

PROGRESS.

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PRICE FIVE CENTS

MARKET MEN INCENSED.

THEY CLAIM THAT THE COUNCIL HAS WRONGED THEM.

"Fore-stallers" Control the Business and Crowd out Legitimate Traders—Citizens Pose as Farmers—How the Maple Candy Business is Conducted.

In a few weeks the civic elections will be on and the stall keepers are determined there will be some changes made in the way affairs are conducted in the market, or there will be very few of their votes placed for the Tax Reduction association.

There are many grievances. One of these is the fact that parties who pay no tax for stalls have the same privileges as those who pay a heavy yearly rental. Country traders who come in with a quarter of beef, mutton or such things, pay a few cents till sixteen at the outside, and then peddle the product, thus competing with the regular stall holders and cutting into their prices.

Then again parties in the city, residents, buy farm products and take them into the market, posing as countrymen, pay their tolls and undersell the stall men, cheating the city and injuring those whom the city is pledged to protect. If Mr. Lynam, the deputy clerk, knows the law is thus wantonly violated he should be compelled to stop it; if he does not he is not fitted for the position. Mr. Potts, the tesse, may not know that he is infringing rules, but it is said that tolls are taken several times for the same articles. For instance a countryman brings in some eggs, the toll is collected, the eggs are sold to a "fore-staller" who moves them a few yards down the market shelves and toll is collected again. They may be sold and "tolled" several times, each time adding to the funds of Mr. Potts and injuring the trade of those who rent stalls. Is it lawful under the regulations of the council?

A plan that is vicious indeed and that causes considerable controversy is the peddling in the market by those who do not produce the articles they sell but buy them outside. Several citizens and countrymen carry on this species of trade. The country-traders buy a scanty ticket on the train; they go round among their neighbors and purchase all classes of farm produce and then bring them to the market, pose as farmers and peddle them out, paying but the tolls. Their fees and car fares do not equal one-fifth the cost of a stall, yet they have equal privilege with the regular stall keeper, and pay neither taxes nor license.

Just now is the maple sugar season. The compound is a mixture of Barbadoes molasses, vinegar, oil of maple and extract of tar, but it passes as maple? Parties come in from the country, buy the ingredients, take them out to their farms or sugar camp [and] in a few days are back again, occupying a conspicuous place in the market selling their products. Dozens do this kind of work and the farmer who does make pure sugar and syrup has no chance to compete with the mixer of vile compounds, unless he doctors his own products. When the berry season is on the stall keeper can only look on. The place is full of traders who buy berries everywhere, occupy all the shelves, crowd out all the farmers and take full charge of the establishment. They infest the boats and watch every country team that comes in, buy up every pail or basket of berries and rush the price and the market. They pay nothing but fees and laugh at the legitimate trader who is man enough to comply with the law and pay for the privileges he has. Then in the autumn and at the Christmas season it is the same. So serious has this become that legitimate traders have refused to handle berries at all. So it is in many other cases. So disgusted have the stall men become that many of them have threatened to give up their stalls and go into the open market and compete with the fore-stallers; on their own ground. We could mention the names of those who have done so but it is not necessary just now. Henry Hammond is one. There are several others.

There is no desire on the part of the market men to attack Mr. Lynam or Mr. Potts, but they desire a change in the way affairs are conducted. If these fore-stallers are following the law then there is no sense in paying a large price for a stall. If the laws are not bad they are grossly violated; in either case there is a necessity for a change.

There are other parties whom the bogus traders injure; these are the grocers who may handle produce or the butchers who rent shops in various parts of the city. They have to compete with parties who pay no rent, no taxes, nor license, no charges of any kind, only a few cents to Mr. Potts, and they have all the advantages of a store provided by the city at the expense of ratepayers. There is a screw loose somewhere and the legitimate traders are determined Mr. Lynam and Mr. Potts will make a move of some kind and there must be a change in the existing order of

things. They have expected something all the year from the Reform council, but affairs are really worse now than they ever were.

Another case in point. There are stalls that are leased at the reduced rates of twenty-five dollars per year under certain restrictions. One is that those who have them shall do only a commission business and shall not buy in the market. It is a fact that the restrictions are laughed at. Those holding the commission stalls do just the same business, in fact have all the privileges of those who are aiding the trade of the city to a much larger extent.

There are butchers who watch "chances" each day. If they see a good "chance" to secure meat from a farmer at a low figure, they buy and retail it out again in the open market. This is an infraction of the law, yet it is done perhaps every day. Names of those who do this kind of trade as a regular business can be given.

