

PROGRESS.

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MR. POTTS AS CHAMPION.

HIS DEFENCE OF THE ILLEGITIMATE TRADERS

Who Invest the Market—Tolls Sold Too Low, the City Losing a Thousand Dollars—Another Deal Said to be Contemplated—An Official Supperannated.

There has been a great deal of discussion this week over market affairs and there appears to be full cause for it.

At the meeting of the council on Thursday, the 29th ult., a proposition was made by the board of safety that they be authorized to lease the market to the present lessee at the same price as paid last year and on the same terms and conditions.

Ald. McCarthy moved that the law be strictly followed and that the tolls be put up at auction as usual.

Ald. McGoldrick came to the rescue of Mr. Potts, the lessee. He explained that the revenues were uncertain; that the present lessee had worked them up so that the city got more than ever before, etc. The resolution was adopted. This is but a sample of how the civic business has been done in connection with market affairs, and is only a proof that the market men are just in demanding some better system than the bit or miss methods now followed.

Respecting the price paid by the present lessee, Mr. Potts, it is claimed that if the tolls were put up for sale that there are men (we can give names if necessary) who will pay more than is now being paid, that Mr. Potts paid the price he does because he was forced to pay it or let others do so; that he is not a philanthropist in any degree.

There is a rumor going the rounds that the present clerk, Mr. Lynam, is to be superannated, his salary to be paid by a certain individual very closely connected with the market, if a near relative secures the vacant position. Will certain aldermen say that there is no move of this kind on the tapis?

Respecting the complaints made by the market men that the market were badly conducted by Mr. F. L. Potts, the lessee, has taken on himself to conduct the defence of the forestallers, illegitimate traders and bogus butchers. We give his letter in full. He attempts to refute that which was not charged and very carefully keeps away from the main point at issue, the gross mismanagement of the market. It is as follows:

TO THE EDITOR OF PROGRESS—Will you kindly allow me space in your valuable paper to correct some misstatements in your issue of last week on Market Management, into which you were no doubt led by persons seeking to forward their own interests at the expense of others, and I would like to be understood that my remarks are intended for stallholders—more properly speaking foremen—who inspired your article and have no refer, except to the more influential class who are above dictating articles for the press to which they are ashamed to attach their names.

I think the citizens generally will bear me out in the statement that the market should be managed in their interest, and not in the interest of forestallers, grocers, or country traders, and that a monopoly of the trade of the market by any of the above named classes, would not be conducive to the best interests of the public generally.

Your statement that stallholders are handicapped by the country trader because of the heavy expense under which the stallkeepers labor in comparison with the small fee charged to country traders and commission merchants is misleading and untrue, and when I state that those who pay market tolls contribute more toward the city revenue in proportion to the amount of business transacted than any in the market, I am prepared to back up with an offer to the council of three hundred dollars more per annum for the market stalls than they are now receiving, providing the council pass an ordinance substituting the payment of market tolls instead of the rent now paid; and I am further of the opinion that if any cause of complaint does exist in this connection, it would arise with more force from the country trader and those paying market tolls than from the stallholders.

Your reference to my mode of collecting—though very carefully guarded—is liable to be misunderstood, and to leave the impression that I collect more than the law allows. To this I wish to give an emphatic denial. Then as to goods passing into so many different hands and paying a profit in each case and market tolls as well, and after all this expense competing so successfully with the stallholders as to have them complain of being handicapped, seems to me to imply either a want of business capacity on the part of the stallholders, or a desire to extort. Which horn of the dilemma would the stallholders prefer?

The management of the market in other respects not being under my control, I have only to say, that if any such violation of the market laws as complained of takes place they are carried on in such a way to evade the vigilance of the clerk, and could be more effectually remedied by the parties witnessing such violations complaining to the proper authorities and giving evidence against the transgressors, than by ventilating their grievances through the medium of the press.

There are grievances, however, other than those named, in which these gentleman are the principal actors, the redressing of which would be of more importance to the citizens than those complained of, but as I have already written more than I intended, I will not mention them this time.

