

# PROGRESS.

Board of Works 8 May 95

VOL. VII., NO. 356.

ST. JOHN, N. B., SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 1895.

PRICE FIVE CENTS

## AND NOW FOR REFORM.

THE MAYOR AND COUNCILLORS ARE ELECTED IN APRIL.

The Changes Recommended by the Minority in Regard to the Abolition of Offices and the Reduction of Salaries—Special Meeting Called.

Usually about this time of year people are beginning to wonder who will be in the mayoralty contest in April. This year that rule does not hold. Though it wants only two months to the time when the elector will take his annual journey to the polling booth there has been little interchange of opinion respecting the probable candidates.

The fact is that people have been too busy with the investigating work of the council to think of anything else and now they do not realize how brief is the space of time to the election and how much is to be done in the interval. The council has to meet and adopt the report of the general committee and pass the recommendations contained in either the majority or minority reports. Then the Tax Reduction Association will have to meet and endorse or disagree with the action of the sidermen. After that will come around the period of ticket making. Last year it took the T. R. A. executive a long while to form their tickets. This year they will have a shorter period to prepare one. Most of the aldermen who ran on this ticket last year would probably be willing to do so this year but the question is will the society accept them all. Those whom they think carried out their pledge to the association they will support. Those whom they may think were recreant to their trust they will not support.

The twenty-eighth day of February is one of the two important days in the history of this council. The other one was the day on which they were sworn in when the mayor read his address asking for an inquiry and a committee was appointed to conduct the same. On Thursday next there will be the culmination of all this. A special meeting of council will be held and definite action looking towards permanent reforms.

There are two reports to come before that meeting, a majority report and a minority report. The majority report recommends numerous slight changes in management looking to improvement and retrenchment. The minority report is more radical and demands dismissals of officials and cutting of salaries. The indications are that the majority report will carry but the men who are supporting the minority reform intend at least to have a definite, clean and open expression of opinion from the council on the matter. Each alderman will have to put himself on record for or against salary reduction. There will be no escape. The question is how shall the two reports be taken up, will the minority report be taken up first or will it be the majority? If the majority is first considered, as those clauses are moved to there is in amendment in the minority, that amendment will be moved.

Then the aldermen will have to say yes or no to amendment and original resolution. There was a warm discussion in the council last week over the manner in which the minority report was presented to the council. Ald. Baxter fought tooth and nail against it. He claimed that the minority should have in the first place presented their report to the general committee they to present it to the council. He claimed that it was unconstitutional for the minority to present it to the council directly as they were doing.

Ald. McCarthy said that he thought that a minority, even if only one, could present a report independently of the committee.

Ald. McRobbie said that if the minority presented their report to the committee the latter could not reject or change it, for they would be doing an injustice if they did. Therefore, it would be merely formal to present it to them and being only formal what was the advantage?

There were two or three motions made. Ald. Baxter wanted the report sent back to the general committee. Ald. Christie wanted both reports sent back. But Ald. McRobbie gained the day and the minority report was received independently of the committee and will be considered at the meeting on Thursday.

The changes which this report recommends are one engineer, no superintendent of ferries, the reduction of the salaries of the director of works and the chairman of the assessors to \$1200, the chief of the fire department to \$800 and the harbor master to \$1000, he to pay his own clerk.

This is signed by Aids. McLaughlin, Seaton, Waring, McRobbie and McMulkin, while Ald. Daniel agrees with it except in regard to the reductions of the salaries of Director Smith and Chief Kerr.

An Unintentional Excellence.

In Tuesday's Telegraph there appears a boiler-plate cut, which is of the black-and-white order so much affected nowadays. In it a thin man with a Vandyke beard is represented as showing a very stout lady

to a very frail seat. A visitor to PROGRESS office saw the picture there, and admired it greatly. "I never thought much of the Telegraph's cartoons before," he said, "but that certainly is a splendid likeness of Foster. I never saw them make Foster anything like before. Foster showing the Queen to a seat. It's a mighty good skit, isn't it?"

