

# PROGRESS.

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PRICE FIVE CENTS

## DUNN GOT THE MONEY.

CHAIRMAN WELDON WAS BOUND HE SHOULD HAVE IT.

One of the ways in which the Board of School Trustees does as it pleases—No wonder that body objects to reporters being present at its sessions.

The board of school trustees is a quiet, easy going sort of a body which does not court publicity. All it asks is to be let alone. It not only does not want reporters at its sessions, but surrounds its proceedings with an air of mystery quite incomprehensible to the citizens who foot the bills and indirectly appoint a majority of members of the board. When it comes to such secrecy that an order is passed for the erection of a school building, and a trustee tells a reporter, the next day, that nothing of the kind was done, the public begin to get curious to know what all the secrecy is about. There has long been an impression that the meetings should be open to the press, and this has been the contention of PROGRESS from the start. The impression has at last reached the common council, and that body has requested its appointees on the board to use their influence to have reporters admitted to their meetings.

The school board consists of nine members. Five of these are appointed by the council. Their names are D. H. Nase, Michael Coll, W. D. Baskin, Dr. Geo. A. Hetherington and C. B. Lockhart. The minority of four, appointed by the local government consists of C. W. Weldon, W. E. Vroom, D. R. Jack and Thomas Gorman. Mr. Weldon is the chairman.

At the last meeting of this high and mighty body, Monday night, a communication was read from publishers of the Record, asking the privilege of having a reporter at meetings of the board. Mr. Lockhart seems to have been the only man who looked upon the idea with favor. The others were opposed to it, and their opposition was less on any broad principle than for the declared reason that the Record had been publishing editorials unfavorable to the board. Had it been any paper but the Record, they might have discussed the question. As it was, they decided the matter very quickly, much the same as a petulant child would say, "I don't want to play in your yard; I don't love you any more." The communication was filed.

At a special meeting of the common council, on Tuesday, Ald. Baxter moved a resolution to the effect already stated, that the appointees of the council use their influence to have the meetings open to the public. He complained that rumors were current in regard to contracts which might or might not have foundation, but even the members of the council, who appointed a majority of the members, were unable to learn anything about the proceedings of the trustees. The resolution was endorsed by the mayor and supported by Ald. Law, McLaughlan, McGoldrick and McRobbie and passed the council without a dissenting voice.

The childish sitting down on the Record was not the only topic discussed at the meeting of the trustees Monday night. It transpired that the sum of \$200 had been paid to R. C. John Dunn, architect of the Erin street school building, not only without any authority from the trustees, but against their expressed opinion. The gentleman who took the responsibility for this bold stroke of finance was the respected chairman, Mr. C. W. Weldon.

At a meeting of the trustees, on the previous Wednesday, Mr. Dunn made application for the \$200 in question. In the discussion that followed the prevailing sentiment was that Mr. Dunn was in a little too much of a hurry for his money. He had received a similar sum a short time before. There was a want of information as to whether the work had advanced sufficiently to warrant the additional expenditure. Several of the members thought it had not, and the opinion was that Mr. Dunn should wait until more was learned about the matter. This was the understanding when the meeting adjourned.

Mr. Dunn does not seem to have been disposed to accept this view of the board. He wanted the money, and set about to get it. Mr. Dunn is a pretty enterprising citizen and succeeded. His friend, Weldon, being chairman of the board, had only to sign a cheque, and the board would be quite willing to ratify the act of its chairman. No one would make any kick if Mr. Weldon said it was all right.

Mr. Weldon, however, does not sign cheques for the board without some kind of an authorization. This authorization has always been by the chairman of the finance committee. The latter official is trustee D. R. Jack. Mr. Jack, however, does not give a certificate on which a cheque can issue unless he knows the finance committee want him to do so. In this instance he knew nothing of the kind.

He was, therefore, not a little surprised on Saturday when one of the staff of the secretary's office, Mr. Chisholm, came to

him with the request that he would give a certificate, as chairman of the finance committee, to enable a cheque for \$200 to be drawn in favor of Mr. Dunn. Chairman Weldon could have signed a cheque without a certificate, had he liked, but it would not have been regular or according to precedent, and Chairman Weldon, being a lawyer, believes in precedents.

