

MACKASSAY NOT IN IT.

HALIFAX CHOOSES ANOTHER MAN AS LICENSE INSPECTOR.

Seven Years of a Law That Has Not Been Enforced—How the Change Was Made—Why Some of the Aldermen Cast Their Votes as They Did.

HALIFAX, Feb. 22.—John A. Mackassay as license inspector of Halifax, is no more. He was beaten on the fourth ballot of the city council by H. H. Banks the votes standing 9 to 6. To Progress' independent attitude, in ventilating "Mackassay's methods" is due very much of the credit for bringing about the change.

This city has long been "run" in diverse ways by the liquor interest. That power practically controlled it. Both political parties believe themselves to be under its sway. The liquor influence could rule the candidates for the provincial and federal elections, or it could at least veto any proposed nomination. Most of the wards of the city have been under the thumb of the liquor men. Till very recently the liquor interest has had undisputed control of city politics. Few aldermen could be elected unless acceptable to the liquor men. But within a few years the people have asserted themselves, and now the city's affairs are managed more largely by citizens, and not by any one interested class. That fact was never shown more clearly than in the defeat of John A. Mackassay for the liquor inspectorship. He was in his position as the representative of the liquor interest, first, last and always.

When the license law was passed by the local legislature in 1886, it was designed to be practically prohibitory. It was, of course, a law not acceptable to the people affected by it in their pocket; nor, truth to tell, was it favorably received by a host of others. It may not, indeed, be a wise law. But it was law and should have been enforced by a law-abiding people. Its enemies could not prevent its passage nor repeal it, so they determined to do the next best thing—make sure that it should prove futile in its effects. The law was like a locomotive fully equipped for work, but its opponents saw to it that in Halifax it should be placed in charge of an engineer who would take good care never to open the throttle valve and set the machine in motion. It should not be enforced. A man was made license inspector who would do nothing but draw the salary. That man was found in John A. Mackassay and for all these seven years of his inspectorship he has kept the valve closed and the law has been worse than a dead letter.

The Halifax newspapers were afraid to utter a word. Like the city government itself they were subservient to the all-powerful interest. Progress was the one live paper which, with its wide circulation and refreshing fearlessness, wielded an immense influence on the side of law observance, and it, more than any other instrument, has the credit of helping to right a palpable wrong.

The scene at the city council meeting the night of the election is one not easily forgotten. The chamber was crowded. Jammed between a dive-keeper on one side and a respect be hotel-keeper on the other, with a temperance man in front, Progress correspondent stood out the election. It is interesting to see the countenances of the aldermen as they vote on some questions, but the crush made it impossible to get a good look at them, except occasionally, and he had to be satisfied with hearing them speak. For a day or two previous to the election the liquor dealers had given up hope of Mackassay's election, and realized that only by accident could he be successful. There are 130 licensed establishments in this city, and there was talk of a fund to secure the election of their man. \$5,000 could easily have been raised, but the men who were expected to vote against Mackassay were dangerous men to approach with money, and so far as known there was no attempt to do so. The old license inspector on the fourth ballot managed only to get one-third of the council. It was a knock-down blow.

But the respectable liquor dealers surely had some cause to be pleased at his defeat. Mackassay, by his administration of the law, and his protection of the low dives, had brought the respectable dealers into disrepute, for they had to shoulder a part of the responsibility for their continued existence, and good and bad dealers were placed on the same plane. Nevertheless, those respectable dealers and their friends stuck to Mackassay to the last, with a fidelity worthy of a better cause.

In voting for Mackassay six aldermen voted in opposition to a report to the council which showed him to be a thoroughly incompetent official. That report stated that during the period of six months he had received \$10,000 of public money without making a single entry of it in the books of his office. Money was disbursed in the same loose way, and he sometimes paid himself his salary in advance. It would be supposed that not a man who voted for a report making statements of that kind would vote to keep the offender in his position, but they did, and their conduct is inexplicable. It reminds one of that voluntary Tuscan punishment. Progress never imputes motives and in this case is only recording some of the things people are thinking and saying.

