

# PROGRESS.

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## SO STURDEE IS SETTLED.

HOW THE APPOINTMENT OF HIGH SHERIFF WAS MADE.

The Fight Between Messrs. Sturdee and Thorne Results in a Victory for the Former—Dr. Hetherington's Chance of Base.

If Doctor George Augustus Hetherington had not changed his mind, Sheriff H. Lawrence Sturdee would probably be in the ranks of office seekers today.

Dr. Hetherington was one of the standard bearers of the local government in the last election and by virtue of his ill success in that direction, he controls one-sixth of the patronage. There are five others and the good will of a majority of the six is supposed to be equal to an appointment.

Soon after the late sheriff's sudden death, Dr. Hetherington, it is said, took the trouble to assure Mr. Thorne that he should have his support for the vacant office. Supported also by Messrs. Trueman and Carleton, Mr. Thorne felt at least that he had equal chances for the appointment with any other who might be in the field. Some members of the government were in his favor, while others, perhaps, preferred Mr. Sturdee, but there was no reasonable doubt that with the city and county members equally divided, the government would have given the position to Mr. Thorne.

But a change came over the spirit of Dr. Hetherington and he made up his mind again this time in favor of Mr. Sturdee. This made four to two for the latter gentleman. The complexion of affairs turned a different shade and the hopes of Mr. Thorne's friends were dashed. Still if one member had a right to change his mind and withdraw his support, another might, and so the appointment was delayed to this week, in order that the representatives might be seen and interviewed.

It seemed to be clearly understood that this was all the Thorne party asked, and, indeed, all that they intended to do on Saturday afternoon. PROGRESS learns even that it was understood that there would be no petitions or anything of that sort, and it is only fair to say for the active workers of Mr. Thorne, that they were not responsible for the start of the petitions. They emanated from very different quarters, thought out and planned by a Sunday evening hostess in a high official residence on Germain street. A number of good people were her guests, and after dinner the shrewdly question came up, and was discussed. It was decided by the hostess that petitions must be got up at once, and she was confident that the attorney-general, whose kindness of heart she had often proved, would yield to the wish of the wife and husband, who might otherwise leave their native city. Consequently, on Monday morning, all sorts and conditions of men were asked to sign them, and hope, that for a season had bade the world farewell, in that quarter, revived. The attorney-general, attacked in a new quarter, and by a new general—a lady of infinite resources—paused, and the appointment that was practically considered made on Saturday, was held for the time being.

The only result of the petitions was the calling of the entire government to meet in this city, and the delay of the appointment until the members could arrive. Their consultation resulted in the appointment of Mr. Sturdee, who is thus provided for to his own satisfaction.

Now that he has secured the position, people are wondering why he was so anxious about it. The net income from the position has not exceeded on an average more than \$2,000 a year. Outside of the income from his regular practice and the office of referee in equity, Mr. Sturdee's positions as secretary of this or that corporation, and vestry clerkship to Trinity church, were estimated as worth \$1,200 a year. His acceptance of the office of sheriff may not interfere with his duties as vestry clerk, and yet some of the duties of a sheriff in the line of capital punishment, might not suit the character and temperament of a model vestry clerk.

There is an interesting rumor afloat that gives to Mr. H. J. Thorne the wardenship of the reformatory at \$1,200 a year and to Dr. Hetherington, the chairmanship of the Board of School Trustees. The first may be correct enough—PROGRESS hopes that it is—but the second is somewhat ridiculous, since Mr. C. W. Weldon was given the position a few days ago on the understanding that not only would he accept, but also be in a position to give his valuable time to the sometimes exacting duties of the office.

Mr. Henry Lawrence Sturdee had a birthday on the 11th of this month when he completed the full end and term of 51 years, nineteen of which he had spent in the practice of the law. He is a St. John boy, of English parents, and his father, the late Henry P. Sturdee, was one of the old-time merchants of this city. The new sheriff has parted his name in the middle since the earliest days of his boyhood. A codicil was annexed to his name when he received the degree of B. A. at Fredericton in 1861,

and another added when the M. A. was granted in 1883. He matriculated at the university in the year that Mr. Harding was appointed sheriff, and took the Douglas gold medal in the following year.

As an instance of Mr. Sturdee's mastery of the classics, it is related that when undergoing the oral examination for admission as attorney, one of the benchers, a clever lawyer but no authority on Latin, asked the youthful aspirant the question, "What is a quo warrant-o?"

"I do not know," promptly replied young Sturdee.

"You don't know what a quo warrant-o is?" asked the bencher, very much astonished.

