

# PROGRESS.

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## HOW MUCH IS YOUR TAX? THE RATE THIS YEAR IS HIGHER THAN LAST.

Some of the Reasons Why This is So.—Mr. Jones' Absence Makes Some Difference—More Interest to Pay—The Rate is \$1.50 the Same as It Was Year Before Last.

Every citizen will soon get a reminder from the city building that he is expected to pay for the privilege of living in a good town like St. John. It will come in the shape of a tax bill; and the particular rate of taxation is bothering a good many people whose contributions to the revenue of the city runs up into the thousands.

The rate this year will be one and a half per cent. in other words \$1.50 on every \$100 worth of property a man is assessed upon. A man drawing a salary of \$1000 will pay \$15 to the city treasurer, in addition to the usual poll tax of \$2.

Last year the rate was four cents less on the \$100, being 1.46, and it was a genuine surprise to the city officials this year when they learned that the increase was only four cents. There are many reasons why the taxes should be higher since the interest account has grown to favorable figures. Elevators cannot be erected, and such other accommodations as the city has at Charlton, without the expenditure of big money. Bonds bearing interest at four per cent. but selling at less than par were issued, and the interest on them has to be met besides a slight addition for a sinking fund. All this is apart from the expenditure, and it is well to keep them in mind when the increase in the rate is considered.

Perhaps there is one other phase of the assessment that should also be noted. The departure of Mr. Simeon Jones from the city means the loss of \$150,000 to the assessment. This means about \$2,250 in taxes and this sum alone would account for a portion of the increase. Then one or two large business concerns paying heavy taxes have been wound up. The amount they contributed must of course be made up. While such occurrences as these must be expected every year, perhaps they have been more noticeable in the last twelve months than usual. It is not possible yet to obtain much information about the assessment, the number of names, the amounts, &c., since the officials are very busy on the books.

## PARRSBORO'S ERRING TEACHER.

Why Mr. Campbell Was Discharged, and Who Paid for the Biscuit He Ate.

PARRSBORO, N. S., July 11.—This moral little town is excited, as it has lately been discovered that the principal of Parrsboro Academy, Mr. R. S. Campbell, B. A., who has had many innocent children under his charge, has so far forgotten what is due to a man in his responsible position as to be guilty of conduct that has worked upon the minds of the school-board to such an extent as to leave no course open but dismissal. The school commissioners nobly bear the indignation of the friends of the indiscreet pedagogue, for they have the proud knowledge that they may have saved the youth of our quiet town, now growing up into what all but misguided persons hope will be true christian manhood and womanhood, from influences that might wreck their young and precious lives.

Nearly a year ago, a young man, belonging to one of the first families of the province (whose pride has received a severe blow from this shock); with outward appearance that showed not the demon that lurked behind that seemingly manly countenance, came to this town, which, being far removed from the Intercolonial and Canadian Pacific railways, had before that time been a place almost entirely free from any contaminating influences. The school commissioners congratulated themselves upon securing such an exemplary young man to guide the feet of the children of Parrsboro on the pleasant paths of knowledge and rectitude. But alas for that most trusting confidence in outward appearances!

The effrontery of this depraved young man is surprising to those who are not versed in the habits of people of his class. He does not deny the charges, as any man with a spark of shame in him would. On the contrary, he admits his guilt, and has actually been seen in daylight on the streets of Parrsboro since his disgrace.

The charges against Mr. Campbell are that he plays whist and euchre (using spot cards), and that he dances, and that he does not spend the most of his evenings in study and prayer. They have no fault to find with him as a teacher; but this only makes his offence the more glaring, as by all precedent a man who does not spend his evenings in his own room ought to be a poor teacher. They also seem to think that the deposed master should not be a thorough gentleman, as he undoubtedly is. His whist-playing and dancing and his failing to follow the pious and scholarly example of the school commissioners in regard to the manner of spending one's evenings, have, for this reason, all the more injurious effect.