Lessee of county market. F. L. POTTS.

Now it will be allowed by all that this is a very convincing letter as to the guilelessness and childlike innocence of Mr. Potts, but does he not say too much when he offers to pay \$300 more for the stalls than is now paid. Ald. Potts will tell his plan of collection. Ald. McGoldrick is evidently acquainted with it, as he extolled the advantage it was to the market and city to have the tolls collected by the present lessee. There is a whisper in the market that J. Howe Allen would pay \$1000

more than is now being paid if the law had been carried out and the tolls put up at auction as usual. While on this subject it would perhaps be as well to ask by what authority the council voted the market to Mr. Potts and lost \$1000 to the city. Both law and usage say that the market tolls must be put up at auction, yet we find the council violating the law and whether or not being hand in glove with the present lessee their action looks very like it.

Mr. Potts claims that the market is intended to be carried on in the interests of the citizens and not the stallholders, shop keepers etc. Just now it would appear that the council and the lessee have a desire to run it in the interest of Mr. Potts. Nothing is shown so plainly by this effusion of the lessee as the fact that there is need of a sharp and efficient clerk, one who will guard the rights of the citizens, the stallholders and the farmers.

It is safe to say that not one man doing business in the market knows what the laws are; that there is not one copy of the by-laws in possession of the stall holders. There is surely no reason why this should be so. Every man is a law unto himself, and the loudest talker gets the place of preference. Imagine men coming into the market day after day retailing Quebec butter. This is not in the interests of the citizens or the country people, though it is a valuable addition to the fees of the collector.

The new council as soon as elected should reconsider the leasing of the market, and put it up to auction as referred by law. It is within their province and will be in the interests of the citizens and but justice to those willing to bid for it. There are other market in connection with the conduct that will be treated of in another issue.

THOSE WHO BORROW BOOKS

From a St. John Bookseller, Saying Things are Too Hard to Buy Them.

"I was reading the article in PROGRESS last week about the woes of booksellers," said a prominent bookseller to a PROGRESS representative, "and mention was made of how some people buy books, and then come back and get them changed. Well, in that case the bookstore man gets the price of one book, at any rate. But there are some people come to me and ask for the loan of books, promising to keep them in first-rate condition, and pleading that times are too hard for them to buy books. I must say that the books I have lent have all come back, somewhat to my surprise, and that they were in much better condition than I supposed they would be. But it is hard for the ordinary person to read a book through, and have it in as good condition as when he started. There are some of my patrons in this line that manage very well, however.

"I think, though, that it is about time for me to call a halt in this sort of business. It is not at all paying, and it has grown to be a habit with some people. It frequently happens that the first book I lend to a borrower comes back in perfect condition, but that the second or third or fourth is not so well taken care of. I'm pretty good-natured, and I don't want to make any enemies, but I do think that it's about time to call a halt."

"Do you have any trouble on account of the substitution plan alluded to in last week's PROGRESS?" asked the reporter.

"No, strange to say, I never met with a case just like you described where I was not the gainer, or where I had any reason to suppose that a returned book had been read through. Of course there have been several cases where a person would return a book evidently bought as a present, but it would not be at all injured, and I would generally profit by the preceding. Then there are a few books returned after Christmas, and others wanted in their place. For my part, I would prefer to keep the book that was given me, rather than get another."

The Little Girl in the Window.

The art of window-dressing has been receiving a great deal of attention in St. John lately, and there have been some extremely clever ideas set forth in the arrangement of some of the windows in the leading stores of the city. Window-dressing as a good advertisement in a good newspaper, but it supplements newspaper advertising very well, and moreover is something which should make the public feel well-disposed towards the firms employing it, as it makes the evening walk much fuller of novelty and pleasure. A somewhat unique method of window advertising in St. John is that of a confectioner who has a little girl sit in the window of his store in the evenings and wrap candy in tissue paper. The little lady is dressed in a blue low-necked dress, with white slippers, and is what the ladies call "cute." She is doted with her little fingers, and is apparently unconcerned at the many people who watch her. One can scarcely look at this charming little living picture, however, without a feeling somewhat akin to pity for her too prominent position in the eyes of the public.