"No, sir," was the rejoinder, "but I can explain to you what I know about a quo warrant-o."

The bencher saw the point, and was more cautious about his Latin during the rest of the proceedings.

Mr. Sturdee read law in the office of Gray & Kaye, which had a high reputation on account of the ability of the members of the firm and the very large practice they enjoyed. A good many men



SHERIFF STURDEE.

more or less prominent at the present day were students in that office of one time or another, but it is a singular fact that very few of them ever gained distinction as active nisi prius lawyers. The majority of those who did not afterwards abandon the profession became chiefly known as solicitor, conveyancers or insurance agents. Mr. Sturdee was a good conveyancer, and to that branch of the law and the management of trusts and estates he has chiefly given his attention.

Sheriff Sturdee has held a number of positions of honor and emolument. He is a major of the reserve militia in which there is no money, and has been referee in equity in which there is money. After the 1867 fire he made his domicile in Portland and was twice mayor of that city, as well as warden of the municipality. He has held a number of minor offices in church and state, and was receiver of the Grand Southern railway. He was a candidate on the government side in the local election in 1890, and met a similar fate in the recent mayoralty contest. He expected to be made judge of probates when that office was gobbled up by C. N. Skinner, last June, and for a long time past he has been recognized as the most important of the local government's creditors. Now that he has been appointed sheriff of St. John the account is closed, and there will be a chance for somebody else to get the next vacant office.

**An Effective Collecting System.**  
The recent decision in these courts respecting the power of a collecting agency, show that Messrs. Ruel & Milligan were not short-sighted when they acquired an interest in the business of the Dominion Collecting Agency of this city. The customers of this concern have had many substantial reasons for being satisfied with the work it has done for them, still, with Messrs. Ruel & Milligan as solicitors the ways and means of getting at a debtor will be in a fair way of giving out, before the claim is pronounced "no good." Mr. A. H. Beal, who has been with the agency since it opened here and done effective work, has been connected in the past with the most reliable agencies of this kind in the United States. He will continue as manager and general representative of the Dominion Collecting Agency.

**Who Started This Story?**  
The following item appeared in the New York Sun a few months ago, and while PROGRESS recognized it as a libel on the railways of New Brunswick, no notice was taken of it. It seems to be travelling around the world, however, and it has now got as far as London where Tit Bits has reproduced it. The railway appears to be getting a free ad., which it never asked for. The next thing we know, somebody will be slandering the Shore Line in the same way:

One of the queerest railroads in the world is the Salisbury and Harvey, in New Brunswick. It is but twenty miles long, and although it connects with the Intercolonial road, an admirably constructed line, it is confessedly unsafe. A printed notice hung up in the cars, cautions passengers that it is well to get out and walk on reaching a certain bridge, and it was long the custom to push the cars over this crazy structure before the mighty engine was trusted upon its rotten timbers.

## TROUBLE AT HAMPTON.

SMITH SPROUL SET ASIDE FOR HARRY FOWLER.

Dr. Taylor Deposits the Assistant Deputy Registrar of Deeds—The Deputy Registrar and the Assistant to the Assistant Deputy Not Disturbed.

The latest intelligence from the shire-town of Kings indicates that there is more trouble there.

While St. John has been agitated over the appointment of a sheriff, the cloud of discontent has been hovering over Hampton in regard to the appointment of an assistant deputy registrar of deeds. There is neither a great deal of money nor honor in the office, but it is sufficiently important to have aroused the rival factions, which for some time past have been sadly in want of something to fight about.

The original and only deputy registrar of Kings county is James W. Sproul, who has held the position for many years and still holds it. He is apparently there purely for the honor it confers, for he is also keeper of the jail and deputy sheriff. The duties of the latter offices do not permit him to apply his energies to the work of copying, indexing and otherwise attending to the details of the registry office. So far as PROGRESS knows, he gets no revenue from his connection with the office.

As the deputy registrar cannot find time to attend to the duties of the office, it is necessary to have an assistant deputy registrar, and under the Pugsley regime this assistant was Smith Sproul, the deputy registrar's son.

Smith Sproul is so designated in Hampton because his name is Albert J. Sproul, and he was named after Sir Albert J. Smith.

Mr. Pugsley, during his term of office, was a very busy man, and had little time to give to the duties of his position. It was therefore necessary to have not only an assistant deputy registrar, but a young lady who assisted such assistant. These two appear to have done the work of the office.

Mr. Pugsley ceased to be registrar the other day, and Dr. Taylor succeeded to the position. It is understood that he intends to give his personal attention to the office, but this fact will not cause any reduction in the staff of subordinates. There will still be a deputy, an assistant deputy, and an assistant to the assistant deputy.

