

PROGRESS.

Board of Works 8 May 94

VOL. VI., NO. 303.

ST. JOHN, N. B., SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 1894.

PRICE FIVE CENTS.

QUEER TALE OF THE SEA.

TWO CAPTAINS TO A CRUISER IN ADMIRAL GLASGOW'S FLEET.

How There Seemed the Possibility of a Further Vexing of Lord Tupper—a Problem for the Marines and How a Complication was Avoided.

It looked for a time, this week, as though further and graver complications were to arise between the city of St. John and the marine department in respect to the corporation navy. By the diplomatic action of Admiral Glasgow, however, it is believed for the present, at least, an open rupture will be averted.

Mr. James Barber, measurer of ships, and therefore an emissary and agent of Lord Tupper, Earl of Picton, recently requested Mr. Wardroper, clerk to the St. John Lords of the Admiralty to have such formalities complied with as were necessary to inform Admiral Glasgow that Mr. Barber wanted to see him. The admiral, who is no more a stickler for official ceremony than was Lord Nelson, repaired to the custom house on receipt of the intelligence without even the escort of the uniformed crew of the corporation row boat. There he found that the weighty matter for conference concerned the new certificates of registry for the flag ship "Ouagondy" and the cruiser "Western Extension."

These vessels were registered when they were built, of course, and got their certificates then, but it would seem that the documents have been missing since 1877. They were not lost overboard in a storm, for as a wise precaution they were not carried on the vessels, as certificates usually are, but they were somewhere ashore on the day of the great fire and have never since been seen. The Lords of the Admiralty, captains and all concerned, seem to have felt that the ferry service could be as well performed without certificates as with them. Of late, however, since Lord Tupper has discovered that the route across the harbor is a "voyage," and that a ferry boat is on the same footing as a sea-going schooner, the situation has been changed. Captains who have passed examinations for competency and service have alone been permitted to risk "the perils and dangers of the seas, the Queen's enemies and fire," in navigating the corporation navy. Then has come the supposition that if either of the cruisers were blown out of their course in a storm and carried to Bermuda, Eastport or Five Fathom Hole, they might be put to serious inconvenience for the want of documents to attest their right to sail the ocean blue. So new certificates were made out.

The law requires that the name of the captain of every steamship, sailing ship, barque, brig, schooner or other vessel shall be endorsed on the certificate. Mr. Barber wanted the master's certificate of the captain of the "Ouagondy" that the necessary endorsement might be made.

"There are two captains," said Admiral Glasgow.

Mr. Barber was very much astonished. In his time he had heard many strange stories of the sea and those who sail it, but a ship with two captains was beyond the range of his credulity. He appeared to think the admiral had joined the amateur minstrels and was getting up a new gag for "Pinafore."

"How can a vessel have two captains? Who ever heard of such a thing?" he asked, as soon as his astonishment permitted him to speak.

"I tell you there are two captains to the ferry boat," replied the admiral. "They both have certificates and both are in charge when they are on duty. Capt. Nice is aboard for one part of the day and Capt. McCaffrey for the other part. There is one of the crew who has a captain's certificate as well, but I don't count him."

"All I claim is two captains, and you can't make any less any way you fix it."

"But the law says that the name of the captain shall be endorsed, and I can't put the name of two captains. It is out of the question."

"I can't help it. There are two captains to the ferryboat."

"Look here, did you yourself ever hear of such a thing as a vessel having two captains at the same time?" queried Mr. Barber as the impossibility of such a thing grew more and more glaring.

"No, I never did before, but there are two in this case; and it depends on the time of day which one is in charge."

Mr. Barber was very much perplexed. The whole machinery of the shipping department was brought to a standstill by this unparalleled fact in the history of shipping. The certificates must be completed, and yet they could not be without either a falsification of facts or a course that was plainly beyond the word of the law. Neither of these wrong courses was to be thought of for a moment. In this fearful dilemma a solemn conference was held in which the counsel of Collector Ruel was sought.