One of the six aldermen had promised to vote for Fidler, but at the last moment he was whipped into line through political influences. Two others voted for him because he belonged to the same political party, although one of them had time and time again pronounced him to be unworthy of the office. The fourth man who voted for Mackassay had declared that he "hoped to—" he would not be elected but he succumbed to "family influence" and voted. The fifth voted on the "me too" principle when one alderman pulls the string the other dances, and when one votes yea the other invariably responds "me too." In regard to the former aldermen while his hope is fulfilled, and Mackassay is not elected, the latter is now rather ashamed for allowing himself to become a cat's paw in this matter. The sixth and last vote that attracts attention is that of a south end alderman who professes to belong to the "better element," although he too often votes with the other side. He is a small edition of "me too." The most charitable explanation of this man's conduct in the Mackassay matter is that he wished to hold the votes of liquor men for his business partner who represents the county at Ottawa. The chances are he will find that one vote thus saved may mean five lost.

There are various rumors why some of the aldermen voted against Mackassay, it is true. One south end alderman confirmed his reputation for astuteness (?) by posing as the solitary supporter of a third candidate in order that he need not commit himself to either side. He has a faculty of knowing how not to do a thing, and he may learn that in trying to please everybody he succeeds in pleasing none.

It remains to be seen what kind of a man H. H. Banks is. He makes even a pretence of enforcing the law he will be an improvement over his predecessor. If he merely tries to stop Sunday selling, selling to minors and after hours, selling to already intoxicated people, he will give considerable satisfaction. It won't take long to find out what he is.

THEY NEVER ARE HARD UP.

Hundreds of Millions Controlled by the Astors and Vanderbilts.

A careful estimate of the wealth of the Astors puts it at \$200,000,000, and this makes the family the richest in the United States. What is more, the wealth of the Astors is in such shape that it cannot but increase for the reason that it is gilt-edged New York city real estate, some of which, according to the Washington Star, has within the past ten years increased in value 700 per cent. and is still appreciating. The policy of the Astors has always been to buy real estate on the lines along which New York is now extending and hold it for a rise, rarely selling, however, but building and renting instead. The result is that the Astor properties are in valuable lands, in brick, iron, stone and mortar instead of in fluctuating stocks and bonds, the fixed value of which is always uncertain. As a family the Vanderbilts stand next to the Astors in the matter of wealth, and their riches must be considered in the aggregate and in common, since the individual fortunes are pooled, so to speak. You will often see Cornelius Vanderbilt, the present head of the house, quoted as being worth \$200,000,000. Of course he is not worth any such amount. Cornelius has most of the Vanderbilt millions, but those who know say that he is personally not worth above \$80,000,000, if as much.

It must be remembered that the late Wm. H. Vanderbilt had a large family to divide his millions among, and so the shares in the end were not so large as some people thought them. Besides there is a disposition on the part of the calculators who love big figures to give the Vanderbilts credit for owning out-right their great railroad system, when, as a matter of fact, thousands of stockholders share in the ownership.

Some Cures.

Mrs. R. Staples, wife of Rainford Staples, Dry Goods merchant of St. Mary's, York Co., N. B., was cured of a tumor by medicine only in May 1893, by Dr. Esmond of Houlton, Me. Mrs. Staples was sick with this tumor for three years and employed the best doctors of Fredericton, but got no help. Mrs. Thomas Young, of Houlton, Me., was cured of cancer in the breast with medicine alone. The knife was not used in either of the above cases. Within the past year Dr. Esmond of Houlton, Me., has cured more than a dozen cases of cancer and tumor with medicine alone.

In the Front Rank for 1894.

Messrs. Daniel & Robertson announce the opening of a lot of beautiful Wool Challies, French Cambrics, Zephyr Gingham, Printed Lawns etc., for early spring trade—this firm enjoys the reputation of always showing the very newest productions in the market, and buy in such quantities that they get many designs confined to them exclusively.