### THE ROSE OF ERIN.

How a Famous Singer Sang Irish Melodies to a Large Crowd in the Bata.

One of the sweetest singers that has ever visited these provinces is Rosa d'Erina, alias (some say) Bridget O'Toole, who is now singing throughout Nova Scotia. Although it was twenty years ago when the rose of Erin was in full bloom, her marvellous voice has not yet acquired the fate of the harp that once through Tara's halls the soul of music shed.

Rosa d'Erina sang in Windsor last week, and delighted a large and select audience. It was not the first time that she has sung in that classic old town. Her first appearance there was at the Dominion day concert in 1872.

It was at Clifton Grove, once the residence of the first American humorist, Judge Haliburton, that she sang. Senator Churchill was the occupant of the Sam Slick house at that time, and loaded his grounds for the concert to Mr. John Chandler, the leading musician of a musical town.

The night of Dominion day, 1872, was one long to be remembered by the great crowd who spent a part of it in Clifton Grove. It is a beautiful spot, but weird, and in it ghosts are popularly supposed to be wont to walk. The rain was falling, the trees were grim spectres, and from the balcony, where Rosa d'Erina was standing, came the sad music of the land of the ban-shee.

The singer could not see her notes, but she did not need to see them. The songs that she learned in Ireland came straight from the heart of the singer.

The melodies of Erin were not the only ones she sang. She gave "Comin' thro' the Rye" with a sweetness that was like that of the Swedish nightingale. And some of those who heard her sing "Angels Ever Bright and Fair" last week said that she sang it far more sweetly that night at Clifton Grove.

"The Spanish Hunting Song" was not heard by all the crowd, although all the crowd tried to hear it. She sang this ballad in the drawing room of the house, playing her accompaniment on Senator Churchill's splendid piano.

There is no sublime occasion, however for it lifts the mind from the trivialities of the world, that has not its ludicrous incident. That night when Rosa d'Erina made her Windsor debut a tinsmith of that town had made a large torch, the bowl of which would have held several gallons of oil. He intended to illuminate the lawn.

The mass of the torch was about twelve feet high, and after the crowd had assembled the tinsmith, who was scrupulously careful about his attire when not in his shop, ascended the ladder dressed in a broadcloth suit, his head set off by a silk hat, to pour in the oil. The tinsmith was one of that numerous class of people that put off until tomorrow what could just as well have been done day before yesterday.

Several gallons of oil had been poured into the bowl, when the tinsmith's masterpiece commenced to leak. The great torch was never lit, and the tinsmith never heard Rosa d'Erina, for his silk hat, his clothes and his dignity had received a top-dressing of oil. The crowd was not any more considerate that other crowds are on similar occasions.

### A BOX O' WHUSTLES.

If Dr. Clarke Voted the Small Organ, What Would he Say to the Big?

St. Stephen's presbyterian church, Amherst, has decided to have an organ to cost about sixteen hundred dollars. The church would not have that organ were Dr. Clarke, that good old presbyterian divine of Amherst's early days, alive and in his former position.

On one occasion Dr. Clarke was asked to preach in the baptist church at Amherst. He was extremely broad-minded in some matters, and had no hesitation in accepting the invitation. He marched into church on Sunday morning with a large bible and the metrical version of the Psalms of David, took his place at the desk and gave out a psalm. Thereupon arose the music of the small organ then doing duty for the baptists. The organ was played by a leading Amherst editor who did his best in the line of melody.

The worthy presbyterian divine did not appreciate the organist's efforts, however. In a voice of thunder that reverberated through the long-drawn aisle and fretted vault, the doctor exclaimed: "Stop that box o' whistles; there'll be no whustlin' in heaven."

It is needless to say that the editor did not attempt to defend himself, as it is well known that most editors are poor extempore speakers. He took a back seat in the synagogue, but did not, however, join in the singing.

