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IT TOOK NINE MONTHS.

TO BRING FORTH THE COUNCIL'S REPORT OF INVESTIGATION.

Publicity is the Rock Over Which the Council has Spilt—Ald. Baxter Casts a Grave Reflection on the City Press, of Which He is a Member.

It took nine months of labor to bring forth the report of investigation of the common council. This week, however, it at last made its bow to the public and is ready to hear what critics have to say.

The report has been a great bone of contention among the members. Two or three members of the council have very wrongly taken no interest in its production. These are chiefly Ald. Christie, McGoldrick and Shaw. They have confined themselves to depreciating the work of the other aldermen. This is uncalled for, for no matter what people's views may be in regard to the results of the present council's work, no one can deny but what they have been the hardest worked council that was ever elected and that they have spent a great amount of time, much of it taken from their own business, on civic affairs. They are also a board of practical business men and they have examined thoroughly into the details of civic management and in many ways have led to economy.

The rock over which the council has spilt is publicity. Most of their aldermen did not want the proceedings made public. A few believe that from the first the meetings should have been open to the press and that the committee meetings of the council in general should be open to the press. It may be that later on a motion will be brought in to that effect, opening the door of the committee room to the press and through this agency to the public. It appears that the latest flurry in the committee was over the publication of the report. A reporter applied for leave to inspect the report before the meeting of the council in order to publish a summary Friday morning. If this was not done, he argued, it was so lengthy and there would be such a rush of other business Thursday afternoon, that he could not prepare a synopsis for Friday.

In committee this request was considered. Ald. McRobbie thought it was a fair request to make and he moved that the papers be allowed to inspect the report beforehand on condition that they agree not to publish anything concerning it before Friday morning. The other aldermen seemed favorable to this, but Ald. Baxter rose and objected. He said that the papers would not carry out this agreement. That knocked the thing on the head. Ald. McRobbie's motion did not carry and it was decided that the press should not see the report until it was laid on the table in council Thursday afternoon. This meant the prevention of a satisfactory hearing of the report Friday morning, and still another delay for the public hearing the report.

Ald. Baxter explains his action by saying that what he wanted was to allow the papers to handle the report and publish a synopsis of it Thursday morning. He wished to go further than Ald. McRobbie in obtaining its publicity.

Probably this was Ald. Baxter's desire, but when he said that the press of St. John would not fulfill an agreement it was casting a grave reflection upon the city press, of which he happens to be a member. It is to be hoped that it was not his intention to do so.

TYPICAL JOHN BULLS.

Such are Capt. Smith and Douglas, who Conduct the Pilotage Inquiry.

The much vexed pilotage question is being threshed out more particularly than ever. Two dominion officials, Capt. Smith and Douglas, are conducting and enquiring into the matter at the custom house. The prospects are that the court will sit for three weeks at least and a vast amount of detailed information about compulsory pilotage and its workings will be obtained.

The enquiry is of great importance and much responsibility attaches. Large interest are at stake, for its results will not be confined to the port of St. John but will effect the system of pilotage in their Canadian ports. The prosperity of shipping, the reputation of the port, the safety of vessels and of lives and the livelihood of quite a body of men are at stake and so the court is moving slowly and deliberately and is obtaining much information.

There are two sides arrayed. Messrs. Jarvis, Schofield, Lively and others of the board of trade want to show the necessity of abolishing compulsory pilotage. They are represented by Messrs. C. A. Palmer and G. G. Gilbert. The pilots and pilot commissioners are defending the present system and C. N. Skinner and H. H. McLean are looking after their interests. There is considerable feeling over the question and there has been some expression of animus, chiefly on the part of the pilots and commissioners.

Capt. Smith and Douglas are pretty well known here, especially the former. He frequently comes to St. John in pursuance

of his official duties, holding enquiries and examinations. Capt. Douglas was here for some time when the tide gauge was placed. They both bear the title R. U. R. and are typical John Bulls in features and characteristics. They are popular men, and by their uniform courtesy and affability make friends readily. Both sides can feel that their argument will be carefully weighed and an unprejudiced decision given, for they have the judicial characteristics of being open to argument and not disposed to adhere to set views.

