

A MATTER OF CHANCE.

YET SOME COINCIDENCES ARE OF A STARTLING NATURE.

A Batch of Anecdotes Upon Which the Superstitious Might Place Weight—Things That Happen but Cannot Well be Accounted For.

A few years ago says a recent writer, a gentleman entered a well-known New York hotel. While glancing over the visitors' list he was surprised to find an entry corresponding in every particular with his own.

Five years passed away, and when upon the eve of the sixth someone jocosely remarked that this was presumably a day fatal to the master of the establishment, he invited those friends who were acquainted with the story to picnic with him up the river.

Next morning, however, they were astounded to hear their genial host had passed away during the night. Death the doctors attributed to heart disease. But, occurring as it did upon the very day which had proved so fatal years before to previous tenants, it struck many as a singular coincidence.

WAS IT GOOD TASTE?

Mr. Frith Criticizes the Recent Action of Some Well Meaning Citizens.

To THE EDITOR OF PROGRESS:—In the biography of the late Bishop Medley, recently published, will be found, at page 132, a brief reference to a lecture on "good taste" which His Lordship delivered nearly forty years ago in St. John.

The few of the listeners to that able lecture who may still survive will not forget its keen and scathing arraignment of the offenders against the taste which is good; and if any of them read the kindly and discriminating article which appeared in your last issue on the possible return of Father Davenport to this city, it must have forcibly struck them that the class of offenders which the bishop denounced was not exterminated by his philippic.

In conclusion, I would only further call attention to the fact that in view of the possibilities of epidemics, we should as speedily as possible have water mains extended to Loch Lomond; then we would have an abundant supply of as good water as there is in the world.

POINTS ON CIVIC AFFAIRS.

Suggestions of Steps to be Taken for the Reduction of Taxes.

To THE EDITOR OF PROGRESS:—I have not the honor of being a member of "the Tax Reduction Association," yet I have watched with increasing interest its movement. It has now paved the way for the reduction of the membership of our city council from 27 to 16 members, and secured the election of all these gentlemen on one and the same day, with an apparent annual saving of \$1,100.

Mr. W. W. Turnbull, in one of his able letters, clearly demonstrated the fact of the lax administration of our city assessment law, inter-alia, pointing out that fully \$8,000,000 of fairly taxable property, under the assessment law of 1887, is permitted to go scot free.

grown beyond the scope of that board? The answer to this question would seem to be in the affirmative.

What is absolutely wanted is a revaluation of all our real estate and personal property and income from labor, of the rate-payers of our enlarged city of St. John, under the legislature of to-day, without fear or favor of affection.

If this revaluation were intelligently done the wage earner, who is now assessed on \$400 income, would pay say, \$7 instead of \$8; and the wealthy citizen now assessed on \$100,000, would pay say, \$1,252 instead of \$1,502.

In view of the Connelly embroglio, should not the Tax Reduction Association, take steps to ascertain whether the time has not arrived, when it would be expedient and in the best interests of our ever open port of St. John, to have the building of our wharves and the dredging of harbor, etc., done under the immediate supervision of a permanent board of harbor commissioners, under the terms and conditions of our present dominion and provincial legislature regarding the matter.

The consolidation of our city debt of about three million of dollars is another matter calling for action. St. John has assets fully the equivalent of her indebtedness, and her bonds for all practical purposes would be equal to British consols, so that a scheme to consolidate our city debt, gradually at say three and one half per cent per annum, is quite feasible, and this matter it naturally taken hold of could be accomplished in the not distant future.

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MORE POINTS ABOUT THE FAIR.

Including the Chorus Song that is Heard Everywhere One Goes.

In addition to the bright and readable letter which a well known St. John man contributes to PROGRESS this week, in regard to the World's Fair, the following additional pointers from the same source will be of interest. He says:

The attendance is constantly growing. The first week I was there it ran over the 1,000,000 mark, and one day 243,951 people paid to see the big show.

The conductor of the multitude on the grounds is wonderfully orderly and respectable. I did not see a single disturbance of any kind.

The date for closing is set for October 31st, but there is talk of continuing it longer, if the weather does not get too cold. Now, however, is the best time to see it. Take a run out and you will never regret it.

All the types at the Fair the Dahemeyites are probably the lowest and most degraded in the scale of civilization.

The only song one heard was "After the Fair." It greeted you everywhere—on the streets, in the buildings, down the midway—there was no escaping it. The photograph and the graphophone ground it off at you, the bands played it, it was hummed by the dudesque youth, and the swell boy whistled it. The music is the same as "After the Ball", the words are—well, judge for yourself. Here is a specimen verse:—

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FRED. A. DYKEMAN & CO., 97 King Street. We send samples. The 27c, all wool dress goods which we advertised a few days ago is all sold but an end or two.

Hawker's Pearls. Chas. McGregor, 137 Charlotte street, says Hawker's Nerve and Stomach Tonic, Hawker's Catarrh Cure, and Hawker's Balsam of Tolu and Wild Cherry are sell in good form.

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