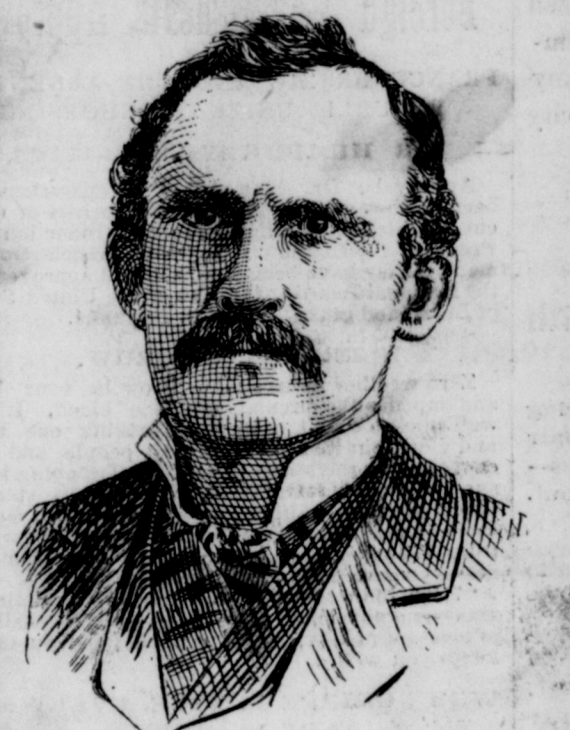
## RICH MEN OF HALIFAX.

THEY ARE VERY UNPRETENTIOUS IN THEIR TASTES.

William Roche, M. P. P., a Student of Literature—A Wealthy Member of the Upper House—The London Head of Murdoch's Nephews—A Patron of the Theatre.

HALIFAX, Feb. 21.—There are not the same number of very large fortunes in Halifax that existed years ago, but there are more men who have "made their pile" large enough to be independent than in the "good old days." They are not all old men either who own them. It would not be a difficult matter to enumerate some, seventy-six men in this city, whose aggregated fortunes average considerably more than \$100,000 each.

Though there are not so many large fortunes as there were ten, twenty, thirty, or more years ago, but there are as already stated a greater number of smaller competencies of say from \$50,000 to \$100,000. The big fortunes of old times have been divided up and distributed in various quarters. Yet the increased number of smaller fortunes is not, to any appreciable extent, due to the breaking up of the old great ones. Our smaller fortunes are



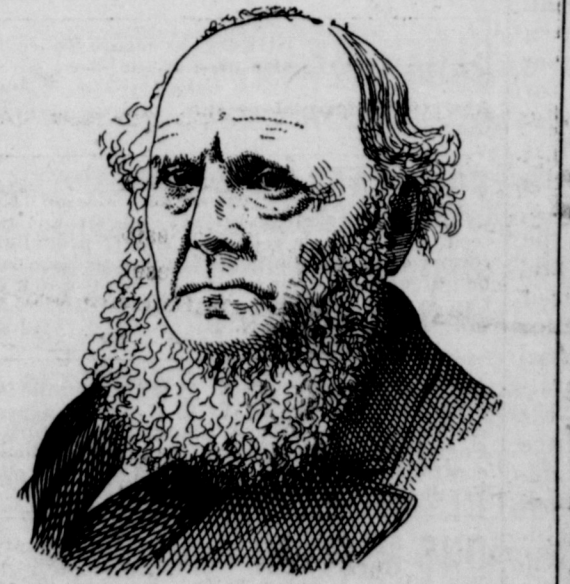
WILLIAM ROCHE, M. P. P.

result, in most instances, of the efforts of their owners, who by their exertions, ability or luck, or all combined, have made them and are increasing them.

Notwithstanding the constant cry of "hard times" and the talk of even harder competition, the facts speak for themselves that money can yet be made in this city and sometimes made fast too. Several comparatively young men have made \$100,000 each in less than 25 years, and with no run of what would be called specially "good luck." A man may have to work harder nowadays to achieve success than in the good old times, but it does work hard and intelligently success can be attained.