The collector, despite his long experience in shipping, had never before been called upon to deal with so strange a prob-

lem. He, too, had never heard of a ship with two captains in charge every day, nor was there the record of so remarkable a case in the archives of the public library, to which he has given so much of his attention. He agreed with Mr. Barber that the names of two captains could not be put on the back of a document where the law only provides for the existence of one captain. After a full consideration of the problem, it was suggested that one of the captains be considered as the mat.

This, however, was also out of the question. Both men were equally captains, and to deprive one of his rank might not only lead to the loss of a valued officer, but might incite the crew to a mutiny, or a strike, as the landsman might term it. Both had equal rights, and were equally good men. It would not do to degrade either and there was no official precedent for matching coppers for odd or even and the odd man out. It seemed likely that the wires to Ottawa would be kept hot with official communications to and from Lord Tupper, who had already been worried half out of his wits in trying to make the letter of the law designed for sea-going craft apply to ferries and tugboats. If they worried him much more he might call on the commander in chief to order out Captain Baxter's artillery company and settle all questions by sinking the troublesome steamers beneath the waves of the harbor. After what he has done already, nobody can predict of what he is capable.

Suddenly there was a happy thought. There could be two captains, after all. How?

Because there are two ferryboats, though only one of them runs at a time, while the other is laid up on the mud-flats for repairs. Capt. Nice could command the "Ouagondy," for instance, with Capt. McCaffrey as mate. When the "Ouagondy" was laid up, Capt. McCaffrey would command the "Western Extension," with Capt. Nice as mate. Thus each would continue to be a full fledged captain, and each would take his turn as monarch of the wheel house. Instead of two names on each certificate, each document would bear only one name.

This is understood to be the compromise by which the dignity of the respective captains is sustained and the majesty of the law vindicated. When Admiral Glasgow was interviewed on the subject, he admitted the substance of the story, but did not want to say too much about it. Then he was asked why he had not made himself captain in the first place and called the other men mates.

"Me? oh, I'm not qualified," was his response.

"But you sailed around the Horn to California in 1849, didn't you?"

"Oh, yes, I sailed around the Horn, but that doesn't count for experience when they want a captain for a ferryboat." Then he walked away, and PROGRESS fancied that, with the latest problem settled, he hummed merrily the words of that rollicking sea song: "Green to green and red to red—Perfect safety, go ahead."

Well Paid at Half a Cent.

Sheriff Sturdee has been allowed \$50 for revising the list of city electors, but whether he will take it or stick to his threat to have \$100 or nothing remains to be seen. At the committee meeting, the other day, he based his figures on the fact that he had to look at 10,000 names, and that the task was worth a cent a look. More than that, he implied that he did not value his services like those of any common man. Sheriff Sturdee seems to be a little too fresh. The work he did could be performed by any industrious man in about two days, and as no expert or professional knowledge is required, the labor would be well rewarded by the \$25 which some of the council thought he ought to be satisfied with. Having shown an undignified temper when before the committee, he ought to be well satisfied with what has been allowed him. It will be time enough for him to make a wholesale levy on the civic funds when he has an execution for that purpose. He is well paid at half a cent a look.

He Consulted The Wrong Act.

A rather good joke is told at the expense of Deputy Minister of Justice Newcombe to whom, Sir Hibbert Tupper referred the legal question depending upon the interpretation of the word "voyage." The deputy referred to the master and mates act and found voyage defined as a "passage" or "trip." It may not have occurred to him that the question came under the steamboat inspection act and not the master and mates, which is hardly applicable.

Only Two Are Eligible

An amusing paragraph is sent to PROGRESS which states that in the opinion of one of the discriminative society leaders there are but two eligible young men in this city. Out of consideration for those young gentlemen who have done nothing to wear so distinguishing a badge their names are not printed.

PUBLIC BARS FOR SURE.

