-
lington Ward—Prospects of a Very Differ-
ent Election the Next Time.

The aldermanic elections were in spots this year, for there were contests in three wards only. In the other ten no polls were opened, and the unparalleled sight was witnessed of nearly the whole council being returned by acclamation, or rather by default.

The fights were lively so far as they went, and the triangular contest in Wellington ward resulted in the defeat of Ald. White, who was supposed to have a good deal of strength there, and was defeated by Mr. Robert J. Wilkins, a gentleman very well known in connection with elections in Wellington ward, but not up to a comparatively recent date considered as a possible candidate.

At the time of the celebrated dinner and presentation to Ald. McGoldrick, some months ago, PROGRESS announced that it was part of the programme that Mr. Wilkins who had a grievance because he was not appointed a district engineer, should be run in Wellington ward at this election. The official announcement was not made until last Saturday, however, but when it was made, few had any doubt that Mr. Wilkins would be elected. He and his friends have been ward workers in so many elections that they know just how to take hold of a contest and come out ahead. Had Mr. Wilkins chosen to take a colleague with him it is quite probable that Ald. Shaw would also have been defeated.

The new alderman for Wellington may make an excellent representative for that ward. He is universally known as "a good fellow," and is energetic and enterprising in whatever he undertakes. He has his record to make as an alderman, and on that alone will it be fair to judge him.

Mr. G. P. Pugsley also made it interesting for Ald. Barnes and O'Brien in Kings, though he did not come within 50 votes of getting elected. He was a late arrival in the field, and is said to have been brought out against his own wish. The total number of ballots cast was 292, of which 93 were for Barnes and O'Brien, 34 Barnes and Pugsley, 53 O'Brien and Pugsley, while of the plumpers given, Pugsley got 18, Barnes 29 and O'Brien 65.

Ald. Davis having repented of his resignation in Brooks ward, tried conclusions with Ald. Baxter and Mr. C. B. Lockhart, and was left considerably in the rear. Some of the orangemen are said to have urged that, in view of the Bathurst school question, Ald. Davis ought to be returned pledged not to vote for the appointment of a Catholic to the board of school trustees in St. John. If such a canvass were used, however, the fault must lie with indiscreet individuals, rather than with the orange body or the candidate.

There seems little doubt that this is the last election in which a majority of the men who are now aldermen will be returned. The Tax Reduction Association bill has been amended so that the question of the changes it proposes to effect shall be submitted to the people, and a popular vote taken in September. In this plebiscite all qualified to vote at a mayoralty election can deposit their ballots, whether their taxes have been paid or not. This in some respects seems fair enough, though the fact that 5,000 people have signed petitions for the passage of the bill is partly good evidence that the men who pay the taxes want a change. It seems, perhaps, a little too much leaning toward liberality to permit those who cannot vote for mayor or aldermen to have a voice, and possibly a decisive voice, in saying how they shall be elected in the future. A man who has not paid his taxes for one year by September of the next year cannot be supposed to feel much interest in civic affairs or to be materially affected by any action one way or the other. And in many instances men who will be found in this category are of the class most readily controlled by the ward heelers and pot-house politicians. It would be a thousand pities if the undoubted wish of the intelligent majority should be defeated by the votes of men manipulated by this or that sectional machine.

The aldermen, on the evening after their seats were made secure for another year, voted to forward a memorial against the passage of the bill. Some of them, undoubtedly, did so less because they were opposed to the principle of the measure than because they felt that the bill should have first come before the council. Others, including some of the recent "reformers," were opposed to the plan of having anything better than there is now. From their point of view they were quite right. The reduction of the size of the council and the election by the people means that most of the men who now have a big pull in their wards will not be in it. It is just such men whom the citizens, in the interests of all, can best afford to spare. They are the

living illustrations of the radically defective principle of trying to have a city economically governed by men chosen to represent the ward interests in preference to those of the city at large.

It goes without saying that, in event of a plebiscite, such men, on their particular stamping grounds, will do their best to prevent any change.

But for all that, the change must come, sooner or later.

MR. HARRINGTON VACATES.

The Police Force Smaller but Not Less Efficient.

The first reduction has been made in the police force, and Officer Harrington retires. It does not seem quite clear by the daily press whether he resigned, or was dismissed, but as the end is the same, the means need not be taken into account. They all seem to agree, however, that he was a most capable officer, and speak of his going as if the force had lost a near and faithful friend. It is said that he was a chief's favorite. He may have been a capable officer, but the record seems to show that he had his failings, one of which came to the front about New Year's times, but as the first of the year is supposed to be a season for exhibiting failings, and other men and officials of the force, are not as free from them as the public might wish, nothing was said about Harrington's slip. He has since distinguished himself before the Council, by asking pay for his services while ill and off duty, as this was due to his catching cold, caused by the rain leaking through his helmet! His letter was filed, and forgotten.

