

# PROGRESS.

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PRICE FIVE CENTS

## IT LOOKS LIKE BOODLE.

HALIFAX'S CITY COUNCIL EVIDENTLY NOT A REFORM ONE.

They did not find themselves to accept the lowest tender, and they did not accept it—it is charged that a deal has been made.

HALIFAX, March 21.—It looks much like boodling which exists among a section of the aldermen in the Halifax City Council? There is something at work which looks very much as if disgracefully wrong influences were being used. Some time ago the city advertised for granite crushing and other stone needed for street work the coming season. Tenders were publicly asked for, and offers were regularly sent in by a number of competitors for the contract. The mayor as a member of the works department, sent a ratification to the council favoring a tender sent in by Kline, a well known local quarry man. His worship did this against the opinion of City Engineer Doane, and despite the fact that Kline's tender was all the way from \$600 to \$1,200 higher than the offer of H. Sorette, of Shelburne, another first-class quarry owner. It was shown that if there was any difference in quality of material, the stone offered by Sorette was superior to Kline's. Aldermen Stewart, Hamilton, Redden, Morrow, Dennis, and one or two others, did what they could in the council to have the contract given to the lowest tender. They figured out the tenders and showed that Sorette's was \$1,200 lower than Kline's, and it was stated that the Shelburne granite was superior for the purpose required.

Yet the mayor was obdurate. He and such men in the council as Alderman McFritche and his comrades tried to show that the difference in favor of Sorette was only about \$500, and they made a great cry that the city's money should be kept in the city, even if Sorette's stone was better and if his price was lower. So the mayor's majority voted the contract to Kline. Ald. Morrow moved a reconsideration, but again the advocates of giving the contract to the lowest tender, and the best material, were voted down. Thus ends the first lesson.

The second is just what might be expected as a sequel to such conduct. A couple of months go by, and the "gold-blooded" incident is half forgotten. This week it begins to be whispered about that Kline has sold out his fat contract with the city to Sorette, and that after all Halifax taxpayers will be called upon to pay the price to the outside firm. A deal has been made.

Sorette will get Kline's high price, whereas he was willing and anxious, in the first instance, to obtain the contract at figures estimated even by the mayor to be \$500 lower than Kline's, and by the friends of honesty and fair play as between taxpayers and contractors, at \$1,200 below Kline's.

Sorette is a reliable man. His quarries are second to none and his offer to the city was the lowest made. What will any reasonable man think of a mayor and majority of aldermen who vote needlessly to give away possibly \$1,200, and certainly \$500 of the people's taxes to a contractor, on the flimsy plea that he is a local man, while in the final heat they see the outside man holding the contract at the highest figures.

It surely is a good thing for the city that a mayor who makes such a thing possible, and aldermen who support him, are about to bid civic affairs good-bye. Tax-payers are sure of the mayor's farewell, and if the electors give those aldermen of his way of thinking their quietest next April they will indeed do well.

Where Suicides Were Buried.

HALIFAX, March 25.—Residents of the west-end of this city, and particular of Robie street and Jubilee road, will be interested in knowing that at the corner of Robie street and Jubilee road was the place where in ancient times the authorities in Halifax buried suicides. The two roads crossed here in orthodox fashion, and the interment took place long before people had penetrated that far into the then "wilderness." The interments were made on the south-west corner of the Camp Hill, opposite what was known as "Farmer King's place." The bodies of several suicides were buried there, military and civilian. The soldiers now frequently use Camp Hill for practice in making entrenchments and throwing up earthworks. They have not yet been engaged upon this south-west corner, but if they should in the future, there is little doubt something would be unearthed which might be of considerable interest to the antiquarian.

A Hard Man to Beat.

HALIFAX, March 21.—Mayor Keeffe is a hard man to beat. He generally proves himself too much for the aldermen. Here is an instance of his spryness. A year ago the board of works was abolished and it was thought that with the board also went the board's allowance of \$1,000 per annum. But not so thought Mayor Keeffe, who seems to have argued that because he per-

forms a share of the work of the old board, he must draw the whole of the pay. Accordingly, as PROGRESS readers know, a couple of months ago he quietly drew \$500, the half year's allowance. The publicity given that transaction by this paper caused the matter to be brought up in the City Council, and a resolution was moved by Alderman Dennis that the city officials be instructed to draw no other warrant for the Mayor, on this board of works allowance account, without the authority of the council. This ought to have settled the matter, but it didn't. The resolution went "on the order paper" or some other loophole of escape was found, and the next heard of it was that Mayor Keeffe had drawn another \$250. So his worship is now sure of \$750 at least on board of works account, and he has his \$1,000 pay as mayor besides. It's hard to get ahead of Mayor Keeffe!