NOVA SCOTIA IS TO EXPERIMENT WITH THE SCREEN LAW.

When a Man Takes a Drink Everybody Can Look Square at Him Through the Window—Naturally Enough the Men Who Drink Don't Like This.

HALIFAX, Feb. 15.—Another amendment has been made to the Nova Scotia liquor license act which will make the laws more distasteful than ever, not only to those engaged in the business but to patrons of the saloons as well. Commencing May 1st, 1895, it will be illegal to have any screen or blind in a liquor shop which will conceal from the street whatever goes on within. The interior of liquor shops is to be left visible from the street, so that the thirsty people who go in for drinks, by night or day, may be clearly seen taking their "liquid refreshment." Bartender and patron are to be alike seen by all who care to glance in as they pass by. Is such a law just or not? Eating houses are not open to the gaze of everybody; why should drinking shops be thus singled out?

This law is not popular with the liquor party and their friends, nor does it commend itself to all who are sometimes known as temperance people. Its enactment was successfully opposed in the legislative council last year, after passing the house of assembly. But this session the temperance people again introduced the measure and this time the upper chamber deemed it wise to cease opposition to the popular legislative branch.

The fact is, the temperance people of Nova Scotia are not sufficiently powerful to secure the enactment of any measure they please, designed to restrict or harass the liquor interest. There is no law they choose to propose, at an intra vires, which the Nova Scotia legislature will not readily place upon the Statute books.

Such a condition of affairs is a little remarkable when one comes to look at our legislators individually, or outside the house. In parliament, or at public meetings they are thorough-paced temperance men, but on the street, or in the hotels, they are often the warmest friends of the liquor dealer. They are his friends, at least, so far as liberal drinking and frequent indulgence are concerned. Not one-third of them are total abstainers. Two-thirds of the members of both houses take a drink whenever they can get one. Some of the members who come from "temperance" counties, who are most ready to vote for any liquor restrictive measure that comes up, and who talk as eloquently as they can in its behalf, are the very men who drink most. No one can visit the hotels or public resorts, without being shocked at this inconsistency. It is safe to say that you can go into the leading hotel bars every night in the week, when the house is not in session, resting fairly well assured you will see there this member or that, or the other who voted for the latest temperance act. They not only drink but they drink knowing that they are violating the very laws for which they voted.

There is a class of our legislators who go yet further, the men who drink shamelessly to excess. More than one notable instance will be called to mind by many of PROGRESS Halifax readers, where members have been absent for days and even weeks from the house on protracted sprees. Such has been the case this session and last. The Opposition is small in numbers in the house but it is rendered smaller yet by such occurrences, and the greater government ranks more than once have had an absentee account of the cup that incites. Surely those men, and the more moderate drinker who proposes such love to the prohibitionist by vote and speech, but such antipathy to him by his daily and nightly conduct, where he can get a "quiet snifter," are not best calculated to make effective temperance laws. But they certainly do make the most restrictive laws the constitution will allow.

The secret of it, is not that these men are so great temperance men, or that their sympathies run in that direction, but that they fear the people behind them. They have to "vote right" on this question if they are to retain the support of their constituents. The people at large want the most rigorous temperance laws they can get, and their representatives must vote that way or give place to others who will. The temperance sentiment of the country is one thing and the private temperance sentiment (and practice) of the legislators is another. It is the country that speaks. At the provincial general elections, which take place in a few weeks, a popular vote of the electors for and against prohibition will be taken. It will likely stand at least 3 to 1 for prohibition.

Where the Court Gets Its Time.

It is understood that when the supreme court is sitting Judge Tuck shows evident disapproval of the assumption of too many functions by Judge Hanington. As the latter sits near the middle there is a possibility that an outsider might take him for the chief justice. The other day, when everybody was beginning to feel hungry,

Judge Hanington pulled out his watch and remarked that it was one o'clock. Thereupon the voice of Judge Tuck was heard to chime in: "Brother Hanington, I believe it is the custom of this court to take its time from the chief justice." Judge Hanington accepted the rebuke, and an outsider remarked that it was well the court did not take its time from Judge Palmer, in which case it would have to get up pretty early in the morning.