The board treated the principal in regard to this matter just as a corrupter of youthful morals should be treated. They waited until the thirteenth hour, allowing Mr. Campbell to put in his application for the principalship for the next year, and then bounced him, thus not allowing him the privilege of resigning, and putting him to deserved disgrace to the utmost extent to which they were capable of putting him. The principal feels his position very strongly; not because of remorse—oh no! he has not that virtue—but from a selfish feeling that his dismissal may prevent him from getting another position. But alas! the wicked flourish like a green bay tree; and his gentlemanliness and scholarship, already mentioned, will doubtless win for him an even better position in which to practise his works of evil.

The majority of the people of Parrsboro, including the most of the young man's pupils, blinded by these qualities, thought that their admiration of these should find some suitable expression upon Mr. Campbell's leaving Parrsboro. So a collection was taken up, and the teacher was presented with a gold-headed cane.

An incident which occurred in connection with the collection will be of interest. A young lady collector went into a store here and asked the proprietor if he would donate to the fund. The proprietor declined. The young lady, thinking that he was joking, asked him again, whereupon the merchant said that the teacher had never put anything in his way, but had once sat down in his store, had taken some bits of cracker from a box, and had eaten them without paying for them. The collector left the place, but afterwards, finding that she had five cents left over on the cane money, called again at the store. The merchant saw her coming, and, thinking that he was going to be damned again, retreated to the cellar, whence he was called by another lady. When he emerged from his retreat, the young lady collector, handed over the five cents, explaining that it was to pay for the biscuit that Mr. Campbell had eaten.

It is said that only one of the school-board was unwise enough to run the risk of contamination by calling at the school during the whole of Mr. Campbell's incumbency; and that one was the black sheep of the flock anyway, for he was the only one who voted against the dismissal.

## MR. RUSSELL WAS NOT IN IT.

Speaker White Claimed the Appointment He is Said to Have Declined.

The appointment of Mr. John Russell to the office of the members of this city and county and his friends are asking for him seems to be as far away as ever. Perhaps there has been no recommendation more persistently or vigorously pressed upon the government than this, and the inside history of the whole affair if ever written will give those who seek office but a faint idea of the value of promises and pledges of politicians.

PROGRESS understands that the most recent phase of this question is the statement of Mr. E. McLeod that Mr. Russell was offered the accountantship of the house of commons and refused to accept it. Perhaps this is more unjust to that gentleman than the city member imagines. Mr. Russell refused to talk about it, but said his friends knew all the circumstances.

For the information of those who have seen Mr. Russell's claims urged in the press and heard of them in public conversation it may be said that some time ago the members of the city and country recommended this gentleman for the position of deputy minister of the interior or its equivalent. This was forwarded to Hon. Mr. Foster, who, at that time, did not reply. Afterwards the three members with Mr. Geo. F. Baird sent a telegram to Premier Thompson to the effect that their constituents were demanding Mr. Russell's appointment. A prompt reply came from Sir John: "Mr. Russell I have ascertained to be a very capable man. Your wishes will be met."

Then when the party managers saw that something would have to be done the editor of the government organ in the city suggested to Mr. Russell that as the accountantship of the house of commons was vacant that he should withdraw from the other and ask for this. This he consented to do upon condition that he was appointed, and the editor and Mr. Hazen forthwith wired to obtain this effect.

Mr. Costigan, who was on the House of Commons Commission, was seen at the suggestion of the premier, and he promised to support Russell; but when the Commission met speaker White claimed the position as a part of his patronage and Mr. Russell was out of it.

But his friends are still pressing his claims, with what result it will be difficult to prophesy.

The Directory for 1894.

The directory of the city for this year has been published and as usual reflects credit on the Messrs. McAlpine who are at great pains to be correct and spend much time and money upon a publication that the city could ill afford to do without.

## NOT SO VERY EXCLUSIVE.

WHAT COMPETITION IS DOING FOR HALIFAX CLUBS.