There will be a slight change in the personnel of the staff, however, and that is what is convulsing the Geronomi and the Geroni of Hampton.

Dr. Taylor has discharged Smith Sproul. This seems to have been a sufficiently startling thing, but the gravity of the situation will be better realized when it is stated that Dr. Taylor has appointed Harry Fowler.

It may be, there are readers of PROGRESS in distant places outside of Kings county, who really do not understand why the community should be so wildly excited, but recent advices from the shiretown give every indication of stormy times ahead. One resident writes:

"Smith," or more properly A. J. Sproul, did all the work of indexing, corresponding, searching etc., and all inquiries were promptly and correctly answered, so that his removal from the office is a public loss.

The letter further proceeds to eulogize the ability and integrity of Smith Sproul, and to reflect on H. J. Fowler, who it is hinted is a very different kind of a man, and without ability to satisfactorily perform the simple duties of copyist. This, the letter asserts, "is an act that calls for redress."

How this redress is to be obtained is not stated, unless the friends of Smith Sproul vote against the government that appointed Dr. Taylor, who in turn appointed Harry Fowler. They cannot get at the registrar in any other way, nor can they boycott him, by recording their deeds in their lifetime, and their wills after their deaths, in any other registry office. They are bound to patronize the home industry, and to have their papers pass through the hands of the objectionable appointees, unless indeed, he, like the actual deputy registrar, is content to have the honor, while the registrar and the assistant of the assistant deputy-registrar do the work and absorb the revenue.

While PROGRESS grieves that at this season, when the birds are singing around the green fields of Kings, and the trout are beginning to bite in Smith's lake, there should be discord among the good people of Hampton, there seems no remedy that can be suggested. It has been urged that PROGRESS should "show up the character" of Harry Fowler, but if it did so, Mr. Fowler's friends might want it to "show up the character" of the deposed and lamented Smith Sproul. Besides, even if that were done there is some doubt whether Dr. Taylor would dismiss Harry Fowler and restore Smith Sproul to the position in which he distinguished himself by indexing, corresponding, searching and answering all enquiries promptly and correctly.

If, however, it can be shown after a fair trial that Harry Fowler cannot do the work of indexing, corresponding, searching

and answering all enquiries promptly and correctly, something may be done in the matter.

If, as is alleged, the removal of Smith Sproul is a public loss, the matter becomes one which affects the autonomy of the municipality of Kings, and the matter should be focussed in the form of resolutions passed at a meeting of the ratepayers. That course might be tried.

One other solution of the problem suggests itself. Why cannot Dr. Taylor and the assistant to the assistant deputy of the deputy registrar do the work of the office, without the aid of Smith Sproul or Harry Fowler?

### POETRY BY THE YARD.

So Much of It That Some Is Held Over Until the Next Issue.

In this issue of PROGRESS, on the fourth and tenth pages, will be found more than three columns of verse of various kinds and qualities, all piping hot from the pens of the poets who are competing for the five dollar prize offered for the month of April. The quantity published in this issue measures nearly two yards in length, but several feet were omitted this week for lack of space. As they were sent in time for the competition, however, they will appear in the next issue, and will have due consideration in the award of the prize.

It will be noticed that the poetry published this week covers a wide range of subjects, and some of it is remarkable for the breezy originality which sticks out on every line. The most purely local poem is one by Henry Gaskin, which enters quite fully into details in regard to the environment of St. John and its advantages as a winter port. It breathes the spirit of faith and hope from first to last.

The competition in verse is now at an end. The name of the successful competitor for April will be announced as soon as the remaining accepted contributions have been published.

### Slightly Confused.

The Nase Stevens case in St. John is believed to be settled. It is said that Mr. Nase has received \$4,000 to pay for the damage his reputation received.—(St. Andrews Beacon.)

A Telegraph reporter called on one of the counsel in the case last night and was informed that the statement was untrue.—(Telegraph.)

The above paragraphs are a little confusing. It has not been generally understood that Mr. Nase contemplated an action for the damage his reputation received, whatever else he may claim. It may be an open question whether his reputation has not chiefly been damaged by his own course in the matter.

### Not That Kind of a Court.

Col. J. R. Armstrong, barrister at law, was engaged in a case in the probate court the other day, and one or two of the other lawyers present had military titles of some kind or another, so the story goes. The gentlemen referred to each by these titles so often that at last Judge Skinner grew a little tired of the words "colonel," "major," etc., and impatiently exclaimed, "Gentlemen, I would like you to understand that this court is a probate court and not a court martial." The lawyers remembered the fact during the rest of their arguments.