MAY BE A NO LICENSE TOWN.

The Result of the Mayor of Halifax Making an Experiment.

HALIFAX, FEB. 15.—The mistake made by Mayor Keele and the aldermen of Halifax in not meeting on Tuesday night to grant liquor licenses, as required by law, is the talk of the town. The statute makes it imperative to hold a meeting for the purpose on the second Tuesday in February. The council had no quorum, and it is now difficult to see how Halifax can be other than a "no license town" the coming year. The cause of the trouble is that the aldermen do not read the notices sent them calling the meetings. Mayor Keele fixed the hour for 7.30 instead of the usual 8, and only one-third of the members knew it. They calculated to be on hand at five minutes after eight, a few minutes late as usual. The council rules allow not more than half an hour to wait for a quorum, and at 8 Ald. Wallace, O'Donnell, Mitchell, Hubley, Ryan, Mosher, Creighton and Hamilton were the only city fathers on hand. They were the observant chaps, who read the notice aright, though some of them, even, only were present on time by mere chance. Licenses are not legally granted the city will be out between \$10,000 and \$15,000, but the business will doubtless go on as usual, license or no license. Mayor Keele over-estimated the observant powers of his council men. He is being roundly condemned for not giving some other intimation that he had changed the hour for meeting. Between them they've got the city in a pretty fix.

The license inspectors also has to wait, and Mackays, Messervy, Banks and Fiddler are yet in the field.

RAISED HIS OWN SALARY.

Why Some of the Shareholders of an Insurance Company Grumble.

HALIFAX, Feb. 14.—The shareholders of one of the local insurance companies are kicking vigorously, so 'tis alleged, because the manager, who is also a stockholder, has seen fit to increase his own and his clerks salaries. It is said the president refused for some little time to sign the cheques for the payment of said salaries. It is related that one of the shareholders wandered into the office the other morning and accosted the manager in this wise:

Mr. —, don't you think you are paying yourself a pretty fat salary, while the shareholders are getting nothing?"

Mr. Blank endeavored to convince Mr. Shareholder that he was earning all he was getting, but the latter could not be persuaded into thinking with the manager, and made further remarks that amused the staff with the exception of the individual to whom they were particularly addressed.

A Physician's Duty to the Public.

Is a physician forced to answer a summons at night or not? This question has presented itself to a number of people before this but it appealed with special force to two of the employees of the night gang of James Pender and Co. a few nights ago. The men take their lunch at midnight and in skylarking around the building during a few spare minutes afterward one of them fell into a deep trench and cut his head and face badly. A companion workman started with him at once for a physician but on their way they tried to get into a convenient drug store. The druggist answered the call but when he learned the nature of the case said that he could do nothing except give them a package of plaster. He advised them to seek a physician. They did so and first rousing him by the night bell explained through the speaking tube what was wanted. He advised them to go to the police station as he could not attend to the case. They did not take his advice and were more fortunate in their next trial where the wound was dressed. The men were indignant that an urgent call for treatment should result in their being told to go to the police station and they ask the pertinent question. Is a physician compelled to answer a call or not?

Very Cold at Sussex.

Some of the St. John people were inclined to doubt the published statement that the thermometer was as low as 40 below zero at Sussex last Wednesday, but a reliable resident of the place tells PROGRESS that it must have been fully that cold. He puts in evidence the statement that a fellow resident went into a certain back shop to get some liquid fuel in a bottle, but came out carrying something in a paper bag. The Scott Act whiskey had frozen solid, and purchasers were carrying it away in chunks. And yet there are those who claim it is a fiery beverage, but that is because they have never sampled the state of Maine goods.

HANFORD ESTATE FACTS.