The City Club and the Halifax—The Former is Composed of Progressive Business Men and Became Very Popular—The Halifax Becoming More Social and Attentive to the People.

HALIFAX, July 12.—Competition is the life of trade. Competition promotes activity in other matters besides business. It has an effect on club life. This has been clearly shown in Halifax during the past couple of years. This city has two gentlemen's clubs—the Halifax club and the City club—both flourishing. The former was established away back in the early sixties, and has been the home of wealth and extreme exclusiveness. The City club is a comparatively modern institution, but it has a fine new building, fully as well adapted to its purposes as the more pretentious edifice on Hollis street. The Halifax club largely yet maintains its character of exclusiveness, whilst the City club membership is composed mainly of young business men and the more well-to-do clerks. The City club has become so favorite a resort, that the older club cannot afford to continue so very exclusive as once it was. Within the last couple of years there has been a lowering of the standard as it were, though in one sense it may be considered an elevating of the standard. Men can get into the Halifax club today who would have failed in the attempt not long since. An instance is well known of a man, prominent in the militia, who was blackballed in the Halifax club some years ago. He was accepted in the City club. Time rolled on, and he again applied for membership in the Halifax club; on this occasion he succeeded in his ambition, and he was numbered with the men of his first love. He has not exactly cast off the club that befriended him in his days of social need, but it is the Halifax club which oftentimes is graced by his presence. This goes to prove that it is yet considered the more swell organization, or that this volunteer officer thinks so. But the social or financial standing of the members of the Halifax club is not just what once it was, as any one who glances over the list may readily see.

The "at home" given by the Halifax club last week was another indication that the institution will in future be more popular. The competition of the City club has made it necessary for the older organization to do what might properly be termed a little hustling for members. By the way, the "at home" was pronounced a decided success.

It costs \$80 to join the Halifax club besides \$30 a year as a membership fee. The City club will give all the privileges of its beautiful and well equipped building on Barrington street, for an entrance fee of \$50 and an annual subscription of \$20.

Who Will Be President?  
HALIFAX, July 12.—Who is to succeed to the chair in Pine Hill Presbyterian College vacant by the death of principal MacKnight? Professor Pollok has been made principal, but the chair of systematic theology and apologetics is to be filled. The chances are that Rev. D. M. Gordon, pastor of St. Andrew's Church, Halifax, will be selected. He is not, however, anxious for the position, though he has not declined the nomination of the presbytery. It was said that Rev. Mr. Gordon himself favored the appointment of Rev. Dr. McRae of St. John. The professorship offers no inducement to Mr. Gordon financially. He now receives \$2,500 and a free manse, making his means equal to about \$2,900 a year. The professorship would bring in only \$2,000 a year. He was offered a chair in the Montreal Presbyterian College a year or more ago, at \$2,500, which was declined, and it is understood that principal Grant has his eye on Mr. Gordon for Queen's college, Kingston. Money seems to have but feeble charm, for Mr. Gordon; he left \$4,000 a year in Winnipeg to come east.

Should the pastorate of St. Andrew's become vacant, many of the people have their mind pretty well made up whom they would call. There is a strong probability that Rev. R. E. Knowles, of Ottawa, would be the man of St. Andrew's choice. He declined a call to Fort Massey in this city a year ago, but it is said he is now ready to come to St. Andrew's, an inclination which is believed to have prompted his recent visit to Halifax, and perhaps had something to do with his recent preaching at St. Matthew's church, the nearest to St. Andrew's, instead of going far north to Park street church.