A STAKEHOLDER SUED.

THE OUTCOME OF AN ELECTION WAGER.

The Upper Street Slums of Halifax—A Lady Physician's Speech Causes a Sensation—A Prominent Cyclist takes a Trip to the States, Leaving Many Mourners.

HALIFAX, April 5.—Stipendiary Fielding has a peculiar case now before him upon which he reserved judgment. It is an action resulting from a wager made on the Dominion general election of 1891. The principals are a lawyer, a merchant and a hotel man. The facts as stated to his honor were something like these: The merchant wagered \$20 with the lawyer on the majority the government would have. The returns were indefinite and it was found that the exact majority could not be learned till the house met. This was regarded as too long a time to wait and it was agreed that the bet should be drawn, each gambler getting back his \$20. The money had been placed in the hands of a hotel man to hold. He demanded an order from the betters before he would pay back the money. The merchant got his cash, no one denies that. But strange to say, the lawyer comes forward and alleges that his \$20 was not forthcoming, and has not been paid since. Four years have gone by, and now the lawyer carries the matter into the city civil court, where he sues the hotel man for the money. The defence set up on behalf of the stakeholder was that he did pay the money back, to both betters, the lawyer included, and that besides the statute of limitations makes it impossible to collect such a debt. More than that is not a criminal offence to bet on an election? The lawyer, to prove that he never received his money, produces the order for its payment, an order which he says was not honored. The case was remarkable in several particulars. First because those who know the hotel man cannot imagine that he would be guilty of a dishonorable or dishonest transaction such as is charged against him. Secondly, because it seems strange that the lawyer should so long have remained without the money which he claims was his. Yet it may be all right. His honor will weigh the whole question and will give a righteous decision fair to all at the next meeting of the city civil court.

A Parkhurst Needed.

HALIFAX, April 5.—Chief O'Sullivan and Inspector Banks between them have recently been making it interesting for some of the resorts of questionable repute on the upper streets. This is commendable activity. There is a great work to be done in this direction in Halifax. The city has its tenebrous district like every other metropolis, and it is the duty of the police, as much as possible, to minimize the evils thereof. The Halifax force are to be congratulated upon the fact that they are not idle altogether in this respect. The more aggressive they are the better will the officers of the law stand with the right thinking public. A recent speech of Dr. Hamilton, one of the two lady doctors in this city, was an eye-opener to some people. The lady physician's remarks would be called "sensational" but they were sad words if true. Speaking at a salvation army anniversary meeting, she told of the evil wrought here by at least one woman, whom the police would do well to watch. The public are thankful for the energy shown by Chief O'Sullivan at this time, and he will have their best wishes if he goes still further.

In this connection that was an awful state of affairs which the police brought to light in the old market building last week. Three or four young men, little more than boys, but some of them in responsible and civic positions, in evil company they spent the nights in the market building. The sentry at the queen's wharf adjoining saw what was going on and occasionally shared in the whiskey. At last, one night, an alarm was given, and half a dozen policemen rushed down from the station. The sentry told what he had seen; the police entered and arrested a woman, or rather a young girl. Next day she was fined \$10, and the brief report of the incident received in the Halifax papers was that she had been fined, the money to satisfy justice having been advanced by a "syndicate."

He "Raised" Freight Bills.

HALIFAX, April 5.—The Ramblers' Cycle Club has one member less than it had a week ago, and the city's population also has been decreased by one. One of the prominent clerks in the office of S. Cunard & Co has joined the great majority over the border. It is the well-worn story of the young man who lives beyond his means, who keeps up a \$1,000 expenditure and a \$600 income. That is a kind of life that is bound to be short-lived. The departure was sudden, but it was not uncalled for. When he had gone, new developments appeared. It was found how the young man had worked out the financial problem of a \$1000 life on a \$600 salary. His employers are very reticent on the subject, but it is learned that the money was obtained in a simple way—a very simple way. The young man "raised" freight bills, paid into his office the proper amount and paid into his pocket the balance. During the past few days some of the firms thus defrauded have received amounts of varying size, rebates on freight changed by the young man in accordance with his patent financial plan of living. Many mourning creditors are also left behind moralizing a fresh on the degeneracy of the times. Yes, this is the latest version of the well worn story of earning \$1, spending \$2, and coming out square at the end of the year.