There are lots of people with pretty good ideas about the composition of the police force. They think that the city would be just as well protected if there were more working men and fewer walkers. The officials walk; they are always "inspecting." It takes half a dozen men to see that thirty-five do their duty it would pay to secure men who do not have to be watched so closely. When Chief Clark was expecting office his one aim was to make John Ring don a uniform and do duty like any other man. Clark got the office but Ring still wanders about in his private suit does as he pleases and very little of that.

He Remained at His Post.

When a fire was discovered the other morning word was sent to an engine house, and one of the firemen rushed out in very scanty attire to sound the alarm. The door shut behind him with a snap, and having no key he was compelled to dance around in his night-clothes until the doors were opened. The time was not so long as it seemed, but it was a fairly cold night for the time of year. This reminds PROGRESS of a frosty night some years ago, when a prominent citizen in whose house there was a fire alarm key, rushed out to sound an alarm, having on nothing but a night-shirt. The department did not respond with the speed common nowadays, and the citizen, after jumping around for some minutes, got out of patience and retired to the shelter of his home, leaving the box open and the key in it. When the then chief engineer arrived there was a lively row between the two, and the result was a complaint at the police court. The case was withdrawn without trial however. The moral is that a man who gets out of bed to sound an alarm on a cold night might save himself trouble by taking time enough to put on at least enough clothing to protect his limbs from the wind and weather.

The Bill Committee Was Sharp.

The telegram to Fredericton from the bill committee of the council, asking that the assessment bill be withdrawn unless Ald. Baxter's rider for a one cent ferry was left out, was a rather good joke on that alderman. The bill committee had no more authority in the matter than the man in the moon, and some of the east side men were perfectly well aware of the fact. They carried their point, however, and Ald. Baxter did not discover the trick until he had time to think over the matter. The whole affair seems to have stirred up a small but lively hornet's nest among the legislators, who said some pretty saucy things about Ald. Baxter as the man who, in his zeal for the West side, put them to in his proposal to fix the ferry fares by legislation outside of the council was undoubtedly good, but the carrying out of the idea edly good, but the carrying out of the idea would have established a most vicious precedent.

Who Will be the First Victim.

The electric cars are running in fine shape now, and the morbidly curious are watching to see who will be the first victim of an accident by jumping on the front of a platform while the cars are running at high speed. The trick looks dangerous, and it is just as dangerous as it looks. It is also a question worth asking whether the general public and the motor man should be crowded together on the same platform under any circumstances. In the mean-while the cars are doing a good stroke of business.

NO QUICK TRIAL FOR HIM.

HOW THE LAST TWO SENTENCES
SCARED HIM.

Four Years for Stealing a Mother's Dress and Three Years for Beating Her Would Indicate What?—The Old Man and His Ticket to Shubenacadie.

The result of the last two cases tried under the Speedy Trials' Act, have been rather unfortunate for the act as well as the prisoners—one of whom received a four, and the other a three years' sentence.

Readers of the events in the police court, will remember, that not long ago, a young fellow was arrested for stealing his mother's dress and jacket. Rather than spend some time in jail in addition to his sentence, he elected to be tried under the Speedy Trials' Act. He was found guilty, and was sentenced to four years in the penitentiary. He probably wished then that he had taken his chances with a jury.

Within a few days, another young fellow forgot the maternal relation, and beat his mother severely, knocking her down and clubbing her. Whether he was in liquor or not, PROGRESS is not informed at this moment; but he also chose trial under the same act, and will have to serve three years in Dorchester.

This would almost go to show that it is a greater crime to steal your mother's wearing apparel, than it is to break her skull. Perhaps, however, the fact that the latter offender rushed to the police station, and declared that he had killed his mother, and gave himself up, was considered in the light of a mitigating circumstance.

But the result of these two sentences is now apparent. An old man belonging to Shubenacadie, N. S., spent all his money in getting drunk a few days ago; and while in that condition, was relieved of his only other valuable—a railway ticket to Shubenacadie. His boon companion—a city tough—when arrested, had the ticket in his possession. It is ample evidence against him, but it is necessary to convict him. He intended being tried under the Speedy Trials' Act, until he heard of the sentences noted above, and now he is waiting to take his chances in court. The old man is in jail without the means of getting home; and, if he is let go he has nothing to live upon. The ticket must be held until the trial is over; and if the owner has to wait to travel on it, he may be much longer getting to Shubenacadie than he bargained for.