Appraiser Beckwith's Statement.  
In his letter to PROGRESS, referred to last week, Appraiser Beckwith had this paragraph about the facts of the article that did not meet his views:

It has fallen to my lot for the past eleven years to be an appraiser in H. M. Customs at the port of Halifax, M. F. O'Connor is an assistant appraiser at the same port. In the performance of my duty on the day referred to by your correspondent, I was engaged in the examination of goods on the Upper flat with two packers assisting me; this is a very usual occurrence which takes place almost every

day. Mr. O'Connor was on the first floor and desiring to have a case opened, requested one of the men to go to his assistance, to which I objected, as the men were at that time occupied under my direction, and the merchants whose goods I was examining were in a hurry to get them for the travellers. But it is not true that Mr. O'Connor and myself were engaged in a "physical struggle" near an open hatchway, or anywhere else, or that any victory was achieved by either party. As to whether I shall in the future be limited to "one porter or packer" remains to be determined by the department at Ottawa, whose province it is to decide this question.

This letter was forwarded to PROGRESS, Halifax correspondent, not because the matter was of any importance, but for further inquiry into the facts. This is what the correspondent says:

There is nothing to withdraw in PROGRESS' story of the "Scrap in the Customs," in which R. N. Beckwith and Frank O'Connor figured so prominently at the appraiser's office. The facts were substantially correct, and despite all Mr. Beckwith's denials it is true that he took hold of O'Connor with both hands and roughly pushed him repeatedly. Eye-witnesses of the scene are prepared to substantiate this statement if necessary. Mr. O'Connor was violently assaulted, not only physically but with a torrent of abusive language almost as effective as muscular power.

The occurrences which led up to the assault are thus related by one who saw the whole affair and knows the facts. Frank O'Connor was called to examine goods belonging to Simpson Brothers and to Brown and Webb, but was delayed because he had no porter to assist him in opening the packages. Mr. Stavert, who had just arrived from Jamaica, where he had been agent of the bank of Nova Scotia, was in the appraiser's office endeavoring to have his goods bonded through to Fredericton, where he is in future to reside as agent of the same bank. Mr. Stavert had the day before applied to Beckwith for information how he should proceed to secure his object, but the official gruffly declined to attend to him in any way till it suited his convenience, and on the day of the row he had returned, this time applying to Appraiser O'Connor. He met with more success there, and O'Connor gave him his instructions and began to examine Stavert's effects. To finish the work he desired assistance from one of the porters. Beckwith had both upstairs. The circumstances were urgent, as the express company was waiting to ship the goods, nevertheless Beckwith refused him a porter. O'Connor retired empty handed, but he went upstairs again, and once more asked for assistance, addressing himself to the porters personally. This enraged Beckwith and he roared out an order forbidding either to go with O'Connor. Losing control of himself completely he finally laid hold of his fellow-official, who was not silent, and the two were engaged in the struggle previously described. The end of the melee was that O'Connor retreated without his porter.

O'Connor at once called on collector Harrington and stated the case. In a very short time the head of the customs was in the appraiser's office investigating the occurrence. Before he left he gave orders that O'Connor should have one of the porters and he expressed himself strongly on the conduct of the appraiser.

A Fuss Over the Paid Firemen.  
HALIFAX, July 12.—The letter in last week's PROGRESS on the Halifax fire department set citizens and firemen talking, and one of the local newspapers working. On Monday, Captain Murphy, post haste, called a meeting of the officers of the U. E. C., to consider the letter, and a set of resolutions was adopted, setting forth that the company would not suddenly resign and leave the city without fire protection, no matter what action might be taken in regard to a paid department. This is not satisfactory, and shows that the talk of resignation was confined to some loud-mouthed members of the company, whose influence is by no means commensurate with their lung and tongue power. Citizens have begun to discuss the question in dead earnest, and it is quite possible that, if the question were put to vote, a majority would decline in favor of a paid department even if they were sure, as they might well be, that the present cost of \$25,000 a year would be increased to more than \$50,000. An evening paper (the Recorder), taking its cue from PROGRESS, began this week with the publication of a series of interviews, most of them with insurance men, and all in favor of a paid fire department.

Slugging is Fashionable.  
HALIFAX July 12.—A spicy story is being quietly whispered about town of the way a group of merry-makers spent Sunday night and early Monday morning. The fun ended in one of the company showing another how hard he could hit. The experiment was made upon the face of the recipient of the blow. What lends interest to the little affair is that the striker was an alderman of the city and the struck a well-known commercial traveller. "The hitting and the being hit" took place in the room of a Dentist who has his "place of torture" on Barrington Street. It was a bad way to end one week and begin another.