There have been some slight passages-at-arms between counsel and witnesses but nothing to speak of. The possession of large reserve power conduces to equanimity, and Mr. Palmer, who has a pretty thorough knowledge of marine law was not disposed, to fight.

Mr. Skinner indulged in some slight skirmishes, chiefly with Capt. Gale, master of one of Mr. Geo. F. Baird's vessels and a witness for the side of the board of trade. During these tilts some instances of Capt. Douglas' humor were given. Mr. Skinner and Capt. Gale were equally sharp in repartee. The lawyer said that the captain did not know any more about navigation than a horse. The captain mildly remonstrated against this remark, but Mr. Skinner reiterated the statement, and to prove it brought out that when Captain Gale first went to sea he had to have a "wet nurse."

To those who are unacquainted with shipping terms it might be well to remain parenthetically that by going to sea with a "wet nurse" it is implied that a captain does not know enough of seamanship to handle his vessel and so employs a sailing master to sail the vessel and to teach him. The sailing master is the wet nurse.

Captain Gale remarked in reply that when Mr. Skinner studied law he had to get a wet nurse.

"It must have been a very dry one," said Capt. Douglas.

A PATRIOTIC PLAY.

It is to Be Produced in Several Provincial Towns.

An Annapolis friend of Progress sends a copy of a particularly patriotic play that was written by Mr. W. M. McVicar of that town, and has been considered important enough to be published by the Teachers' Association of Annapolis and Digby counties. "Imperial Britain" has been played three times—by the Annapolis, the Bear River and the Lawrencetown schools, and it is intended to be introduced into many other provincial towns.

The play is not of the Shakespearian form, having only two acts. A brief synopsis of these will be of interest.

In the first scene Lady Britannia tells John Bull to prepare a royal reception for her children at their "home coming."

The second scene represents Canada and her provinces, which are supposed to be represented by young ladies, under the maternal roof. The third scene shows Uncle Sam looking out for a "speculation." He meets bilious Newfoundland, carrying a large codfish. He prescribes a remedy for his biliousness and purchases his fish. Newfoundland meets West Indies, who puts him on to a few wrinkles concerning the selling of fish. John Bull had carried out the character given him in Max O'Rell's most famous book, and had sold the fish to West Indies at an advanced price. Newfoundland resolves that he will do business in future without a middle-man.

The fourth scene shows South Africa grown stout. John does not recognize him as the sickly boy he had defended against the Boers. The other scenes of the first act show the other colonies.

The first act is prolific of scenes, but the second one has only one. It is the grand finale, the crisis of crises, the point at which the audience becomes wild with excitement. It represents the grand reception in which Britannia sits upon her throne surrounded by her numerous progeny, with John Bull as the protector of all. Each of the children in turn testifies to his or her loyalty. And then comes the thrilling denouement, after which the curtain is hauled down amid enthusiastic plaudits. Uncle Sam, who at first cannot find voice for utterance, asks to be included in the happy family. Britannia is willing, and everybody sings God Save the Queen.

Not Such a Mighty Call.

An incident at the Kings' convention was at the expense of Rev. Mr. Grant and his friends. It was when they were asked how many there were at the committee meeting that chose Rev. Mr. McLeod as their nominee, and how the vote stood on the nomination. Rev. Mr. Knight replied grandly that nine-tenths of the meeting were in favor of Dr. McLeod. "Yes," remarked another gentleman, "there were ten men there and nine supported him. The other man didn't." Viewed in the light of this additional fact it did not seem such a mighty call to Rev. Mr. McLeod as Mr. Knight would have led one to suppose.

IS ST. LUKE'S VERY HIGH

SINCE REV. E. P. CRAWFORD, THE NEW RECTOR, CAME?