MUCH DIFFERENCE OF OPINION

As to Who are the Richest Men in St. John and Halifax.

The lists of wealthy men of St. John and Halifax contained in last Saturday's PROGRESS were much talked about and various opinions were expressed upon them. The variety of ideas of the wealth of certain men was expressed in the wide range of estimates that are placed upon the amount of their possessions.

The general opinion seemed to be that the Halifax figures were placed rather high and the St. John figures very low. The list of the sister town gave the names of 123 persons whose wealth aggregated \$11,865,000. The St. John list gave 60 names with a total wealth of \$6,000,000. There are, however, probably a dozen names that could be added to the category, including Mr. R. B. Emmerson, Mr. W. S. Fisher and Senator Dever, whose possessions would be placed at \$60,000 each.

Some thought that the fortunes of Simson Jones, Wallace Turnbull, the Taylor brothers and W. H. Murray were placed away below their proper amounts. They were at least very conservative estimates. The Messrs. Taylor are said by some men who are acquainted with their business to have at least \$150,000 each. Mr. W. H. Murray is placed by some among the very richest men in the province and he is said to own some large tracts of valuable timber lands. The popular idea of the fortunes of Messrs. Jones and Turnbull places them each at at least half a million. Many believe that a cool million might be placed opposite the name of Dr. Walker. They estimated that his wealth increases about \$30,000 every year. His money is placed so that he cannot lose any and it has been increasing rapidly for some years.

A gentleman who is very well acquainted with the financial position of St. John and Halifax expressed his opinion on the lists. He thought that the St. John list was a very conservative one while the Halifax list was somewhat inflated. He named several of the men who were over-estimated, and the figures, he thought, were considerably above what they ought to be.

Halifax has more wealthy men than St. John but the disparity between the wealth of the two cities is not as great as it once was. Many large estates in Halifax have been divided among the heirs, many of them being English. The whole of one large estate, for instance, went to England.

In St. John there has been a steady increase in wealth since the fire, he said. The wholesale business of the city has been advancing and the city commands the trade of the maritime provinces. Comparisons are odious but he drew attention to the fact that there are firms in the city which do as much business as any two firms in the neighboring city. Among these firms are Manchester, Robinson & Allison, in wholesale dry goods; W. H. Thorne & Co., in hardware, and Merritt Bros. and Hall & Fairweather in wholesale flour, tea, and grocery business.

Mr. Cornwall's Bicycle Agencies.

The bicycle agencies secured by Mr. Ira Cornwall are surely among the best that can be had. The English Beeston-Humber wheel is easily acknowledged the peer of any that is built, while the Canadian manufacturers have so improved their product that they take a front rank without difficulty. Mr. Cornwall has received his first consignment of wheels this week and while all his styles and varieties have not arrived, still he can show some cycles that are really remarkable value.

A D. A. R. Folder.

PROGRESS has received one of the handsomest railway folders yet published in these provinces from general passenger agent Giffkins of the Dominion Atlantic railway. It contains much valuable information regarding the valley, its attractions and railway routes. The "Land of Evangeline route" is not behind in anything pertaining to a first class railway and its advertising literature is equal to any ever sent out.

Burgains in Wall Paper at McArthur's 90 King St.

## NOT ONE CENT OF DEBT.

ON ANY OF ST. JOHN'S CATHOLIC CHURCHES OR INSTITUTIONS.

Bishop Sweeney's Thirty-five Years as Bishop of the Diocese Show Him to Have Wonderful Executive and Financial Ability—His Lordship's Many Splendid Traits.

On the fifteenth of April his lordship Bishop Sweeney will have reached the thirty-fifth milestone in his career as bishop of the diocese. On that date, 1860, he was consecrated and assumed the duties, responsibilities and honors of that position.

That he has fulfilled those duties with honor to himself and with substantial benefit to those under his charge no one can gainsay. The catholic body can now boast that there is not a cent of debt on any of the churches or institutions in the city and this despite the fact that they possess a large amount of valuable property here and that in recent years several new institutions and churches were founded.

He has proved himself to be a man with wonderful executive ability and an admirable financier. He has raised an immense amount of money during this thirty-five years and he has done it without his people feeling any undue pressure. Debts have been wiped off and buildings erected without their knowing how much they were doing. They are chiefly poor people and it has been the many small amounts that have made the big totals.

Progress has been giving some information respecting the churches and charities of the city and the amounts that are expended to maintain the various institutions about here. This week some additional material was sought respecting those of the Roman catholic body and Father Casey of the cathedral parish supplied some interesting details on the subject.