## FINED THREE HUNDRED.

OFFICIALS HANINGTON AND REID CONTRIBUTE THAT AMOUNT

To the Government of Canada Because the Stamps Were Short—The Mistake Occurred at Ottawa but the Receipt Was Given Here and That Settled It.

Though official positions are much sought after they are not all a bed of roses. The thorns of discipline are sometimes felt. Mr. Hanington and Mr. Reid, heads of the money order department of the post office, will likely agree with these facts. It has cost them sleepless nights and much anxiety and three hundred dollars in cool cash to realize it properly.

It all came about on account of stamps. Mr. Hanington is responsible for the stamps that came into the office. Mr. Reid takes charge of them and is responsible to Mr. Hanington.

Some time ago it was discovered by eagle-eyed clerks in the inspector's office that there was a shortage of about three hundred dollars in the stamps under charge of the postmaster. The stamps came down in packages of one hundred sheets each. One of these packages is worth three hundred dollars and it seems that one of them or its equivalent had disappeared.

Mr. Hanington should have the stamps counted as they come into the post office from Ottawa, but he does not and thereby runs a risk in case there is a leak. He has proved this by hard experiences gained when the inspector's clerk found in the packages which the postmaster had not had counted a leakage of three hundred dollars' worth.

Inspector King reported the matter to Ottawa and then there was a series of reports and counter reports and investigations and decisions. Postmaster Hanington investigated and the chief inspector came down from Ottawa and investigated. After Inspector King had sent his report to Ottawa the postmaster had a communication from headquarters and then he sent up his report of the matter, and at length there came down from Ottawa a final ultimatum. But after all from the first there is only one course to pursue, no matter where the leakage occurred, whether it was in Ottawa or in St. John, whether before or after the postmaster received them here, he had to pay for the lost stamps, and this is the reason, because he had not counted the stamps. When he received them he sent up a receipt for the amount which they were supposed to contain. It they did not contain that amount he must be responsible for the deficiency, for at headquarters they had the receipt to show for the full amount.

Had he counted the stamps and found a deficiency before sending a receipt, the head office would have been to blame, and it is stated that the clerks here believe that the head office is to blame.

Postmaster Hanington and Mr. Reid being held responsible, they had to make up the leakage and the report is that the ultimatum from their superior offices was that the postmaster must come up with two hundred dollars and Mr. Reid with one hundred dollars.

And this is not all. Another man who has charge of the stamps—Mr. Wilson, a junior clerk of the money order office, has that responsibility and henceforth he will have to count the stamps as they come in from Ottawa.

And now the question remains—what became of the stamps? were they stolen or lost, and did the leakage occur in St. John or Ottawa?

It is difficult to believe that any one would steal a lot of stamps, for he could not get rid of them without exciting suspicion. It will be remembered that one time a lot of registered letters were stolen. In some of them were postage stamps, and a young man offered postage stamps as payment for drinks at a bar. The young man learned to see the foolishness of stealing stamps.

It is difficult to answer these questions. The officials have not answered them. It was sufficient for them to know that they had a receipt from Mr. Hanington for a certain amount of stamps. He would be equally responsible, no matter if he did not receive those stamps, or if the stamps disappeared after they reached him.

MRS. BEEMAN'S VACATIONS.  
How She Spent Them, According to the Version of Mr. Beeman.

If but a small part of all the stories afloat are true, Mrs. Beeman, of Boston, will make a slight change in the programme of her summer vacation this year. Up to this time it has not been a varied one. She has lived in Boston with her devoted husband during those months of the year when the fields were not green, when the streams and riverlets of the country afforded no opportunities for the delightful canoeing pastime. But with the return of early summer she made all haste for her native home, to visit her lonely and secluded relatives upon the shores of fair Belleisle. At least this is what she told

her husband and thought he in his innocence and confidence thought was the truth. Now he has changed his mind or in the language of the people he "has had his eyes opened" and for the past week has told all the world through his legal advisers and his affidavit what he imagines his wife has been doing.