There is a good deal of feeling displayed by the legitimate traders over this matter, and they freely comment on the inaction and weakness of the clerk.

The recommendation made by the Board of Works recently that the market be continued to Mr. Potts at the same rate as last year instead of putting it up at public auction was not pleasing. The stall keepers say the common council should investigate the matter thoroughly, should see where the truth lies, should expel the fore-stallers and make their charge such as will be to the advantage of the citizens and fair play to those who pay the city for stall privilege. Some of the laws were made years ago under entirely different conditions from those that prevail now yet they remain unchanged.

If the council investigate the matter they will find many violations of the legislation that should be stopped at once.

Mr. Potts may be within the law in all his collections; it is the quicker that law is changed the better for the city and citizens.

There are those that consider that with a more determined clerk, one who would look after the interests of the market in a business manner, there would be fewer in fractions of the law and less dissatisfaction. No one blames Mr. Potts for collecting all he can, so long as the city or the clerk allows him the privileges, but in the interests of the ratepayers and those who do a legitimate trade there must be remedial legislation of some kind.

ANOTHER SALVATIONIST HERE.

The Officer on Command of the Army for this District. The Salvation Army in the maritime provinces has a new head this week. This is in pursuance of the army policy of keeping everything on the move, including the officers. They don't allow grooves to form and so they keep the officers always jumping. They are changed frequently and a continuous circulation is kept up with visitations, receptions, farewells, &c.,



there is always something going on to inspire the soldiers.

Brigadier Scott was welcomed here this week and tomorrow he will address large meetings in the Opera House, afternoon and evening. It took him only about a dozen years to rise from the ranks to the office of brigadier, and in the same time he has been stationed all over Canada and Newfoundland, from St. John's to Vancouver.

As the accompanying portrait shows he is a young man, slight in build, and of medium height. He is a Saxon in his features, complexion and hair and has an Englishman's quiet demeanor but latent enthusiasm.

He was given a welcome at the Charlotte street barracks Thursday evening, and it was a warm one. The corps were there in their many colored turbans and East Indian dress and the sight was an inspiring one. After many good things had been said to the brigadier and his wife by Mr. Joseph Bullock, Mrs. Bullock, Staff Captain Howells and others responded. He opened quietly but becoming enthused he aroused his hearers by his eager speech and filled them with his own earnestness.

VAL AKERLEY MARRIED.

HOW HE AND MISS MCCONNELL SURPRISED THEIR FRIENDS.

Had Been Married Three Weeks Before Congratulations Were in Order—Larsen Tells an Interesting Story and Mentions St. John People in Boston.

Boston, March 27.—Mr. Val P. Akerley, an old St. John man and a member of Denman Thompson's original Old Homestead male quartette, gave his friends a surprise the other evening at the Arlington Hotel, which, by the way, is managed by another St. John man, Mr. W. E. Blanchard of five and ten cent store fame. Mr. Akerley boards at the Arlington when in Boston, and a number of other St. John people find their way there. Miss Blanche D. MacConnell, who came from Yarmouth, was also a boarder and an immensely popular one. Mr. and Mrs. Blanchard gave a musicale for Miss MacConnell in the drawing room of the hotel on the evening in question. There were between 80 and 90 people present, and a good musical programme made the evening pass pleasantly and quickly.

At its conclusion the guests were asked to remain a few minutes longer, and there was a good deal of curiosity to know what was coming next. The door of the back parlor was opened and the guests were invited to walk in couples. As they did so Mr. Blanchard introduced them to Mr. and Mrs. Akerley.

The couple stood at the south end of the room with little Miss Alice Blanchard on their right, dressed very prettily in white muslin over pink silk. On Mr. Akerley's left stood Rev. Alfred C. Skinner, (who by the way is a native of St. Johns, Newfoundland) and next to him Mrs. W. Blanchard. Mrs. Akerley, whom the guests recognized as Miss MacConnell, was dressed in a white French organdie over Nile green silk, the waist trimmed with pink satin ribbon and flowers of the same shade as the collar about her neck.

The guests viewed the party with a good deal of surprise. They did not know what to make of it, but as they walked around and shook hands with the young couple in a half-hearted way, laughed and took the matter as a joke. When they were finally convinced that it was no joke for the happy couple the handshaking was done all over again, and this time it was of a more hearty nature. After the reception supper was served. The marriage took place some weeks ago, and Mr. and Mrs. Blanchard were the only ones let into the secret.