### He Drew the Line.

The story is told of a clerk in one of the city banks whose name shall be called Blank, because it does not sound anything like that. A junior of excellent family, but only a junior, was of a sociable turn, and during business hours the other day he addressed the senior as plain "Blank." This was going too far, and the senior with freezing dignity replied, "In the bank, my name is Mr. Blank; outside, I don't know you." The presumptuous junior felt duly crushed and has since governed himself accordingly.

### Warden of the County.

There were two candidates for the position of warden of the municipality at the meeting of that body this week, and they were Ald. Charles McLaughlin, and John Kelly. The former scored an easy victory over the member for Dufferin, by a vote of fifteen to ten. The North End men did not stick together in this instance, as the Chesley element wanted Dr. Christie for the positions, and supported McLaughlin, rather than Kelly.

### More Truth Than Poetry.

The leading local column of the Halifax Recorder contains specimens of blank verse which tells the news of the day in both short metre and bad metre. One of the effusions this week was:

—H. L. Sturdee, lawyer, is to be appointed Sheriff of St. John, succeeding late Sheriff Harding.

There is no attempt at rhyme in this, and the rhythm is simply dreadful. It is emphatically an instance of more truth than poetry.

### It Takes There Too.

Mr. R. G. Larsen does not lose sight of PROGRESS even in his busy and successful newspaper life in Boston for he writes a hurried post script "Better send some more papers to the Boston Agency." "All sold out and I could not get an extra copy last week."

## WHY THEY KEPT AWAY.

LILLIAN TUCKER COMPANY AT THE OPERA HOUSE.

Extraordinary Honesty on the Part of the Daily Papers—How and Why the Gilmore Band Was Locked Out—Mr. Murphy and the Ticket Sales.

The people have kept away from the opera house this week.

In the last issue of PROGRESS due notice was given that the Lillian Tucker company would probably get a very frosty reception here. That prediction has proved so true that even the daily papers have been called upon to speak the truth and tell their readers that the performances were not worth seeing. In spite of the liberal and lying advance notices, the Tucker company received for many days before they opened, the wretchedness of the performances forced them to speak out. The "Telegraph" is as much in the cold—so far as advertising orders from the opera house company is concerned—as PROGRESS, and, as a result, the readers of that paper have, up to this week, looked in vain for any advance notice of a performance or any criticism of the play afterward.

With PROGRESS the absence of advertisements from the O. H. company made no difference. The dates of companies are given and the merits or demerits of the performances pointed out as usual in its theatrical column. Most of the companies that play here also tour the provinces and a favorable criticism in PROGRESS is worth hundreds of dollars to them. That they do not get this unless it is deserved is looked after by a gentleman specially engaged for this purpose, and, whether his opinion agrees with that of the editorial staff or not, it is printed.

But the "Telegraph" did notice the Tucker company this week and called it a "gang of barnstormers"; the "Sun" also meekly protested against the quality of the performances while the "Globe," after one stereotyped flattering notice, woke up and said the attendance was poor but as good as the company deserved. So much honesty in one week is staggering.

The lovely Lillian is booked for a long time—longer than she is likely to stay. Tickets for all performances are now on sale in the Opera house proper, and not at "Murphy's" as heretofore. Mr. Murphy found that selling tickets was not as pleasant or as profitable a side line, as many supposed it was. The public is hard to please and Mr. Murphy was not paid well enough for his work, to try very hard all the time to carry a spring smile. In the old days A. C. Smith & Co. used to get three per cent for selling tickets, and anyone who has any knowledge of the business will readily agree that for the trouble and responsibility it is not too much. The price paid by the opera house company has not been nearly so much as this—in fact has not been on the percentage plan at all, but so much for each performance. When Mr. Murphy intimated that the arrangement would have to be reconsidered, the plans was taken to the box office and Mr. M. will be busy all summer explaining that the plans of the opera house are no longer on his counter.

Mr. Morley McLaughlin and the leader of the Gilmore Band, were in a predicament last Saturday night. When the hour approached for the performance to begin, the people who "went early to avoid the crush," found that the doors were not open, and soon afterward the lights went down. There was music—vocal music—in the air for a time. Reeves declared excitedly, that every Sunday paper in the States would have the fact telegraphed to it that Gilmore's band was locked out, because the cent of the hall was not paid, and that it would cost him thousands of dollars. For that was the real reason: The terms of the agreement between Mr. McLaughlin and the Opera House company were not clearly defined and when Saturday evening arrived and no rent had been paid. Mr. Dockrill, the financial manager of the company, ordered the doors closed and the lights out. Then a coach dashed away for Mr. McLaughlin, who instructed the ticket office to hand over \$200 to the opera house. The doors opened and the crowd went in. McLaughlin claims that the act was unfair to him and the band, while the O. H. company say that Mr. McLaughlin should have looked after his rent as they had no intention of hunting for it after the performances.