A man is at the bottom of this story and he is known well throughout the province as Mr. J. Fraser Gregory. Mr. Beeman called upon that gentleman and it is said the interview was as interesting as it was remarkable. Of course there is only Mr. Beeman's account of the conversation, for Mr. Gregory, aside from admitting that he had a chat with Mr. Beeman in which he tried to find out just what that gentleman was after, is not especially communicative upon the matter.

He admits knowing Mrs. Beeman and further than that says that he has written to her, but denies that the "little affair" ever went further than a mild flirtation.

Mr. Beeman denies this and says that he has letters sent his wife by Mr. Gregory that are sufficient to prove his case. These letters are not in evidence yet, but when the case comes before the court as it will in a few weeks it is quite likely that they will play an important part.

At any rate Mr. Beeman has separated from Mrs. Beeman and he sues Mr. Gregory for alienating her affections and for other things that he will endeavor to prove. Both he and his wife are provincialists. They came from Kings County but have been living in Boston for years, where Beeman was doing well. It is said the husband discovered his wife's secret through a lady friend in whom she confided. He says she confessed all the facts to him.

## IT WAS WORTH THE QUARTER.

The Good That An Old Man and His Friends Got at Camp Meeting.

At the camp meeting at Brown's Flats last week there appeared at the gate an old gentleman with seven or eight companions and a gripsack. He was met by the gatekeeper and a request for a fee of twenty-five cents in addition to the price of admission.

"What's the quarter for?" asked the old gentleman and his seven or eight companions.

"For your grip," answered the St. Peter of Brown's Flats.

"Then I won't take it in," said the gentleman. But his seven or eight companions, who were already within the gates, would not allow this, but worked upon the old gentleman's feelings to such an extent that he paid the quarter, and went in with the valise.

There were a good many people at Brown's Flats that day, and this good many received much good, but none left the grounds in a lighter frame of mind than the gentleman and his friends. And it was all on account of the gripsack.

That gripsack contained bottles. Those bottles contained—ask of the winds that far around with fragrance filled the air, but ask not of the gentleman and his companions, for they will give you an evasive answer.

Whether it was the invariable custom of the gatekeeper to charge extra for luggage or whether there were suspicions on his mind as to what the grip contained, and hence an unusual charge; is a question; but anyway, "Old Tom" had to pay a quarter.

## This Should Mean Dividends.

When a company appears in the opera house in this city it must count upon a certain business in order to pay even the demands of the house itself—to say nothing of the hundred and one incidentals that go to make a manager unhappy. For the benefit of those who hold opera house stock an idea of the revenue of the house, say from a two night rental, can be had from the following list of charges.

Rent of Opera House	\$125.00
Lighting	4.00
Paints	4.00
Selling tickets	6.00
Policemen	5.00
Tickets	2.00
Setting scenery	4.00
Advertising 3 inch space	21.00
	\$175.00

In other words this is an average of \$63 a night. Of course not all of this is profit. Perhaps the company does not make more than \$10 or \$12 on the advertising. They must pay a competent ticket seller a fair salary and it is fair to assume that policemen cost about what is charged for them but on the other items there should be a reasonable margin. It must be a gratification to the stockholder, to know that such prices can be had, though what the people who rent the house think is another matter.

## An Interesting and Valuable Pamphlet.

The publication of the by-laws and much other information respecting the Rural cemetery in pamphlet form is but one of many excellent moves made by the energetic directorate this year. The pamphlet is most interesting and contains a splendid map of the cemetery with the walks and paths outlined and designated. More than this it is a perfect guide book to the thousands of lots, each lot being designated and located. For this alone the publication has a distinct value. The engraving and printing were done by PROGRESS printing department.