In Halifax, as doubtless also in other places in Canada, not only are fortunes smaller and more numerous but the comforts of life are distributed more generally. The people as a whole live better than ever before. They have better houses and their tables are spread more luxuriously than of old.

In days gone by Halifax was the headquarters of a lucrative West Indian business as it still is, and trade not only of Nova Scotia, but of the maritime provinces, centred here. Most of the big fortunes accumulated by the past generation were made either out of the West Indies; out of a provincial or inter-provincial wholesale trade, or from shipping. If those



HON. W. J. STAIRS.

avenues do not now lead with the same directness or speed to wealth there are new roads leading to riches.

But the idea of this letter was not to tell people how wealth has been made or how it can be made in Halifax, as it was to point out some men who have the money. PROGRESS readers already know that the richest man in Halifax is William Roche, M. P. P., and in order that people outside this city may become acquainted with the features of our money king, who can write his name to a good check for about \$600,000 his picture is here presented.

Mr. Roche is a peculiar man in many

ways. He makes his money easily. He is not at all penurious, yet it probably costs him not a cent more than \$1,500 a year to live. He resides on Water street, at the head of his wharf, and so attached is he to that busy part of the city that when the Dominion government not long ago expropriated his former wharf and house at the foot of Cornwallis street for railway purposes, and he had to seek a place of business elsewhere he moved the old homestead a quarter of a mile down the street to his wharf, repaired and re-painted the house, and there he and Mrs. Roche happily live. The only way in which Mr. Roche comes before the public, outside of his business, is in politics. The junior liberal member of the local legislature for this county is an ardent politician. He is willing "to spend and be spent" to advance the cause of liberalism in politics, but for little else. He is attached to literature and all his leisure is spent at home on Water Street among his books. Mr. Roche's speeches abound in poetic quotations and allusions, one good result, at least, of his literary meditations. There is little doubt that in the years Mr. Roche yet has to live, for he is only middle aged, he will make his fortune much larger—money makes money. The chances are that the day will come when he who is the richest man in Halifax will be able to call himself a millionaire. Mr. Roche is a coal merchant, wharf owner and steamship agent, and is interested in most of our best financial institutions.

William Miller, the head of the firm of Murdoch's Nephews, of London, New York and Halifax, is worth from one to two million dollars, but as he is not a resident of this city, his name or his wealth one not included in the estimate of this letter.

There are two men in Halifax who are worth each \$400,000, following Mr. Roche in magnitude of their financial possessions. They are Hon. W. J. Stairs, and Michael Dwyer. Both stand high not only in the financial world, but they occupy commanding positions because of their great personal, moral and intellectual worth.

Mr. Stairs is the head of the great hardware firm of Stairs, Son and Morrow and is largely interested in the Consumers' cordage company. He has large amounts invested in banking and other enterprises in this city. He had a large family, the most widely-known son being the junior liberal conservative member for this county in the Dominion house of commons, J. F. Stairs, M. P. Hon. Mr. Stairs has particularly retired from business, but he takes an intelligent interest in all that goes on in the business, political and philanthropic world. Prior to confederation he was a member of the legislature. Michael Dwyer, the head of the wholesale grocery firm of John Tobin & Co., is worth about as much as Hon. Mr. Stairs, and like him, after clearing all liabilities would probably be able to show a balance of \$400,000. When people see Mr. Dwyer they see one of the three richest men in Halifax, whose combined fortunes would mean nearly one and one-half million dollars. He is slightly older than Mr. Roche and much younger than Mr. Stairs. Mr. Dwyer's tastes are different from either of the others. He is often seen at places of amusement, and is a good patron of the academy of music. A faithful member of the board of trade, at its last meeting he was elected president.

These are the three richest men in Halifax and out of over \$8,000,000 owned by seventy-six of our citizens they leave \$6,700,000 to be divided among the remaining seventy-three of them. Of whom, and who they all are, next week.