TUTTI FRUTTI THE LILY.

Brilliant Effects by the St. John Minstrels at O'Rourke's Drift.

The St. John minstrels have hit on some happy ideas in depicting the romance of war at O'Rourke's Drift. The scene is laid in Zululand at the time of the Zulu war. The curtain rises on the celebrated "O'Rourke's" Drift shortly before the capture of same by the soldiers of Sit-away-off the Zulu King. The British troops are being addressed by their noble captain Lorenzo. The Zulus then attack and capture O'Rourke's Drift killing almost all the British troops. Captain Lorenzo escapes to the woods, and while there encounters Tutti Frutti, King Sit-away-off's beautiful daughter whose life he has saved on a previous occasion. Tutti Frutti endeavors to rescue Lorenzo from her father's warriors who are on his track, but she is unsuccessful. Lorenzo is captured and brought before the King who condemns him to death in spite of the entreaties of Tutti Frutti. When Lorenzo is about to be led away "Hanky Panky" a Dutch trader, and a mutual friend of Lorenzo and the King comes on the scene and succeeds in saving Lorenzo's life by promising the King "unlimited booze." The King then gives his daughter's hand to Lorenzo, and his sister Lulu, an elderly lady, to the Dutchman. Lulu is a sight in herself. The curtain goes down with a rousing finale. The whole piece is musical—the music being of a very high standard. The characters are well sustained right through, and the costumes and scenery are "out of sight." The "Revolutions of the Black Squadron" is one of the most unique features of the Burlesque.

Capitular Masonry.

The exemplification of the work of the four capitular degrees took place last Wednesday at the Masonic Temple, under the direction of the ritual committee of the Grand Royal Arch Chapter. An interesting feature of the occasion was the presence of Dr. Seymour, a well known leading member of the fraternity in Maine. The work of the degrees was shown with a great deal of care, and it was only to be regretted that a larger number of representatives from chapters outside of the city of St. John were not present.

He Needed a Cyclopaedia.

The civil service system of examination has one less friend in the person of a citizen of St. John who recently sought to qualify for a letter carrier's examination. He had an idea that if a carrier had a knowledge of reading, writing and arithmetic, and could find his way about the city he had all the necessary qualifications

for the work, but he learned on his examination that a good deal more was required. One of the questions asked him was in regard to the city of Pekin, China, as though he was supposed to go there on his rounds, while another question related to the growth and culture of broom corn. He did not know anything about Pekin or broom corn either, and his inability to make the necessary percentage of correct answers resulted in his being plucked. The next time he applies for a government job he will be likely to buy a cyclopaedia and make a study of foreign countries and their resources.

The Prize Poem Business.

PROGRESS Prize poem for the month of April falls again to a Fredericton writer, this time to Miss Josephine Thompson, whose poem, My Girl Wife, was printed in PROGRESS of March 11.

While this is not the best poem printed during the month, it excels any of those that come properly within the rules of the competition. Miss Sarah H. McKee's "To Morrow," printed in the same issue is superior in every way to anything that has yet been printed, but unfortunately, this has not been the first time. Miss McKee's poem has appeared in print. She stated this in the letter that accompanied the M. S., and PROGRESS printed it with that knowledge. "Tomorrow," is one of the few really clever efforts of amateur verse writers of this province.

Miss Thompson's "My Girl-Wife," is a very natural description of rural life, and but one of many creditable efforts in the same direction.

One Exodian in Green Pastures.

Dr. T. W. Minsgrove, formerly of Carleton, is now located at Puyallup, in the State of Washington, and from the tenor of a recent letter to PROGRESS appears to have dropped into a pleasant country. On March 25, two weeks ago, he says, "the grass is growing rapidly here to-day, and early vegetables were planted this week. We are having a heavy rain, while the Middle States are having blizzards, cyclones and snow. This is a fine State and will be the wonder of the West, if the politicians don't destroy the good prospects." The doctor's many friends here will be glad to hear of his being so pleasantly situated. He is in better luck than some exodians who have not gone so far West.

Had Nothing to Do With the Case.

The opponents of the reduction of the police force are pointing to the fact that the man who originated the idea, in the department of public safety was Ald. White, and that he was defeated last Tuesday. It is not likely that there was any relation between the two facts. The electors of Wellington ward did not vote against Alderman White because they wanted more policemen, but because they were anxious to be represented by Mr. Wilkins. Had Ald. White launched out enough money, it is quite possible that he could have remained at the council, though in that case Ald. Shaw would probably have been the defeated candidate.