A Leading Member and Official of the Cathedral Thinks not—"We are Essentially a Prayer-Book Church, Nothing Else," says this Authority.

HALIFAX, Feb. 14.—An article, written in Halifax, recently appeared in a provincial paper, in which the statement was made that ritualism is fast increasing in the church of England in this city. A number of instances of this growth were given, and the inferences made that the innovations were to be found in St. Luke's cathedral. To ascertain if there was any truth in this a PROGRESS correspondent called upon a leading member and official of the cathedral, to learn the facts.

"Is ritualism increasing in [St. Luke's] since the coming of Rev. E. P. Crawford, who is now rector?"

"I can see no difference in the high church practice at the cathedral compared with five years ago. Rev. Mr. Crawford had trouble with his former church in Hamilton over ritualistic innovations, but he has introduced nothing new in this respect at St. Luke's. I can see no change compared with five years ago. Rev. Mr. Crawford when he was called to St. Luke's came on the distinct understanding that matters were to remain in statu quo. The usage of the church was not to be changed in any particular, and our rector has been true to that understanding."

"But what about the ritualistic practices that are acknowledged to be present, and those which have been alleged to exist?"

"We are accused of many high church doings which actually are never seen in the cathedral. For instance there are no candles on the altar, and never were. The gas is lighted there because the altar is dark, which may have caused the candles allegation. No "holy water" is placed near the entrance to the church and there is none of that extreme sacerdotalism with which it is charged. True, there is a small section of the congregation, mostly connected with the garrison element, who are pretty far advanced, as high churchmen goes in this part of the world. A few "cross" themselves when entering the church; several bow before the altar, and at certain stages of the service perform the same obeisance. There are, too, those of our people here who favor "contession," one well known clergyman in our church in particular. But these people by no means represent the congregation of St. Luke's as a whole. We are essentially a "prayer-book church," nothing less, and high churchism has made no perceptible growth within at least five years. The people are against it, no matter what may be the views of the ministers. Rev. Mr. Crawford has holy communion daily."

"The rector is fond of music in the church, and his influence may have been directed to secure a brighter service in that respect. We expect to have a grand new organ in a couple of months which will cost us \$7,000 or more. It will be the best in the maritime provinces. We would feel happier if the instrument was paid for, or was likely soon to be, but it is not, and the greater part of the money will have to be borrowed. Interest charges are already far too heavy with us in St. Luke's, large, wealthy and fashionable as the congregation is.

"So you may make your mind easy about it, and can tell PROGRESS readers that ritualism shows no recent perceptible growth in St. Luke's cathedral."

THE DEVIL AND THE SAINTS.

Liquor and Temperance People Hold Conference Together.

HALIFAX, Feb. 14.—Yesterday was the annual field day for temperance and liquor people with the city council. Applications for liquor licenses came up for action by the city council. In round numbers 150 licenses were granted. The law provides that the license inspector shall report on each application for or against. But this report now amounts to nothing. In the first place not one liquor dealer in Halifax conforms to the license law in all its particulars, and consequently the license inspector cannot rightfully report favorably upon any of the old applications. But it makes no difference about the inspector's reports anyhow, for the aldermen give licenses to whom they see fit and refuse them also to whom "they see fit." Several whom Mr. Banks reported against were granted licenses by the council last night, and a number whom he reported favorably upon were refused. The liquor license law of Nova Scotia is a screaming farce in this city. The public, the temperance people, the liquor dealers, the aldermen, and Inspector Banks, all know that.

The temperance people last year obtained an amendment to the law which prohibits the use of window screens in liquor saloons or any obstruction to a clear view of the interior from the street, to go into effect after May next. Conferences are now being held between liquor dealers and temperance people with a view to the abrogation of the clause prohibiting sales

by the glass, and on the other hand the liquor people will not ask for the repeal of the screen section. Nothing could be done to make a stringent law more lax in its administration, so that it is not much difference what arrangement is come to, or what amendments are made. People will suit themselves about the observance.