Since Bishop Sweeney came into the diocese two churches and three benevolent institutions have been established and a large amount of debt has been wiped off. The churches are St. Peter's on Douglas avenue, built about ten years ago, and Holy Trinity, on Rockland road, built about three years ago. The benevolent institutions are the Industrial school at Silver Falls, the Cliff street convent and orphan asylum and the Home for Aged Women. The cathedral cost \$230,000 and when he came into the bishopric there was a heavy debt upon it which he liquidated.

The Roman catholic church in this city has \$500,000 or \$600,000 worth of property, and the great part of the money that has created this was raised by the bishop. The property includes the cathedral, bishop's house, convent, Cliff street orphan asylum, the convent of the Sacred Heart, St. Patrick's industrial school, Mater Misericordia Home, St. John the Baptist church and parsonage, St. Peter's church and parsonage, Holy Trinity church and parsonage, and the Carleton church and convent.

The four chief institutions for charitable work in the denomination here are the Home for Aged Women, the Boy's Industrial school, the Girls' Orphan Asylum and the St. Vincent de Paul society.

The Home for Aged Women was practically built by the bishop half a dozen years ago. It costs \$30,000 and of this only \$5000 was contributed. He supplied the remainder himself. There are fifty old women in the home being cared for by the denomination.

There are about eighty boys in St. Patrick's industrial school or the boys' orphan asylum at Silver Falls. This is one feature in well known industrial undertaking of the bishop. His idea was to have the poor boys of the city in agricultural pursuits, and thus counteract the too pronounced tendency of population to go from the country to the city. He founded the farming village of Johnville, in Carleton county, some years ago, sending a couple of hundred families there. The boys at the industrial school are trained in farming besides being instructed in regular school work, and are prepared for being placed on farms.

Both the boys' and girls' orphan asylum are conducted by the sisters of charity. The girls' asylum is in the Cliff street convent building. There are about eighty girls there. Arrangements are made so that the children may not be subservient to the whim of their guardians and be taken out when ever they want them. When they are put in the home they go there permanently.

The St. Vincent de Paul society is organized for relief work and in this city it is pretty nearly as old as the Cathedral. It is the best organized society for relief work in the city and in fact the Roman catholics are the only denomination that have really good organization for this purpose. The city is divided for the work into three parishes and in each parish there is a society. They are the Cathedral parish, North end and Lower Cove. Each parish is subdivided into districts, for instance in the Cathedral parish there are about ten of these. Certain members of the societies look

after each district and make weekly trips of visitation to all the poor catholics within their territory. In the cathedral parish there are about forty who devote a portion of their time to the work of the society in this way. By this thorough system fraud is prevented and when a case of destitution occurs it is immediately known about. Only the deserving poor are helped and shiftlessness or drunkenness are not encouraged. During the course of a winter about forty families received relief from the society in the Cathedral parish in the way of food, fuel and clothing, and in the other two societies together probably about the same number.

Bringing the totals altogether probably over three hundred are supported wholly or in part by the charitable institutions and societies of the Roman catholic church in this city.

DR. GRAY BOBS UP AGAIN.

And Wanted to Give Evidence at the King Mill Inquest.

Inquests at Fairville and vicinity have not been characterized by the dignity and moderation that should prevail in the presence of death. At the time of the South Bay explosion people will remember Coroner Robinson's eagerness to conduct the inquest and the result thereof at the inquest upon the body of young Branton at Fairville last fall there was an unpleasant altercation between Dr. Gray and officer Hennessy.

Again at the inquest upon the body of Wellington Smith at Kingsville on Wednesday morning Dr. Gray figured in an unpleasant scene. Dr. Gray was the first physician to arrive on the scene when the disaster occurred there. But it was not known at first that young Smith had been killed, and the doctor had gone away again before the body had been found. Dr. Matthew MacFarland was the next man to arrive and he examined the body.

When the inquest was about opening Dr. Gray drove up and entered the room. Coroner Robinson was just then in the act of swearing Dr. MacFarland. He pushed forward and took hold of the testament. The coroner was rather surprised and stated that Dr. Gray had not been summoned. The latter considered that he had a right to give testimony. "We can call you later," said the coroner, "you might come in again in quarter of an hour." The members of the jury went further and said they did not want him at all.

The doctor took the hint and retired but he looked somewhat angry and as he went out he muttered, "Some more fine work." No doubt he blamed his opponent, Officer Hennessy, though in this case the officer had nothing to do with it.