Fredericton's Theatre Season.

By the appearance of the bookings for this month and next, Fredericton is to have quite a theatrical season. The attractions cover a wide range and should give unusual satisfaction. The dates are as follows:

April 17, 18, 19, Josie Mills Company; April 26, Fisk Jubilee Singers; April 28, 29, J. S. Murphy's "Kerry Gow" and "Shaun Rhoe"; May 5, "Social Session" Company; May 9, 10, Arthur Rehan's Company; May 25, Madeline Meril's Company.

At St. Mary's Church.

The Easter services at St. Mary's church were of a specially pleasing nature, the choir being ably supported by an orchestra under the direction of Mr. Stokes, of the artillery band. The musical portion will be repeated on Sunday, when some new selections will be rendered by the orchestra. The following anthems will be sung: Morning—"I know that my Redeemer liveth" (Pattison); Te Deum (Hopkins). Evening—"Why seek ye the living among the dead?" (Cooke).

The Orange and the Green.

No one seems to have authority to pronounce it a "gag" but the story is told that police magistrate, Robert J. Ritchie, of this city, and the grand master of the orangemen, George W. Fowler, of Sussex, were given one bed in the crowded Queen Hotel in Fredericton a few nights ago. No harm seemed to result. They are both good fellows and if each came around a trifle to the other side of the question both have been benefited by the act of host Edwards.

And All Ended Well.

The new rector of Shediac, Mr. Burt, who was reported last week as waiting in St. John pending the Bishop's decision has received the necessary authority, and is now in charge of his parish.

TOO FEW TO GO AROUND.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF CANDIDATES CALCULATE RIGHT.

The Fourth Aspirant to the Mayoralty Will Get no Votes—It is Any Man's Race so Far, and Only One is Known to Feel Confident About It.

There are not votes enough to go around in the mayoralty election.

That is to say, allowing any three of the candidates to get one third of the votes he is calculating on, there will be none left for the fourth man. This is the way one of the four in the field has figured it, and any one of the lot can make the application of the theory to suit himself.

It is any man's race so far, for nobody can tell just how the votes will be divided up among the four. With two men in a field it is sometimes easy to predict a result, but with four, each having independent sources of strength, the matter becomes very much mixed. Not more than one out of the four candidates would feel safe in risking any amount in a bet on himself.

The exception to this would be Mr. Jones, who apparently becomes more and more confident as the campaign progresses. He is working hard, and has been lecturing on civic affairs to audiences in the three ends of the city during the past week. He will get a good many votes from the old timers of Kings' ward, who remember that he was a good alderman thirty years ago. If Mr. Jones is not elected it will not be for want of energy and activity in his canvass.

Whether Mayor Peters is juggling himself with false security, has inside pointers as to his chances or is simply getting used to running elections, it is very evident that he is going into the fight with a more jaunty air and cheerful demeanor than he has shown in previous contests. He has a good committee at work, and is himself far from idle.

Mr. Sturdee has also been making a strong canvass in many quarters, and his campaign is also "personally conducted" in all sections. It will be remembered that he was very early in the field, and that his canvass began some months ago.

Both Mr. Jones and Mr. Sturdee ran elections this week and were returned with ease. The former was chosen as a delegate to the Diocesan Synod from St. Paul's church, and the latter to the same body from Trinity church.

Mr. Tufts appears to be taking matters more easy than any of the others, though he may be doing a good deal of quiet work which will tell in his favor on election day.

A good many people who did not find occasion to qualify themselves as voters for the aldermanic elections settled up with the chamberlain last Saturday, and will be able to take their choice of the lot next Tuesday. A large number of citizens, however, have not yet paid their taxes, and will have nothing to say about it. Each of the candidates appears to be under the impression that the men who are thus shut out are chiefly of the class who would have voted for the other man had their taxes been paid.

They will know all about it before this time next week.

BUSINESS AND WIND.

What the Local Legislature is Doing, and Trying to Do.