By the way, Inspector Banks and Alderman O'Donnell are the bitterest kind of enemies imaginable, and they tell each other so.

CIVIC SALARIES COMPARED.

A County Clerk Who Resembles the Proverbial "Willing Horse."

HALIFAX, Feb. 14.—PROGRESS last week showed that the clerical salaries at City hall were \$28,000 and that the taxes collected amounted to about \$400,000. An interesting comparison is the cost of administering the affairs of the municipality of Halifax county. It does not cost \$2,800 for the same work in the county. Of course the assessment is not nearly so great, but including the amount collected by districts for schools, the amount collected by the city and paid to the county, the government grant for roads, and valuation at \$1 per day for statute labor performed upon the roads, an income of more than \$122,000 is represented. All that it costs the county for clerical salaries to collect this amount and expend it, is some \$2,800. County clerk W. H. Wiswell, who is the executive officer, receives \$1,000 per year. Collectors' commissions on county rates are about \$850, and other salaries those enumerated at City hall amount to not more than the balance of \$350. Though the amount collected is much less than that raised in the city for taxes, the number of rate-payers in the county is equally as large as in the city. In the city there are some 30 miles of streets, while in the county the road mileage runs up to the thousands. There is no doubt about it, the county's affairs are administered economically and furnish an object lesson to our city rulers. If the same extremely thrifty care were practised in the city there would be less complaining by poor tax-payers, but it is likely that even then some of them would not be satisfied.

It would not be just to work the officials at city hall as hard as county clerk Wiswell labors. They could not stand it, and it must be too heavy a burden for Mr. Wiswell, accustomed as he is to heavy work. Before the county incorporation act came into force in 1880, at least \$3,700 was paid to three officials to do less work than Mr. Wiswell undertakes alone for \$1,600. The difference is that he has to work night and day, and burn such "midnight oil," while his predecessors had an easy time of it. Mr. Wiswell exemplifies the truth of the old saying that the willing horse is the one which will be given the most work to do. The county councillors should look into the matter and see if they are not piling too heavy a load upon the shoulders of their clerk. Another set of men who should look into this question are the civic rulers of Halifax. Their object in the scrutiny ought to be to ascertain whether the city salary account might not be cut down without impairing the efficiency of the service. But they have no intention of doing this, for the civic estimates recently passed provided for increases in the pay of several officials. "Those that have shall receive, and from those who have not shall be taken away that which they seem to have, is about the way the verse runs which in a way illustrates the comparative condition of Halifax city and county officials.

MR. DOANE LEARNS A LESSON.

Halifax's City Engineer is Thrown Out of His Steeple.

HALIFAX, Feb. 14.—The city engineer is the man on whom largely rests the responsibility of seeing that the streets are kept safe for pedestrians and uses the horses. In a special manner is he charged with the duty of watching the street railway, and guarding against the rendering of the streets unsafe by the company in cleaning its tracks of snow. When the plow is run along the line the snow piles up on both sides, leaving the centre of the street like the bed of an ancient river, whose banks rise perpendicularly. Mr. Doane attends to his work with some diligence, but nevertheless there are complaints on the part of citizens, who allege a degree of laxity. The city engineer will have a practical sympathy with those complainants in future, for the other day he met the late himself which has befallen many a good man in the past on those very Halifax streets. He was thrown out of his sleigh on the horse car tracks and received a bad shaking up. As he recovered himself and looked along the street with the great elevation of snow on either side, and the railway tracks in a valley-like place below, he doubtless got a new sense of the evils he is called upon to prevent. The foreman of streets was in the sleigh at the time, and the lesson received should bear good fruit upon both of them.

THEIR WORK IS CUT OUT.

THE OPPOSITION OF LIBERALS TO MR. WELDON.

He is Supported by Mr. McLean—Why it is in the Interest of the Latter to Work Hard for Him—Mr. Weldon's Salary from the C. P. R.—Other Names Mentioned.