The activity among St. John hotel men is noted with a good deal of interest in Boston, and it is felt that any increase in accommodations that may be made should be advertised extensively. Last year's experience did much to divert travel from St. John, and those who were unable to find a place to sleep then, will probably steer clear of the city in future. Mr. J. F. Masters, the Boston agent of the Dominion Atlantic railway, tells me that his company is getting out a deal of advertising matter, and that the prospects are good for an even greater volume of tourist travel than last year. It is expected that a good portion of it will be by the way of Yarmouth, for this route is a comparatively new one, and will break the monotony for those who have been accustomed to go to the provinces by way of St. John and Halifax. Mr. Masters was in St. John last season and has a vivid recollection of the days when the boats from Boston and from across the bay landed 200 or 300 strangers in the city at nightfall, the majority of whom could not find accommodations and thought it was the duty of the agent to know the reason why.

One of the Boston papers printed a story last week to the effect that the young woman who committed suicide at the Adams House under most sensational circumstances, and who was buried under the name of Clara Hathaway, was born in St. John, but although there were some circumstances which might at first glance lead one to believe that such was the case, it is safe to say that the young woman never saw St. John. The story claimed that she was the daughter of Ebenezer Hathaway, who lived in St. John about 20 years ago and removed to Brooklyn, N. Y.; also that after the death of her mother and sister she lived some time with Capt. Charles Hathaway on the Mahogany road, and had a number of times been invited by Mrs. W. W. Turabull, who is also a relative, to stay with her. The name of this young woman was Caroline Hathaway. There are some doubts however as to whether the suicide's name was anything like Hathaway, but that was what she called herself at one time. As a result of this sensation Lawyer Simon Hathaway, who has an office on School street, and is a brother of Mr. W. Frank Hathaway, president of the St. John board of trade, received considerable prominence in the article, also the wife of Dr. Orin S. Sargent, who is also a St. John woman and was advertised as

having "a palatial residence" in West Roxbury.

Ned Skillings is in town this week waiting for the first consignment of his work illustrating St. John, and in the meantime running across a large number of provincialists who are anxious to become subscribers to it.

Mr. F. F. Hicks, manager of the Colonial Power and Fuel company and who has an office in the Equitable building, is a St. John man who is meeting with good success in Boston. I believe he was at one time connected with Nixon's wall paper house on King street.

R. G. LARSEN.

THE FROG CURE.

A Nova Scotia Woman's Cure for Diphtheria Seems Greater than Anti-Toxine.

"Yes," said the benevolent old gentleman, "there is a better remedy for diphtheria than this anti-toxine. Just come into the house and I'll tell you what it is."

The reporter is always willing to hear of any better remedies for diphtheria than anti-toxine, and so went into the house. The benevolent old gentleman gave him a chair, and began to tell of a famous old Nova Scotia lady who used to cure diphtheria.

"She used to be in greater demand when anyone was sick than any of the doctors for miles around," said the old gentleman. "I remember one time when a little girl was almost dead with the diphtheria. Every remedy had been tried for her, and the doctor couldn't help her any. So they set off for this woman. When she got there the little girl was pretty far gone. She walked into the kitchen and said to two boys that were there, 'Do you know where there's any frogs?'"

"You bet we do," said the boys. "Get me three frogs," said the woman. "What d'ye want of 'em?" asked the boys.

"Never you mind what I want of them," said the woman. "You just hustle and get 'em, as fast as you ever hustled in your life, or I'll—" and she shook her fist in a terrible manner.

"So those boys left the house pretty sudden, and it wasn't long before they had the three frogs. The woman tied a string to a frog's leg, and put it into the child's mouth, and the way that frog ate up the poison in the girl's mouth was a caution. After it had eaten considerable she took the frog out by the hind leg, and gave it a sling into the corner. It had poisoned itself. Then she put the second frog in, and it committed suicide in the same way. After the third one had been taken out of the little girl's mouth she felt a good better, and it wasn't long before she was well.

"The woman had a great friend, a stout lady, whose neck was very fat. She often used to say to this friend of hers, 'You'll have diphtheria some day sure, and you'll die of it, too, unless I happen to be somewhere in the neighborhood.' So whether it was through worrying about it or not, sure enough a while after the stout woman with the big neck did have diphtheria of the worst kind. She was awfully scared, for her friend the woman was away up country, but she said to send for the woman, and to tell her for heaven's sake not to delay. So the woman was hunted up, and she lost no time coming, now I tell you. She wouldn't go in her wagon, but jumped on her old black mare, and went bustling over road and field, with her bonnet strings flying, and her eyes striking fire. Her long black hair would have been flying in the air too, if it hadn't have been so stiff that it couldn't fly.

"Well, she got to the house, and she rushed into it, and tells the servant girl to get her two frogs. So the girl got the frogs and they were two pretty big ones, too, and she stuck them in the stout woman's throat, and the stout woman got well, and is a great believer in her friend's frog cure."