AS PRESENTED IN AFFIDAVITS BEFORE THE COURT.

Mr. Dixon Acknowledges his Indebtedness the Extent of Some \$2,062 to the Misses Hanford but Claims an Offset in the Same of a Note of G. Herbert Lee's.

A paragraph in PROGRESS last week concerning Mr. Dixon and the Hanford estate seemed to give his view of the case. It is only right that the facts and figures of the plaintiffs should also be presented. This is done best by a summary of the affidavits read by the counsel for Mrs. and the Misses Hanford before the supreme court.

In her statement Mrs. Hanford says that about the year 1885 she retained M. B. Dixon to look after certain real estate in the city and collect the rent, giving him authority at the same time to dispose of the real estate in question. This, she was informed was done and \$1,500 realized from the sale, of which \$1,000 was invested and \$500, the balance, was in the bank. Of this amount she received at various times \$145, which she states was the only sum she ever received from Dixon from the sale. She also says that Mr. Dixon never rendered her an account of the \$1,500 or of his charges in connection with the sale of the property; that until the summer of the past year she had perfect confidence in him but then in consequence of certain information she received, she retained Mr. I. Allen Jack to look after her interests.

Mr. I. Allen Jack's affidavit confirmed that of Mrs. Hanford's in regard to retaining him and gave particulars of his unsuccessful efforts to obtain a settlement from Dixon. He said further that Mr. Dixon acknowledged owing Mrs. Hanford but that he had large charges to make for his services in connexion with the sale of the property that would reduce the balance. Still he had not been able to get any settlement from Mr. Dixon.

There is another estate, that of the Misses Hanford to whom Mr. Dixon acknowledges that he is indebted in the sum of \$2062.43. On the 4th of Sept. Mr. Jack asked Mr. Dixon again for a settlement of their account, and called his attention to the fact that they were unable to pay their taxes before October 1st, and obtain the benefit of the discount for lack of funds.

The account of Mr. Dixon with the Misses Hanford shows that two city debentures amounting to \$3,100 fell due in June 1892, and were paid to him. In July 1st 1893, the contra account of Mr. Dixon for monies, interest paid them and his charges amounted to \$1037.57, leaving a balance due the Misses Hanford of 2062.43 according to his own accounting.

Of this amount \$160 were paid in two different amounts since the account was presented, which would reduce the indebtedness of Mr. Dixon to \$1,902.43. It is understood that he claims another offset in the shape of a note of Mrs. Drury's endorsed by G. Herbert Lee, which he says will reduce the amount to something like \$900. No mention is made of this in his account, which was rendered to the first of July.

WHAT ABOUT THAT WATCH?

The Exciting Experience of a Citizen Who Believed Too Much.

"What about that watch?" was the question put to a certain citizen, the other day. The answer received was sharp and abrupt, and later the following little story was told. Among the many artisans of whom this city can boast, one particularly is quite well known by the many useful little jobs he can do in machinery and repairing jewelry. Not many days ago he received a call from a gentleman who left with him a watch to be repaired. A few evenings later events took another turn—a number of gentlemen while in conversation in a certain well known resort were interrupted in their remarks by one of their number with the startling announcement that the watch mender had skipped out and had gone to New York. Consternation followed.

"Why, he has my gun which cost nothing less than \$14," exclaimed one. "Yes, and he has a ring of mine," quickly responded another. "That is nothing," came from the corner from an individual who up to this time, had been sitting apart from the others with a crest fallen countenance, "only a day or two ago I let him have my watch to repair and that watch, it cost me \$25."

Heads went together and earnest consultation followed. "I shall publish this in all the New York papers," exclaimed the loser of the watch. "That will do no good," came from an interested party. "He was our friend, and there is no sense in trying to starve the runaway." Just here an outsider remarked that he felt sure the dearly beloved friend was at that moment in Fredericton. This news did much to encourage the party, and it was then decided that a lawyer should be found and a warrant issued.