Will Charles W. Weldon, John V. Ellis, H. A. McKeown or John L. Carleton be nominated by the liberal party in this city and county?

This is one phase of the question that is disturbing a large portion of the community. Perhaps never before have the preliminary proceedings of an election been so exciting. This does not apply to the liberals alone, but to the conservatives, who are in just as much of a dilemma as their grit friends.

The fight between the friends of Weldon and Ellis and those opposed to the old men running again has raged warmly and no doubt will continue to get warmer as the day of party nomination gets nearer. Last evening the wards met to select delegates to the nominating convention—which was done however after PROGRESS was printed. So the result cannot be given. But some idea of the work that was done on both sides will give a good impression of the interest up to date in this contest.

Far from being beaten at the general meeting of the liberals in Berryman's hall, the friends of Weldon and Ellis went to work with redoubled energy. They had not believed that public sentiment was so strong against them, and every available lever was brought to bear to stem the tide as far as possible. With several of their followers defeat in the nomination convention meant so much loss of prestige, so much loss of influence and position that they resolved to come out ahead if possible.

This accounts for the strenuous efforts of Major Hugh H. McLean. Morning, noon and night he has been in the wards, but holding this and that one, oftentimes having a convert, as he thought, only more emphatic in his opposition to Mr. Weldon and perchance Mr. Ellis. Mr. McLean and his friends need not be told that he is not popular. It may not be his fault or he may be unfortunate in the possession of his manner, but the fact exists, nevertheless that a public man would derive more benefit from his opposition than from his support. So when he circles around canvassing for Mr. Weldon he is not making friends for his man but developing his weakness. People not in the secret naturally ask, why is Mr. McLean so anxious? Why does he not permit the people to choose without this advance canvassing? If the people want Weldon and Ellis no doubt they will seek them first as old standard bearers. Why then is Major McLean so anxious?

The answer is ready in somebody's mouth, for by this time it is known that Mr. McLean's importance depends upon Mr. Weldon's importance. The big lawyer represents the Canadian Pacific railway in this province, he also represents the other largest corporation in the country, the bank of Montreal. These concerns do not want men in private life to represent them. They want gentlemen who are in public life and then pay them well for representing them. For example Mr. Weldon it is said, gets \$5,000 a year from the C. P. R., besides other fees incident to such an appointment. The Bank of Montreal is not niggardly with its solicitors and thus it can very readily be understood why Mr. Weldon is anxious to remain in public life. Mr. McLean is his partner and his interest is not far removed.

But if all accounts are true, Mr. Weldon and his friends will have the hardest fight in their lives to secure a nomination. They give out openly with no hesitation that even if they do get the nomination they have no hope of winning the election, and yet in the same breath it is whispered that a check for \$8,000 or \$10,000 will, in the event of a nomination, find its way into the funds. This brings up the question, why are Mr. Weldon and his friends, if they feel that they cannot win the seat, so desirous of contributing \$10,000 to a campaign?

There is no doubt of the fact that Mr. Ellis is stronger than Mr. Weldon. The former has been a consistent liberal and about the only thing against him is the old charge of disloyalty that springs so readily to the surface as an election war cry. Whether it has much effect on not is a question, but the liberals dislike to face it and wish, if possible, to avoid it by getting new material.

New material! That is the rub. There is plenty of it, plenty of good men who would do credit to themselves and to their constituency but the difficulty is to get them to consent to run. The names of men have been mentioned who would sweep the city, whom every one would be glad to vote for and yet they are likely to consider their business interests and their home comforts before the work and worries of public life.