### The Captain of the "Veterans."

HALIFAX, February 21.—"Tommy Atkins" is certainly mistaken when he makes charges such as are contained in his letter last week regarding Captain Browne, of the 66th P. L. F. Anything the captain promises he may be depended on to perform and any obligation resting upon him he will discharge. The relation between him and his men of the Veterans' company of the 66th have always been pleasant, and "Tommy Atkins" does not speak the sentiments of the company as a whole by any means. Captain Browne has a record of twenty-eight years in the militia service, and it is a good record, as any one who has kept the run of our citizen soldiery know. For ten years he has been in command of the Veterans. His interest in rifle shooting and in all the concerns of the force show him to be not a soldier for show, but one who is willing to work as well. As captain of the Vets he is a success.

### Lend a Hand.

PROGRESS had a call yesterday from "Count" Maloney, whose weakness has for years made him a jest among his fellow men. Few would have known him yesterday in his new suit, sober and very much a man among his fellows. He is taking the "cure" and there are many people who will lend him a helping hand.

## LOOKS LIKE AN ANGEL.

BUT HE IS A FALLEN ANGEL, AT ANY RATE.

The "Affable Stranger" Trusted Again—Mr. and Mrs. Hegan are Out—Stimmer alias Bryde—An Expert in Shaving, and a Good Judge of Whiskey.

Mr. and Mrs. W. Hamilton Hegan will not trust the "affable stranger" in future. They did this week and the experience cost them something like three hundred dollars. But they cannot be blamed for this stranger was extremely affable and hospitable and they could not but be hospitable in return.

The next morning, which was Friday last, he was gone and three hundred dollars worth of Mr. W. Hamilton Hegan's jewelry had gone with him. He has not been seen since.

The man gave his name as Simmer to



The Thief Bryde, alias Simmer.

those whom he met in this city but word comes from Digby that this is only an alias. He turns out to be Nicolay Bryde, the second officer of the Swedish barque John, which went ashore below Digby Gut some time ago. He was in Digby for some weeks after the vessel went ashore and before she was towed to St. John. There he made many acquaintances and represented himself as the son of a wealthy shipowner.

He was very fastidious in his tastes. He was a judge of a good cigar, and was also a connoisseur in whiskey. The Digby Telegram is authority for the additional statement that he shaved every day and powdered and painted his cheeks. This may be a rash statement, but it is quite certain that he did one good day's work in St. John in the way of shaving, and it is also quite evident that his cheek needed some disguise.

### CONFLICTING PILOTS' EVIDENCE.

Strange to Say, it Comes From the Same Witness.

The pilotage enquiry is nearing the end and it will have taken a little less than weeks for the commissioners to obtain the city's expert opinion upon this subject. The enquiry commenced on Thursday, Feb. 7th, and up to and including Thursday, Feb. 21st, during which time the court had sat twelve days, thirty-four witnesses were examined with half a dozen still to be heard from.

These thirty-four witnesses represented various interests and all classes of people who would be affected by any change in the system of pilotage payment was on the stand. Five pilots were on the stand and all of course were united in their advocacy of compulsory pilotage. Four members of the pilotage commission beside the secretary and Mr. W. A. Black of the Halifax commission gave testimony supporting the compulsory system, except Mr. J. W. Smith who as an owner of coastwise shipping was opposed.

Nine ship owners were on the stand, three of them members of the pilot commission. Of these nine seven opposed the present system and asked for free and open competition. The two who had conservative opinion were members of the commission.

Fourteen captains contributed their offering to the mass of evidence. Of these four were schooner captains, two were of Dominion cruisers, one a tug captain one a barge captain, two were captains of regular coastwise steamers, two were captains of sea-going steamers and two were captains of sea-going sailors. Ten of these supported the optional system, while the captains of the Dominion cruisers and the sea-going steamers favor compulsory payment. These latter were Capts. Bissett, Pratt, Thomas and Humphreys, Harbor master Taylor also favored the present system.