They are Ahead in Halifax.

HALIFAX, April.—PROGRESS last week alluded to the fact that the Hebrews of St. John have been slow to carry into effect the erection of a synagogue. Here in Halifax their brethren are more progressive. First, they obtained a burying ground for their dead in a good location. Then a synagogue was opened. The building selected came convenient to their hands. It was the old free baptist church and prior to that the universalist's place of worship. The Jews bought it at a reasonable price and transformed it from a Christian to a Hebrew place of worship, making it easy and convenient. The property is vested in the Halifax Baron de Hirsch society. All this was done by the less than 70 Jews of this city. They have a resident rabbi here, Rev. Mr. Schwartz, who devotes all his time to work for his race. Much of the credit for this advance is due to a well-to-do Jewish citizen of Halifax, who has assumed a competence sufficiently large to have secured for his name a place in the list of men worth \$50,000—A. L. Michael, of the wholesale jewelry firm of Levy & Michael.

"GOODY TWO SHOES."

A Little Girl who Created Some Amusement in a Shoe-Shop.

A funny incident occurred in a King street shoe store the other night. A lady was trying to select a pair of boots for her little girl. A pair was at length found, one of which fitted the little girl's right foot perfectly. The mother was evidently acquainted with a fact that is pretty well known among people having considerable to do with shoes—that the right foot of many a person is not the same size as that person's left, so she advised the little girl to try the left shoe on the left foot. It was found that that shoe did not fit nearly so well. So a boot of another pair was tried on the little girl's left foot, and this was found to be a perfect fit.

"There, that'll do splendid," said the little girl, jumping to her feet, one of which was enclosed in a boot belonging to one pair, the other in one belonging to another.

The mother smiled, and said, "Now don't be foolish," but the little girl insisted upon having the odd boots.

"You are a very accommodating young lady," said the clerk. "You can adapt yourself to almost any circumstances. Perhaps in a few years you will be even harder to suit." This remark was scarcely just to the young lady, as she certainly seemed to be very easily suited, and it was only by the utmost persuasion on the part of the amused clerk and the amused mother that the little girl was induced to try the right boot of the second pair on her right foot. This happily proved to be a most satisfactory fit.

MR. SKINNER'S APT METAPHOR.

He Tells the Three Raymond Administrators How Gaul Was Divided.

It is no uncommon thing for pleasantries to pass between lawyers. In the probate court the other day Mr. Skinner had opposed to him three of his brethren, Messrs. Belyea, Hazen and Pugsley. Mr. Skinner stated during the progress of the argument that he would have liked to have arranged a settlement with the opposing counsel had they shown any disposition so to do. Mr. Pugsley thereupon replied amiably that they had held out the olive branch but Mr. Skinner did not seem inclined to accept it. Then the ex-probate judge replied, vigorously describing this statement as a cheeky one. He quoted that opening sentence of Caesar about all Gaul being divided into three parts and ascribed the ownership to his three learned friends. Probably Mr. Skinner was right but it is likely that the owner of Gaul died intestate and the three lawyers at some early time represented the heirs.

Grocers Must be Popular!

The makers of the T. R. A. ticket must have a fondness for grocers. Of the sixteen men seven are engaged in this business. The West side and the western portion of the North end present an unbroken phalanx of five of these food distributors. These seven are the mayor, Messrs. McPherson, Maher, McMulkin, Godard, Baskin and Appleby.

players are very reticent on the subject, but it is learned that the money was obtained in a simple way—a very simple way. The young man "raised" freight bills, paid into his office the proper amount and paid into his pocket the balance. During the past few days some of the firms thus defrauded have received amounts of varying size, rebates on freight changed by the young man in accordance with his patent financial plan of living. Many mourning creditors are also left behind moralizing a fresh on the degeneracy of the times. Yes, this is the latest version of the well worn story of earning \$1, spending \$2, and coming out square at the end of the year.