Then there are such men as H. A. Mc-

Keown and John L. Carleton—young, enthusiastic and popular and yet with objections in the eyes of many, prominent in the party. In the first place those strong in support of Weldon and Ellis, are equally strong in their opposition to those two representatives of the new element in the liberal party. The catholics, in rare cases, say that they will not support Mr. McKeown and the friends of the latter do not relish the idea of Mr. Carleton. So it goes. It seems impossible as this stage to get men free from some objections and the liberals will probably have to unite on the least objectionable. But there is no mistaking the ring in the words of these two young men. They are for the success of the party and not for themselves; if the party thinks they are the best men they will carry the standard, but if not, they will follow the leader the party thinks can win.

Among the most favored new men mentioned is Dr. John Berryman, but, so far as PROGRESS can learn, he has not been approached by any committee, nor has he said whether he would run or not. The same cannot be said of Mr. George McAvity who has repeatedly declined to have his name put forward in this connection. But in spite of all rumors, the liberals have ten days to think about their men and when the day of the convention dawns will probably be found ready.

LIVELY KINGS' CONVENTION.

Complicated Political Emergencies in Other Counties.

Never has there been so much interest in an election in New Brunswick as it being manifested in the approaching Dominion contests. There seems to be a plethora of candidates for nomination and where usually willing candidates are hard to find this year there are all too many. In the counties which have been before the public especially there has been shown a disposition to oppose the machines on both sides of politics. In St. John, York and Kings rebellion has arisen in the ranks of both parties.

This has not been marked in York, it being merely confined to the temperance men who want to put forward a third party candidate. But in St. John both liberal and conservative machines have lost strength and there has been a determined opposition to them. In the liberal ranks the young men have been protesting and readers of this article will have had views of its culmination in the results of the ward meetings on Friday night to elect delegates to the convention. Whether the young men succeed or not they will have left their impress upon their party politics and will in future have to be heard. The conservatives will also know what disaffection is when they hold their convention. The machine is weakening its hold and the north end wing and the orangemen will have to be heard as well as their nominees, Messrs. Chesley and Armstrong.

In Kings County there is also dissatisfaction as was plainly shown this week. The prospects now are that there will be a three-cornered fight between Dr. Pogsley, Col. Domville and Rev. Dr. McLeod. Some of the conservative prohibitionists have revolted and at their convention at Hampton on Thursday they nominated the Fredericton clergyman. Mr. Foster and Mr. McLeod are relatives but that did not prevent the former from opposing the latter's nomination. If Dr. McLeod runs it will be a serious blow to the machine and many prohibition conservative votes would be placed to the credit of the clergyman. Three quarters of the prohibitionists in Kings are conservatives, so they would lose most by Dr. McLeod running.

If Dr. McLeod runs it would be an exchange of counties with Mr. Foster, the Fredericton man going to Kings and the Kings county man to York. It is, however, improbable that the distinguished temperance man and member of the Royal commission will accept the nomination when he hears all the circumstances.

There have been many strange events arising from temperance in Kings, but none stranger than the prohibition convention that was held Saturday. For an unruly, noisy and disorderly convention it carried the palm. Into a little hall the people were wedged like sardines and there was a strong odor of whiskey discernable, indicating that some of the anti-temperance people were magnanimously assisting their opponents to settle their internal disputes. Frequent severals were taken at once and not even the quiet dignity of Mr. Foster or the thunderous demands of chairman Kistrand for silence could preserve the equilibrium of affairs.

One of the features of the day was grand master Kelly's revolt from the machine and his support of Rev. Dr. McLeod's nomination. In supporting the nominee, however, he castigated the chief nominator, Rev. Mr. Grant, for his methods; and he declared but the temperance interests.

Rev. Mr. Grant was also severely handled by Hon. Mr. Foster. Mr. Grant had been speaking frequently and when Mr. Foster arose to reply to him he referred once or twice to Mr. Grant by name. Mr. Grant objected to this, saying that he was not the leader in this nomination. Mr. Foster said he thought he was and asked him how he might define it. The clergyman could not give him any satisfaction on this point and so the finance minister continued, "the invisible and unnamable element which had just spoken, it stood on its feet and said, &c." Of course there was a laugh.