Summing up this evidence it will be found that the witnesses divide evenly in their support of the two systems and it appears that while commissioners and pilots favor the present system, the ship owners and a majority of the captains ask for a change. Probably the testimony of the ship captains would be as valuable as any

and among a representative lot of captains it is significant that the majority of them think that the safety of shipping does not demand the compulsory system.

It seemed from the nature of the evidence sometimes that truth is not an absolute thing but that it is relative to circumstances. Some of the witnesses would not always write it with a capital. M. H. McLean, being a legal gentleman, would go even further than this and allow much greater range to truth. He laid down the principle that truth might become very elastic when there was an election on when a city was booming itself. In fact a politician before an election should be held responsible for what he said. This is very comfortable creed to hold but perhaps it is advisable to advertise it. It might create a loss of confidence in himself and friends.

One or two gentlemen who were witnesses, either through the possession of this principle that after all truth is only relative or through generosity of spirit that led them to agree with every one assented to some very opposite statements. Now Mr. McLean wanted to show that navigation in the bay of Fundy was extremely hazardous, Mr. Schofield to show that it was extremely easy and it was interesting to hear witnesses coincide with both these opinions in their broadness of mind. For instance, if when Major McLean read from a copy of the "Sailing Directions," with which he was always armed, that navigation in the bay is rendered dangerous by numerous outlying dangers fringing the approaches, by rapid uncertain tides and by the frequent occurrence of dense fog, barge captain McNamara agreed with him that this was so. Then Mr. Schofield read from the board of trade report of 1887 that the navigation of the bay from its mouth to St. John is remarkable simple and free, so much so that pilots prefer making this port to any other. To this also the captain assented and the court is trying to decide what his opinion of the bay really is.

Then Pilot Cline came to the front and found himself equally ready to say yes. Pilot Cline agreed with the statements in the "Sailing Directions" and he also endorsed and ratified a letter of his which appeared in the board of trade report of 1887. Here are two statements in these two authorities.

Pilot Cline agreed with statement in "Sailing Directions" Navigation (in Bay of Fundy) is rendered dangerous by rapid, uncertain tides.

Pilot Cline endorsed his own statement in board of trade report:—I do not consider the tides dangerous by any means.

Perhaps one lobe of Pilot Cline's cerebrum agrees with one statement and the other lobe with the other statement.

### THEY FEAR PUBLICITY.

The Halifax Council Discriminates Against Reporters.

HALIFAX, Feb. 21.—All civic committees in Halifax for years have been open to the press just as fully as has the city council or any other public deliberative body. There once was a strong section of the aldermen opposed to thus throwing the committees open. The time was when their meetings were held in secret, but the progressive element prevailed. The board of school commissioners was the most disinclined to allow the public to know what went on at its meetings, but that opposition is an old story now, and for many a day the reporters have been accustomed to regularly attend. The system works well. Almost invariably the reporters exercise just as much discretion as the aldermen or commissioners regarding what should be printed and what it would be injudicious to make public. If everything a reporter hears at these committee meetings were printed the readers of the morning papers would think our city tatters very different from the dignified and sensible aldermen those gentlemen like the people to believe them to be. The reporters seldom attend a meeting sparing some of the alderman in one way or another.

Public interests suffer in another respect from the presence of the reporters at committee in Halifax. If anything comes up which it is inadvisable to announce next morning, all the aldermen need to do is to state the reasons to the press representatives why the fact should not be published, and in every case the announcement is withheld. When an older man first comes into the council he is apt to be suspicious of the press, but after a little experience he comes to learn that if he acts squarely he will be met in a like spirit. Thus neither the public interests, nor the interests of the newspaper readers but both are heretofore in the long run. This system does not spare the alderman or the official who is not straight, and who deserves to be "shown up" he soon meets his fate.

The committee on civic reform in St. John might have done well to have taken a leaf out of the Halifax civic committee note book.