There seems to be a good deal of business and a great deal of wind before the local house. The breeze has been wafted this way but little information of the real business transacted. Still, judging by the reports considerable actual business is before the house, some of which if passed will have an important bearing upon civic and business interests in this city. The civic changes have been fully dealt with in other columns and need not be touched upon here. None but the merchant with large interests in the province can estimate the effect that the act relating to bills of sale will have. That it will be beneficial cannot be doubted. No merchant will be working in the dark when he can go to the record office and see for himself if any other man owns the stock of his customers. As it is now many a bill of sale is made at the time the first order is given and hidden away in some vault. If the new-comer in business succeeds all well and good, the bill of sale remains out of sight, but if he is not so successful as he thought he would be, the old bill of sale comes to the front, and being so constructed that it embraces everything under his roof, clutches not only the goods bought from the man who holds it, but also all those sold him by other concerns, in perfect faith. This is where the injustice has been. There is no equal division among creditors; the outsiders stand no chance, while the local man holds the obligation.

Upper province houses have complained about this again and again and certainly it has been harder on them than on those in the Maritime provinces. While this may not commend itself to those concerns who want the Maritime provinces for Maritime merchants, still the new law will have a most beneficial effect on business and give

it a broader confidence than it has yet possessed.

The Bathurst school question, which is raising all the breeze in and about Fredericton, does not appear to be causing any great commotion in any other section of the province, save, perhaps, Bathurst. Mr. Pitts has had his say, and a pretty small say it has been. He has found to his surprise that even his leader cannot see eye to eye with him in the matter, and his wail that there are among the opposition as well as the government side of the house, men who were anxious to shelve the matter was a truly pitiable one. Any one who reads the reports can see plainly that the opposition leaders are using Pitts and his orange problem simply to lease their own ends but they are truly careful and excessively non-committal. The protestant horse is usually a good animal in emergencies. He goes over the country once at a rattling pace but he can't always be depended upon to go over the same course at the same gait. Dr. Stockton and Dr. Alward are good enough jockeys to realize this and are wise enough to moderate their gait.

It Deserves Support.

A letter in regard to the Halifax School for the Blind was received too late to be inserted this week, but it may be stated that it is proposed to hold a carnival and bazaar in Halifax on the 24th of May, in aid of this deserving institution, and the cooperation of other cities and towns is asked for the same good object, in the way of local entertainments. Lady Tilley has kindly undertaken the management of the St. John entertainment, and will no doubt enlist the aid of many other able and willing workers.

The Cash Register Remained.

The introduction of the cash register was resented by the employees of a city hotel a few days ago. They went "on strike," and at last accounts were still striking. The proprietor, it seems, was taken with the idea and usefulness of the modern cash boy, and had a register placed in his saloon. The employees were indignant, and their injured feelings prompted them to throw up their positions. The hotel is still running, and the machine registers the cash.

All on Account of a Monkey.

There was some fun in the Salvage Corps department a few days ago, when Mr. Wilson discovered that the pet monkey had been tampering with the paint, and spreading it here and there. He began to reprimand the youthful Taylor, who stood a moderate amount of censure before he began by make it interesting for Mr. Wilson. The latter finally had to retreat hurriedly, and invite the police to call Taylor off.

Webber and His Route.

H. Price Webber and the Boston Comedy company spent Sunday in the city en route for Annapolis where they opened Monday evening. Yarmouth was the next place booked, then the Annapolis Valley before a lengthy engagement is opened with Zora Semon in Halifax. The last time Webber played with Semon in Halifax the joint shows made a big hit and neither of them are less popular now than then.

He has Not been Heard From.

Some time ago PROGRESS printed a paragraph in re Mr. L. D. Vaughan and a demurrage claim, which kept him quite busy for some days denying in the daily press, in connection with the statement that the matter was *sub judice*, and that he would have more to say about it later. The court decided that he was wrong, and the other man right. Perhaps this is the reason Mr. Vaughan has not been heard from.

What Are Popular Prices?

According to the advertisements in the Maine and Montreal papers, the Hopper and Josie Mill Companies played to "popular prices" in both of these sections. This means in the theatres named, 10, 20 and 30 cents. The same companies in this city ask 25, 35 and 50. Perhaps the performances are worth the price but why make such a difference?

A Busy Fourth.

The fourth of the month is always an unusually heavy day in the banks especially in March and April. This year April 4th fell on Easter Tuesday and the notes due on April 2nd and 3rd and 4th were crowded into one day. It was a time to hustle in the banks and it is pretty safe to assume that there was some hustling done outside too.

Opens Monday Night.

The city cornet band open their Columbian Fair in the market building Monday evening. The preparations for it have been made on an extensive scale; the tickets are going well, and success is promised on all sides. Some particulars will be found in the proper column on the eighth page.

Will Be a Success.

The tickets for the Gilmore Band concerts have gone so rapidly that there is no longer any doubts of the success of them from a financial point of view. There is almost a fortnight yet in which to dispose of tickets, and it is fair to assume that by that time every seat will be taken.