Where it Was Deficient.

A visitor to a museum saw a man standing before the bust of a woman in a collection of statuary.

The woman was represented in the act of coiling her hair, and as the visitor came up the Jerseyman was saying to himself: "No, that ain't true to nature; she ain't got her mouth full of hairpins."

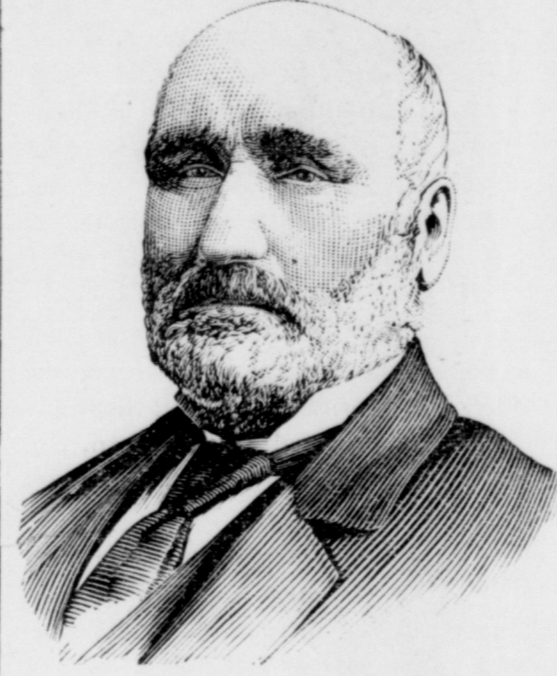
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HE WAS A GOOD CITIZEN.

Some of the Personal Characteristics of the Late Mr. John Tapley.

The life of the late John Tapley should be an incentive to every young man who desires to leave the world with hundreds of friends and no enemies, and with a record whose brightness time can never dim. He came from one of the river counties to this city at a time when naught but difficulties and hardships and privations were to be met with, and by his industry and sterling integrity—"John Tapley's word is as good as his bond," was a common saying—built up a business that is known far and wide. In this he had most capable lieutenants in his brothers Archibald and Daniel, whom he admitted into partnership a few years after the establishment of the business. The deceased was a most charitable man, giving right and left unostentatiously, and often laying himself open to impostors. When this latter fact would be mentioned to him he would smile deprecatingly and remark, "O, what is the use? These things will always work themselves out right, in the end." Instances are not wanting where those, who at one time had done him injury



to further their own ends, had applied to Mr. Tapley for assistance, and they were never known to leave empty-handed. He was extremely charitable to the weaknesses and foibles of others and would always meet aspersions cast upon the character or actions of others with the remark, "It is not fair to judge without thoroughly understanding the position in which they were placed."

The love and appreciation of humor—was strongly developed in the late Mr. Tapley, and many a pleasant evening has been passed by his friends at his glibly freer, listening to the voice, now stilled forever, reading of Little Nell, or Mollie, or of something in a lighter vein from some of the masters of wit. And although extremely witty in his own speech, he was never known to utter or enjoy a witticism that bordered upon the risqué. Dickens was his favorite author and he loved to dwell upon the many quaint characters drawn by the English novelist. In 1872 he visited England in company with Mr. Alex. Gibson and while in London made himself familiar with many of the localities immortalized by Dickens. Although not a great lover of poetry, he read much of the "popular" verse of the day and often expressed his admiration for the work of Bret Harte and James Whitcomb Riley. His interest in church matters was deep and earnest, but he never "paraded his religion," preferring to let his daily conduct, both on the street and in the privacy of the domestic circle, pronounce his views of a christian life. To his family he was always loving and tender, overlooking their shortcomings and leaving no stone unturned in his efforts to minister to their comforts, and to Mrs. Tapley and her children Progress extends its sincere sympathy in their hour of trial.