Trouble over the Athletic Grounds.

The excitement of the week among the local sporting men was over the athletic grounds and the trouble that has arisen. Mr. S. W. Milligan has leased part of the ground and the St. John athletic club have the remainder. Neither section is any good alone and the question is will the parties agree. Mr. Milligan is not "good friends" with the club. He has not been since the base ball days when he had a falling out with Mr. Skinner. He may be a difficult man to deal with. He pays \$200 for the grounds and it is said that he is willing to let the A. A. A. have them for \$250.

Their Programme Next Summer.

Messrs. Crossley and Hunter purpose spending their vacation in St. John, arriving here in July. They will begin an evangelistic tour in the eastern provinces in September and any information concerning their work will be given by Rev. J. J. Teasdale, pastor of Centenary church, 120 Pitt street.

"Progress" is For Sale in Boston at King's Chapel News Stand.

SEEKING CIVIC HONORS.

THE MEN WHO ARE ANXIOUS TO SERVE ON THE COUNCIL.

The T. R. A. Ticket and its new Men—Alderman Baxter will try and get on Again Instead of Joining the anti-Forces—The Opposition Ticket is Stronger Than Usual.

The time has again come round when civic politicians assemble in knots of two and three on Chubb's corner and also in less public places and settle the fate of aspirants to aldermanic fame. The air this week has been full of rumors of the formation of tickets and it is pretty well decided who will ask the electors for their support on the eventful sixteenth of April.

As last year there will be two tickets in the field, the T. R. A. ticket and the opposition. The formation of these tickets is pretty well completed and the present signs point to their standing somewhat as follows:

T. R. A.	None.	Opposition.
Major Robertson.	Mayor	D. J. Purdy
Al. McLaughlin.	Ald. at large.	Ald. McCarthy
Dr. Boyle Travers.	do.	Sydney
Ald. Waring.	Dukes,	Ald. Blizzard
Ed. G. Ruel.	Queens,	T. B. Robinson
Ald. Daniel.	Kings,	
John Flood.	Princes,	
Ala. McRobbie.	Wellington,	J. E. Wilson
Thos. McPherson.	Victoria,	Ald. Mullidge
Ald. Seaton.	Dufferin,	Ald. Christie
Jos. A. Lively.	Laundowne,	R. C. Elkin
Henry Maher.	Lorain,	Ald. Mesonnick
Ald. McMillin.	Stanley,	Ald. Baxter
J. S. Climo.	Brooks,	I. E. Smith
B. H. Appleby.	Guy's,	
W. D. Baskin.		

Mayor Robertson will have his election by acclamation, as has been the case with one exception with a mayor asking for a second term. It is generally conceded that he has filled his position well, presiding at the meetings of council in an able manner and fulfilling his outside duties with acceptance. In the knowledge of one who frequents the city hall much he is always found at his office, ready to devote his time to the reception of strangers or to be consulted on any subject. In his official capacity he has assisted hundreds of times almost at public gatherings, meetings, dinners, &c., and has done so with dignity.

The excitement in this election will therefore have to confine itself to the aldermen. Up to date the list given above is quite authentic but there may yet be many changes before nomination day which is Tuesday week. Of the T. R. A.'s sixteen representatives in the council only six have been renominated. These six are the men who supported the minority report demanding extensive salary reduction. By thus renominating them and throwing over the other seven who supported the majority report the nominating committee of the T. R. A. most emphatically demand salary reduction.

New the question is how will these seven submit to being thrown overboard. It is quite certain that some of them are kicking. Ald. Shaw and Ald. Kennedy intend to retire from the field anyway so they do not feel concerned. Ald. Lockhart tried hard for the nomination and ex-Ald. Baskin tried hard to get it for him. Failing in doing this Mr. Baskin accepted the nomination and according to the compact made between these two Ald. Lockhart will not oppose him but will retire from the field.

But three of the men are sternly working for a nomination. These are Ald. Baxter, Ald. McCarthy and Ald. Blizzard. The ticket has to pass the executive committee and after that the association itself, and in that time these men might get on. Last year Ald. Baxter got on in the last meeting, his friends going there for the purpose of substituting his name for ex-Ald. Stackhouse's. It is stated that they were gathered at the meeting of the association this week thinking that the ticket was to be moved and hoping to make a change.

Ald. McCarthy thinks that he should have the nomination and has so stated through his official organ. The alderman led the poll last election and he considers that he would carry more strength to the ticket if his name were there instead of Dr. Boyle Travis. The latter is quite an old man and has not the same elements of popularity as the alderman. Therefore he thinks that the Catholics on the ticket should be Ald. McCarthy, John Flood and Henry Maher.