The attempt to find a legal friend was immediately undertaken, but at such a late

hour, the search was long and fruitless. At length a friend, a curler, passed along and informed the gentleman that he intended visiting Fredericton in the morning, and if he could be of any assistance he would be only too happy to offer his services. So it was arranged that on the arrival of the curler in Fredericton he should telegraph to St. John and let it be known whether their man was to be found. The next morning the telegraph wire brought the message, "He is here, leaves for New York this evening." This was good news and almost immediately an answer was sent back, telling the curler to collect the articles or otherwise arrest the fugitive. Here the story ends, and up to the time of going to press nothing had been returned and no arrest had been made.

It may be added that the watch repairer knows nothing of the serious charges against him. He is a highly respected citizen, who went to the capital on business and had no intention of visiting the states. The gentlemen who were so much concerned as to their belongings have little to say on the subject, but they have come to the conclusion that a joke's a joke. The public are warned, however, if they appreciate the good things in this world and have a desire to prolong this life, never to say, "What about that watch?" to a certain individual in this city.

An Old Time Advertising Incident.

Speaking of advertising a few days ago, one of the veteran printers and publishers of the city, Alderman R. R. Barnes, indulged in a reminiscence that is curious enough to tell again. It was many years ago before newspapers came out more than once a week and when exciting events frequently lost their interest before they found their way into the journals of the day. One morning a young clerk in one of the banks went hurriedly into Barnes printing office and said he had just lost £50 on the street. It meant a good deal to him, a junior, whether an honest or a dishonest person found the money, and he wanted a poster printed at once giving the particulars of the loss. Knowing how much it meant to him the firm rushed the poster. The latter returned in a very few minutes with all his bills but one. It appears that just as he was putting up the flaring "Lost" upon the usual bill boards another boy from the office of Chubb & Co. was pasting an equally prominent "Found" right alongside of him. The £50 had been picked up on the street by a good citizen who lost no time in giving notice of the fact.

Prospects of More Trouble.

Thursday's snowstorm may bring more trouble to the aldermen individually, if they have neglected to shovel the snow from their sidewalks. The case of Ald. Chesley, who made a loud-voiced protest against being summoned before the police court for his negligence, has not yet been settled, and in the meantime Ald. John Nickerson is among the citizens reported. Ald. Kelly acknowledged the force of the law by trying to do his own shovelling, and as a result has got a cold, which is not much of an improvement on a summons from the magistrate.

Alderman Lewis Got Mad.

At Thursday's council Ald. Lewis concluded one of his speeches with uplifted arm an oratorical wave of the hand. Just as he was sitting down Ald. Baxter called out, "Wait a moment, Ald. Lewis," and the latter paused. "I wanted to ask you to preserve that attitude for a few minutes until the Telegraph artist can be sent for," Ald. Baxter continued. Then Ald. Lewis got mad and vowed he would not take such an insult from any man, after after which the regular order of business was resumed.

He Will Retain His Situation.

The special committee appointed at the regular meeting of the Union Club last Monday to investigate the charges made by a member against one of the employees, which was referred to in PROGRESS last week, met with the committee of management, and found that there was not sufficient evidence to warrant the committee acceding to the request that the employee be dismissed from the club. The member has therefore placed himself in a somewhat unenviable position.

Qualified the Expression.

At Thursday's session of the common council, Ald. Vincent waxed into a mighty rage over the money that was constantly required for the repair of "some infernal old wharf." Ald. Lockhart mildly renounced against such an assertion, whereupon Ald. Vincent said he would withdraw his assertion so far as to omit the word "infernal," and would content himself by simply saying "old wharf." With this qualification he stood by the principle asserted.

In a Betting Mood.

His worship the Mayor is not inclined to think seriously of the candidature of Mr. George Robertson as a Tax Reduction candidate and report says he is willing to back up his opinion, that if he offers he cannot be elected. Two to one were the odds mentioned.