In consequence of the Tucker engagement in the O. H., the popular Jubilee singers have drawn crowds to the old Mechanics' Institute this week, and next week the Joseph Murphy company, in those splendid Irish plays, Shaun Rhue and Kerry Gow, will appear in the same place.

### Will Appear Next Week.

The suggestion has been made, and it seems a very reasonable one, that it would be better for PROGRESS to defer the publication of the list of May removals until next week. By that time, it is argued, people

will have got settled in their new homes, as they will not be this week. Besides, the majority of people will not move until next week. The list was published in the issue of May 7th, last year, by which time the removals had been completed. It will appear this year in next Saturday's PROGRESS, by which time it will be more complete and of greater value for reference. In the meantime, all notices of changes sent to this office will receive attention.

### THE RULE WAS NOT ENFORCED.

People Went to the Concert Without Being Arrayed in Full Dress.

The public, and especially those from the rural districts, will ever feel grateful to the management of the Gilmore band concerts for accepting their tickets and permitting them to take seats without being in full dress. The announcement that "while it is generally understood to be a dress occasion no rule will be enforced," was not made in the daily papers until Thursday, the day of the first concert by which time strangers from all parts of country were on their way to the show. It would have been painful for them, had a stern usher barred the way to the auditorium until the strangers went away rebuked to buy or borrow dress suits.

For the matter of that, the enforcement of the rule might have caused some embarrassment even among our own citizens, and it is to be feared that at least one half of the really estimable people of St. John would have been excluded, or at least prevented from attending on any one occasion. The men, it is true, might have made a shift by pinning back the tails of their cut-aways and unbuttoning their waistcoats, or they could have gone in squads, the first fortunate lot lending or hiring their swallow-tails to the lot which was next in order. There would have been some misfits, no doubt, but the management could not have barred them from the privilege of going in. The ladies, however, could not have carried out the same kind of an arrangement, and a good many really worthy but unfortunate ladies would have had to stay away.

Altogether, it was very decent of the management not to enforce the rule. The audiences were all the larger on account of this liberal concession to the people.

### A New Dry Goods Firm.

The old dry goods stand occupied by Welsh, Hunter & Hamilton, has been purchased by Messrs. F. A. Dykeman & Co., who will open in a few days a new dry goods store with a complete and fresh stock. Mr. Dykeman is by no means a stranger here or a novice in the dry goods business. He knows both well and is in a position to realize what kind of goods are best suited for the purchasing public of St. John. His announcement on the second page to-day is only preliminary and general, next week it will be more particular and interesting.

### Will Probably Be Settled.

A rather good practical joke was played on an enthusiastic young politician familiarly nicknamed after one of the world's great generals. He voted a raffle that he did not own at the recent mayor's election, and he was about persuaded that the dogs of justice were in full chase, when he went to see a lawyer about the affair a few days ago. The case will probably be settled out of court.

### His Theory About It.

A countryman, who was looking at the electric cars coming down Main street one day this week was heard thus to soliloquize: "I've seen cars go by steam, and I've seen cars go by horses, but I'm blamed if I ever seen cars go by a fishing pole afore."

### Very Neatly Done.

A very neatly drawn map of St. John county, on a large scale, has been shown PROGRESS and is a fine specimen of the work of the young lady who executed it, Miss Lizzie S. Read, a teacher in the Centennial school.

### This Appointment Is a Popular One.

The office of referee in equity held by Mr. Sturdee has fallen to Mr. Clarence H. Ferguson, who is so popular both in and out of the legal profession that the appointment is sure to be satisfactory to everybody.

### Accounting for the Increase.

Enquiries made in various quarters of the city show that the removals on the first of May this year will greatly outnumber those on the first of May last year. The first day of May last year was on a Sunday.

### Fashions For the Coming Seasons.

The May number of the Delineator has been received from Geo. H. McKay and is full of pretty designs for spring and summer costumes, also many ideas and illustrations for fancy work.

### Not Too Bad a Record.

Messrs. T. McAvity and Sons advertised an article for mail orders in PROGRESS of April 15th. Thirty five of them arrived up to Thursday and they are still coming. The effect is worth noting.

### Call and Get It.

A letter addressed to "Business" awaits the advertiser at PROGRESS counting room.