Ald. Blizzard saw no reason why he should have been dropped. His only fault is that he is too agreeable and not wishing to differ with people, votes with the majority. If, says he, the majority votes for salary reduction next year, why, I am with them. He considers that he would carry more prestige to the ticket on account of his experience and maturity than would Mr. Gerald Ruel, who though a son of Collector Ruel and an estimable young man and rising barrister, is known to but few.

There are one or two others about whom there is uncertainty and the fear has been expressed even by members of the nominating committee that the whole ticket will not carry in the association meeting. But this is a thing about which no prediction can be made and whether or

not there will be attempts to pack the meetings time only can tell.

In the list of opposition men there are suggested blanks in Sydney, Kings, Prince and Victoria ward. Ex-Ald. Law would like to be on the ticket in the last named ward but the men who formed the ticket, Ald. Christie, McGoldrick, et al. think it would not be best to bring out a man against the latter candidate and thus antagonize that body. Such being the case Ald. Seaton may enjoy an uninterrupted view of his aldermanic seat for next year.

The two strongest men on the ticket are Ald. McRobbie and Ald. Waring. The former is a skilled accountant and thorough business man. He has been willing to devote his time to his work and he has a lot of ideas in his head with regard to opportunities for economy. It will be hard to find any one to oppose him and no one has turned up yet. Ald. Waring's mechanical knowledge is valuable and he is a very popular man. The fact of his absence from the city last year was a drawback but not a serious one. Ex-Ald. Lewis may oppose him but that is not settled yet.

Of the fifteen men on the T. R. A. ticket six are on the present council and two have had a civic experience. The latter are Ex-Alds. Likely and Baskin. This leaves seven new men who have never before had the pleasure of guiding the tiller.

Dr. Boyle Travers and G. G. Ruel have been spoken of. They are the extremes among the seven as respects age. Both of them stand well in the community socially and professionally. John Flood is a young man of between thirty and forty. He is a mason and builder, possesses some property and is a good staunch man. Thomas McPherson is also an active young man of progressive ideas. He is of the firm of McPherson Bros., Union street. They are right up-to-date as grocers, which would be an assurance that he would be up-to-date as an alderman. Henry Maher is a grocer and provision dealer on Main street and is a man whose years in the city has made him well-known. J. S. Climo has been engaged in the laudable pursuit of making people better looking than they really are. They should thank him for so doing by electing him alderman. Mr. Climo has been before the public considerably lately and as a well established and matured business man he will be a worthy foe of the veteran aldermen of Stanley. "Ben" Appleby is a grocer of good standing and is a very good selection.

The opposition ticket, as it now stands, rallies six of the present aldermen, one or two ex-aldermen, T. R. Robinson and R. C. Elkin, who were in the Portland council, and two or three new men. It must be conceded by the T. R. A. that these are well known and strong men and they will have to put forth strenuous efforts to carry their ticket. The strength of the T. R. A. ticket will lie chiefly in such men as Ald. McLaughlin and McRobbie with their thorough business experience and their solid popularity.

TAXES LESS THIS YEAR.

The First Effect of a Policy of Civic Economy.

A strong evidence of the very general ignorance there is of civic affairs is the cry that has been raised against the present council that last year's tax bills were not reduced. This has been heard vented by people from whom better would be expected, but they did not seem to be aware that the tax bills of last year were made up from the assessment ordered by the previous council. The present council were not responsible in the least. They will be for the next tax bills and in these there will be reduction.

They passed the assessment at their meeting on Thursday and knocked about \$30,000 off. That means about six cents on \$100 reduction in the tax bills. The assessment for city purposes for next year will be about \$280,000. The reduction was not made by impairing the efficiency of the civic services. The usual amounts were paid for these. It comes off of sinking funds, interest, &c.

An alderman showed wherein there might be still further reductions in the assessments for sinking funds. He advocated the consolidating of the debt and sinking funds; it would save book keeping and it would diminish the sinking fund assessment. According to the present system there is a separate sinking fund for every issue of debentures. For years there has in many cases been more assessed for certain sinking funds than was required, thus unnecessarily burdening the taxpayers. If the funds were consolidated this possibility would be avoided.

Beautiful Designs in Wall Paper.

D. McArthur, bookseller 90 King St. is showing a complete line of wall papers, embracing all the new style and patterns in all the grades of goods. All who have examined his new stock are delighted with the beautiful tints and colorings. Anyone in need of wall paper should give him a call.