Dr. Gray did not return and his evidence was not taken. The court and those present did not seem to want his evidence. The only reason that can be assigned for the physician's haste was the fee of four dollars. Out of respect to the solemnity of such occasions such things might very well be forgotten.

A BUILDING IN THE AIR.

An Even More Terrible Explosion than That of Wednesday.

The terrible boiler explosion on Wednesday last, by which a life was lost, recalled an explosion to one of St. John's inhabitants that he witnessed at Lowell twenty years ago.

"I was sitting in the office of J. C. Ayer and Co., the medicine men," he said, "just about noon, when I heard a great noise, and looking out of the window I saw what seemed to me to be the whole of the large brick plumbing establishment just across the road rise in the air to the height of about twenty feet, and fall back right in the place where it had stood a moment before. Of course it completely collapsed, but it looked to me as if not a single brick was displaced during its rise in the air. It was the most wonderful sight I ever witnessed. The building must have been a wonderfully strong, well-built one.

"The boiler had exploded, and the building was a complete wreck, but only six men were killed. If the explosion had occurred fifteen minutes before there would have been a much more awful loss of life, as seventy men had gone home to their dinner at that time."

Enterprising Mr. Marr of Moncton.

That spring is at hand is proved in many ways, one of which is the activity of the millinery trade "openings" and all that sort of thing are on the tapis now. Today the enterprising firm of H. G. Marr, of Moncton takes advantage of PROGRESS' circulation in the province but more especially in that thriving city and those near at hand to announce his millinery opening on the 26th of March, that is next Tuesday. Mr. Marr promises all and more than can be found elsewhere in the way of goods and new styles, and he adds a note about the presence of sweet music. The announcement appears in a prominent place upon the fifth page of this issue and is worth noticing.

## FOR THE NEXT COUNCIL.

THE T. R. A. PROPOSE TO HAVE A FULL TICKET.

Some Men will be Dropped and new Candidates Adopted—Some of the Changes Likely to be Made—Mayor Robertson Again Their Choice for Chief Magistrate.

Civic nomination day comes on April 9th and the election on the 16th. The first date is distant two weeks from next Tuesday and the second date three weeks. There is thus little time remaining until the Tax Reduction Association will enter the lists in its second fight for supremacy.

In conversation with a member of the nominating committee of the association he said that they would complete their work and report to the executive at the end of next week. They have now been in session two weeks and they have been meeting three times a week, on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays. They expect to have a stronger ticket than they had last year, though it is yet some distance from completion.

The committee have decided to renominate Mayor Robertson and he will again lead their forces in the fight. His worship, they think, has shown fairness and has been faithful to his trust. It is quite certain that he will accept the proffered honor. There has been no word of any opposition to him and it is likely the usual custom will be followed of allowing him to enter upon the responsibilities of a second term without opposing his way.

He named some of them those who were already on the ticket. Among them are Ald. McLaughlin, who will run at large; Ald. Daniel, Queens ward; Ald. McRobbie, Prince; Ald. McMulkin, Lorne; Ald. Seaton, Victoria, and Ald. Waring, Sydney. All these men will accept. There was at first some question about Ald. Waring remaining here, but he has stated that he will run if nominated. The committee think that there will be no opposition out against him, as he is a very popular man. All these six nominees are men who without question carried out their platform and put into civic affairs good practical common sense. They are all men of business methods and beside were not afraid to devote their time to the duties of their office.

Much farther than this in definite action the committee have not reached, he said. Ald. Millidge does not care for civic life and will not run. Ald. Kennedy is neither a resident nor does he do business in King's ward and he also has decided to retire from the field. The association have concluded that they made a mistake in nominating the members of the previous council, that is, with the exception of Ald. Seaton. Ald. Shaw, Ald. Baxter, Ald. Lockhart, Ald. McCarthy and Ald. Blizard are these men and it is stated that they will all have to seek in new fields for a nomination. There is very slight chance for any of them being nominated by the association.

There has been very little talk of an opposition ticket being formed and it cannot yet be stated whether or not there will be a full ticket in the field. Ald. Shaw has decided to retire from civic politics and Mr. J. E. Wilson, a great friend and supporter of his, will run independently in Wellington. His name was before the association, but it did not appear to be acceptable to them, hence his candidature as an opponent. Ald. Baxter will run independently in Brooks and will hope that the T. R. A. will not be as popular as it was last year.

Beyond the enumeration of six or seven names on the T. R. A. ticket of sixteen nothing definite can be stated. The other men have not been definitely chosen.

RATHER A FATALISTIC VIEW.

The Recent Accident at King's Mill From an Onlooker's Standpoint.