Years ago Mr. Tapley, assisted by his neighbors, organized a dramatic club and in the old Temperance Hall at Indian town the amateur historians delighted large crowds of their fellow-townsmen during the winter months, and it was intensely amusing to hear the deceased recite, in after years, the trials and humors incident to the making of costumes and rehearsing the old-time plays of that period. Mr. Tapley was very averse to controversy, and to avoid contention has more than once submitted to circumstances the justice of which was manifestly upon his own side.

All through his life he was an intensely temperate man in all things and his chief vice was an ardent love for a quiet after-dinner smoke. But it is all over now. The place that knew him once and rang with his hearty laugh now see his kindly face no more and the world moves on as of yore, but it is a world, we deem, that is better and brighter for the pilgrimage through it of John Tapley.

Delineator for April.

"THE DELINEATOR" for APRIL is the second of the "Great Spring Numbers," and has many special features in addition to the usually fine display of attractive styles. Prominence is given to bicycling in an illustrated article which describes how to ride one and what to wear, and also in a full page of figures in bicycling costumes and an original piece of music entitled the cyclist's march. There is a great variety of other reading and the illustrated articles on netting, tatting, knitting, crocheting, etc., are all fascinating as usual to the lover of fancy work. The subscription price of THE DELINEATOR is \$1.00 a year. Single copies, 15 cents. Address orders to THE DELINEATOR Publishing Co. (Ltd.), 33 Richmond Street West, Toronto, Ont.

Proportion of the Sexes.

Over the whole world the proportion of the sexes is about equal; but in separate parts of the world it varies greatly. For instance, in the United States there are ninety-eight women to every 100 men; in Europe there are rather more than 100 women to 100 men. Canada has 95 women

to 100 men. In uncivilized countries the men are believed largely to outnumber the women, this on account of the fact that more men are needed to carry on the wars in which such people are constantly engaged, and because of the rougher ways of living. But so long as there can be no census of Africa and Asia, so long statisticians can only guess at the proportion of the two sexes.

CHARMING LENTEN LUNCHEONS.

At Which the Decorations of Lilies and Fish Dishes Are Served.

Lenten luncheons are now the fad. Bright roses are replaced by purple orchids and violets. If the damask is snowy white the meat tray and mat can be embroidered in purple tints of the morning glory, so that the whole affair is a symphony of purple and white. Small lamps with purple shades are effective and tender in treatment, while if the lamps themselves are of cut or fine pressed glass the brilliancy is doubled by this excellent method.

The china should be white, with a tiny purple flower or bud in the sombre tones of this delicate color. The menu cards can be bought of silver or lavender and the guests' names painted in subdued water colour tints of a deeper shade. At each cover there can be a pretty lavender bag which holds a handkerchief with a deep lavender border, and to the ribbons used for drawing it up can be fastened a small bunch of violets.

At these luncheons fish and oysters are served. Oysters salad. Any sweets will do as a finisher. Ice cream can be served with small cakes. Wine, either sherry or claret, or both can be poured through the courses. Black coffee, with crackers and cheese, will quite complete this pretty function—New York Herald.

Why the Donkey Brayed.

Not long ago at a social gathering at the house of an intimate friend, a certain English bishop was jocularly invited by his hostess to sing. He resolutely declined, and said that the following incident would sufficiently indicate what were his talents in the realm of music.

He had once journeyed through Palestine in company with a very close acquaintance; and one evening after he and his friend, who occupied the tent with him, had retired to rest, the bishop began humming a tune of the olden time, with plenty of run and repetition. His companion joined in, and the two soon started a verse of a familiar hymn. But before the verse was finished a donkey just outside the tent brayed as only a donkey of the East can bray, and gave vent to the noise with the utmost extent of the lung-power that he possessed.

While the hills of Judaea were sending back the echoes of this most extraordinary and untimely performance of the interrupting quadruped, the Arab dragoon put his head inside of the tent, and apologising for the donkey, said— "Ha! you sing one tune he think he know!"

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