READY FOR THE FIGHT.

IS THE CITIZENS' TICKET AN OPPOSITION ONE?

Ald. McGoldrick and Christie say not—Ald. Baxter Denies That His Friends Intended to Pack the Meeting—It is the Tax Bill That Takes.

The tickets are in the field and the electors will have a week or ten days in which to finally decide for whom they shall vote. Both sides have scoured the whole constituency for the best men and the result is a strong combination on either side. The fight between the two tickets will probably be as sharp as it was last year.

Ald. McGoldrick and Christie say that their ticket is mis-called an opposition ticket. They do not oppose the T. R. A. platform, they are as strong for retrenchment as that body; on the banner which they have unfurled to the breeze is inscribed "The Citizens' Ticket" and under that name they shall try to win.

Ald. Shaw, Lockhart and Kennedy retire from the field this time and the remaining twelve at present in the council are evenly divided between the two tickets. Very peculiar conditions prevail in civic politics. A man does not decide whether he is government or opposition. He has that responsibility very kindly taken out of his hands by a higher body. Four of the board—Ald. Baxter, Blizard, McCarthy and Milledge, who were counted with the government last year were invited by the higher authorities this year to join the opposition. Reluctantly they consented and not without some protest.

This year the same thing was feared and so wife was played against wife. Some of the leading members of the association concluded to call the ratification meeting on Tuesday night for earlier time than usual. They did not proclaim the fact from the housetops, neither did they cause a herald to go about and tell the news. They notified their friends of the change in the hour and then considerably forgot about the other members of the association.

A man whose protest it was feared might lead to serious results was Ald. Baxter. Last year the nominating committee of the association refused to nominate him. His friends rallied about him, suddenly became interested in the T. R. A., identified themselves with the body and had the privilege of voting for Ald. Baxter thus electing him as their standard bearer.

When they met therefore at quarter past seven they were a very harmonious little gathering and when Ald. Baxter and some others appeared half an hour later everything had been done.

Now Ald. Baxter denies that either he or his friends intended to pack the meeting. He says that he did not desire the nomination this year. This is a question that PROGRESS will not discuss, merely presenting both sides of the story, the assertion of the T. R. A. men that he was all ready to pack the meeting and his denial of having any such intention.

No matter which side is right the T. R. A. men had no right to cut and dry their business and to force action. Wrong does not justify wrong and the splendid work which the Tax Reduction Association has done in the past will all be undone if ring rule is allowed. In fact it is dangerous for them to do as they did. They tempt reprisal and if any set of men so desired they could, so small is the attendance at these ratification meetings, go there with a few dozen, capture the meeting and cheat whom they please.

PROGRESS objects merely to this action. It does not wish to draw its endorsement of the principles embodied in the whole scheme of the T. R. A. and the whole reform movement. What it says is that this action was not consonant with the spirit of the movement.

Another matter the propriety of which has been called into question is that of establishing businesses for men in wards so that they might run there. The opposition claim that this has been done for Mr. Flood in Dukes. But they reply that this has been done right along for Ald. McGoldrick in Stasley. He has a shingle out there which fills his purpose. So in this matter honors are easy.

His worship the mayor goes in without opposition. The aldermen's tickets are as follows:

T. R. A.	CITIZENS.
Ald. McLaughlan	Aldermen
Dr. Boyle-Travers	at large
Ald. Waring	Sydney
John Flood	Dukes
Ald. Daniel	Queens
J. R. Woodburn	Kings
Ald. McRobbie	Prince
Thos. McPherson	West-ton
Ald. Seaton	Victoria
J. A. Lokely	Dufferin
Henry Maher	Lausdowne
Ald. McMulkin	Lorne
J. W. Godard	Stasley
W. D. Baskin	Gays
S. B. Appleby	Brooks
	Ald. Baxter

There will not be the same disposition to vote the straight ticket this year as last, there will be more picking of men. After all it is the tax bill that takes and the prospect that five or six cents will be

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taken off this year and that the tide of increase going on during the last fifteen years will be stemmed will draw much support to the business men on both tickets.