It is only occasionally that people realize in any great degree the terrible import of that most dreadful of all thoughts, the thought of the uncertainty of life. The knowledge that death may come and that it may come at any instant is shared by every man on earth and it may be considered almost the only truth in which all men agree. Man's greatest foe is death, and its mystery the shadow which oppresses life and shuts out from it the brightness.

A man in life is like a blind man standing on the very edge of a beetling precipice. Before him is the utter blackness of darkest night and a bottomless chasm. His living is like such a man advancing and the precipice advancing with him and so keeping him from falling. He stretches his foot out over the chasm and while it is suspended in the air and he seemingly must fall the precipice advances with him and his foot descends upon its edge again. So he goes on and with each step the edge of the precipice advances the length of the step. But some instant the precipice does not advance; there is nothing for the foot to rest upon and the pilgrim is hurled without warning into the night. This man stands on the edge of the pre-

sent and the future may have no foothold for his feet. The only attributes of the future that he really knows on its eternity and its darkness. The present is a fulcrum edge with the balances of life and death swinging on either side.

In the quiet little hamlet of Kingsville this week people knew in all its terrors the terrible solemnity of life and death. They saw a young man in an instant hurled from the narrow edge of life.

Wellington Smith was a man of twenty years with all the fine, manly qualities of a steady, industrious youth. At his home in South Bay he was well thought of, he was kind in the family and he was chery to those about him. In school he had studied diligently and in church he had been well behaved.

He was buoyant and hopeful by nature, and when he arose from his slumbers on Wednesday morning and went to the scene of his daily labors he revelled in the keen, warming air, and the bright sunlight. Life was something joyous to him, and the future a prospect of hope and prosperity.

But the joyousness on the face of the future was a mask. Behind it there was a gloomy threatening visage and the mask was to be torn off just four hours thence.

He reached the mill and went about his daily labors. His work was carried on just above the black mass of the boilers. He had never feared them, he had never thought how terrible they were in their possibilities, that they had the power to kill a hundred men. For thirty years the mill had stood there and the boilers, or ones like them, had stood there. Nothing had ever happened there. But they had been waiting for those thirty years, they were waiting before he was born and they were waiting for him.

It was shortly after ten and he was wheeling a load of sawdust just above the boilers from the rotary saw to the sawdust chain. The sun shone around him and brightness was in his heart. Suddenly his ears and whole body throbbled with the din and horror of a terrible crash. An immense body of hot steam surged upon him and by its frightful power he was lifted bodily and hurled through space.

For an instant his senses remained, through his brain was numbed by the shock. The whole latent nerve power in his being was concentrated in that single instant of time. His organs of sense became countless times more delicate and keen than ever they were before. All the power of his manhood was arrayed in this last supreme effort and every nerve current in his body became exquisitely delicate and tingled with life.

Involuntarily the muscles of his who's body gave one superhuman leap, his heart gave a terrible throb and seemed almost to burst from his breast and stop beating. His limbs became endowed with gigantic strength, but he could not use it and a mighty shudder shook his whole frame and convulsed his limbs.

In the same instant this happened the muscles of his throat contracted and his mouth opened letting in the whole deluge of steam and flooding his body. At once there was a blank.

It had all happened while he was yet going through the air. When he dropped amid the debris with bricks and rubbish flying all about him he was dead. The steam had entered every pore of his system, it had seared and darkened the flesh, with its intense heat it had almost melted the membranes and tissues. But, though his death was terrible he had not suffered. The steam had been merciful because of its effectiveness.

ALUMBER KING AND A MAN.

Robert Connors did not do Anything by Halves in his Life.

This week some St. John men returned from the funeral of the lumber king of the upper St. John. In the death of Robert Connors the hardy woodman of the district lost a true friend and a beloved employer. The little lumbering town of St. Francis owed its origin to him, and the town was his property. The hotel was his, the general store, the cottages of his employes and the church. It is Marysville on a small scale.

He was very generous in his manner of entering upon an undertaking. He did not build a cheap hotel. The fittings and ornate decorations are of the best. The large building where many of his employes live is also fitted up very comfortably as one item will show. The woodsman here enjoy the delights of a spring bed.

Robert Connors' chief friend was W. H. Murray of this city and him he appointed his executor in a will which he executed some years ago and repeated that provision in another which he made while he was seeking renewed health in the south last winter. Only one provision of that will is thus far known but it is a characteristic of his generosity. He provides for the completion of his little presbyterian church and the gift of it to the St. John presbytery.

New stock of Bibles, cheap, at McArthur's 90 King St.