ALD. SEATON CANNOT CONTRACT.

He Found it Out in Good Time to Save Disqualification.

It is a good principle to lay down that aldermen should not engage in business with the city. In St. John it has been done right along. This year Ald. Lockhart has been supplying the Safety department with feed in large quantities. In the past aldermen who were members of printing firms did work for the city. The matter came before the recorder two or three times and he decided that it did not conflict with the law governing the city to do this. It may not conflict with the letter of the law but it is opposed to the spirit of the best government.

Now, however, a thing has happened which is utterly illegal. An alderman tendered for city contract, his tender was accepted and the contract entered into. The work was the printing of the water and sewerage report and the successful tender was Ald. Seaton. The law is very plain on the subject. There is a section in the city constitution which in brief reads as follows: "No person shall be qualified to be elected, or to be or to sit as Mayor, Alderman, or Councillor during such times as . . . he shall have directly or indirectly by himself or partner any share or interest in any contract or employment, with, by, or on behalf of the corporation." In view of this it is strange how the board of works came to accept this tender or how Ald. Seaton could try to obtain the contract. This is the first time an alderman has openly tendered for city work and it remained for it to be done under the reform regime.

The Daily Record exposed this and as a result Ald. Seaton states that he has withdrawn from entering into the contract. He admits the unlawfulness of the thing and says that he has not accepted the contract.

This makes the matter all right again. But Alderman Seaton seems to feel aggrieved and accuses the newspaper that showed how impossible it was for an alderman to enter into a contract with trying to injure his character. How ridiculous. The alderman for Victoria should not take the matter so much to heart. Instead of feeling sore over the business he should really be grateful, for if his attention had not been directed to the fact by the Record when nomination day came around he would have found that a very effective protest would have been entered by his opponents. There is one thing however that Alderman Seaton did not explain in his letter and that is why he broke faith with the association of employing printers of which body he is a member and which he knew had agreed upon a certain line so far as civic work was concerned. He is a member of a body that has impounded the council to have nothing to do with offices employing what they were pleased to misname "cheap labor," and only a short time ago placed themselves upon record again with reverence to the allotment of civic work to a city office. Yet the tenders of this same office for the printing of the water and sewerage report—this office that employs what Mr. Seaton and his associates call cheap labor—was nearly 30 cents per page higher than that put in by Messrs. Seaton & Co. The price of the latter was 68 cents per page and the figure put in by Mr. Bowes 95 cents.

These are simple, plain facts and they speak for themselves. If they are not the columns of this paper are at Alderman Seaton's disposal to contradict them.

SUICIDE BEGETS SUICIDE.

The Theory That one Kind of a Fatality Follows Another.

Some theorists claim that men's deeds are suggested to them unconsciously by others, that there is a special hypnotism which is not exerted intentionally. For instance, they say, suicides always come together, and they explain this because the whole mind of a community being turned by one act of suicide upon the subject suggests the thought with uncontrollable power to some weak man and causes him also to kill himself. This has been noticed right along in St. John, especially of late. On Dec. 26 and 29, 1893, two suicides closely followed one another. Two or three times since that there have been similar instances and the latest is the proximity of the Foster and Bond affairs. The night before Mr. Bond attempted suicide a party was talking about the late Mr. Foster. "Bond will be the next man," said one. The following day his words came true. Now the question is, is there mutual and unconscious interaction between minds, and did the whole thought of the community and the statements of this one party in particular force his resolve into Mr. Bond's head?

There are several, plain facts and they speak for themselves. If they are not the columns of this paper are at Alderman Seaton's disposal to contradict them.

Another matter the propriety of which has been called into question is that of establishing businesses for men in wards so that they might run there. The opposition claim that this has been done for Mr. Flood in Dukes. But they reply that this has been done right along for Ald. McGoldrick in Stasley. He has a shingle out there which fills his purpose. So in this matter honors are easy.

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