Mr. Jack declined to sign a certificate, for the reason that the finance committee had given him no instructions to do so, and so far as he had understood the sense of the trustees it was just what they did not want him to do. He said this, and Mr. Chisholm went to report to Chairman Weldon.

The latter came at once to Mr. Jack's office and personally made the request. Mr. Jack still declined, and appealed to trustee Michael Coll, who was present, to give his opinion. Mr. Coll would not say whether he thought it would be right or wrong for Mr. Jack to give the certificate. Mr. Jack said that he was willing to call a meeting of the finance committee for Monday, and if they thought he ought to sign the certificate he would do so. He contended that this slight delay would ensure his course being right, and that as Mr. Dunn was not a contractor with a pay roll to meet, he could afford to wait that length of time. No definite arrangement was made and Chairman Weldon left, and also Trustee Coll.

Mr. Jack did not have to call the finance committee together on Monday. He was saved the trouble by the fact that Chairman Weldon took a legal opinion from himself on Saturday, acted upon it, and drew a cheque, while Mr. Dunn went forth rejoicing. Chairman Weldon came to the conclusion that the certificate in this case should properly come from the buildings committee, instead of the finance committee. Trustee Coll is chairman of the buildings committee and he appears to have accepted the chairman's opinion as being sound in law and in equity. He gave a certificate, and thus chairman Weldon had all the authority he considered necessary. The architect got the money.

At the meeting of the trustees, on Monday, Mr. Jack protested against this summary way of creating a precedent, devised by the chairman of the finance committee, and declared that he would resign his position as chairman of the finance committee, but did not officially do so. The honored chairman was not called to task, for two reasons. First, it was too late to mend the matter, and next, nobody appeared to want to hurt Mr. Weldon's feelings or have their own hurt if he replied. The extent to which the disapproval went was the suggestion of an order that in future all certificates for cheques must come from the finance committee. No such motion was made, however, because it was asserted that such an order was already on the books.

If there has been such an order Mr. Weldon has either been ignorant of it or has violated it. Which?

When Mr. Jack went back to his office, he wrote a letter resigning his place as chairman of the finance committee. He intends to present it at the next meeting of the trustees.

It is no wonder the trustees are not willing to admit reporters to their meetings.

## EXTENDED THE HOSPITALITY.

The Circus Men Were Pleased to Welcome the Gentlemen of the Press.

Several well known citizens of St. John saw the circus for nothing this week. They would have paid, if necessary, but the showmen would not take their money.

One of them, accompanied by his friends went near the entrance, and pulling out a note book and pencil began to write with great zeal. Presently one of the head men of the circus noticed him, and coming near asked him if he represented the press.

"Oh, I am merely taking a few notes," was the reply.

"Come inside," said the circus man, "and see what a fine show we have."

"But I have several friends here," replied the citizen, pointing to his companions.

"Bring them along too," was the cordial invitation. And they all went.

Getting inside they took ordinary seats, but as the man with the note book continued to write, it was not long before another circus man approached and asked, in the citizen represented the press.

"I came in as one of the press," was the reply.

Then the circus man insisted that the citizen should go into the reserved seats. He did so, and as before, the crowd went with him.

When the regular show ended, the ten cent concert was announced. The boys concluded to remain, but decided they ought to pay. When they offered the money, the man in charge seemed almost shocked. "I can't take your money," he exclaimed. "I would not dare to do so. I would be discharged if I did."

The boys did not insist. They say the circus was a fine one, and that the management extended abundant courtesies to the press.

## HOW THEY KEPT SUNDAY

THE PEOPLE AND THE SOCIETY WITH LONG NAMES.

Very Pleasant Outings on the River Steamboats and Elsewhere—What Some People Think of Them and How Others Differ From Them.

Last Sunday was one of the finest days of the season. Hundreds took advantage of the glorious weather to enjoy a day of rest after a week of toil, but they preferred to go into the quiet of the country for this rest, rather than to remain in the heat and dust of the city. A large number went on the excursions up the river. Many went to church before they started on their outing, especially in such churches as had service at an early hour. Others went away without going to church, nor would they have gone had they remained in town. Quite a number made the objective point of their excursion the camp meeting grounds, where they expected to enjoy some religious exercises, but were disappointed. Others went with the avowed purpose of having a pleasant day without any religious exercises, and were not disappointed. So far as appears, there was neither drunkenness nor disorder of any kind among the excursionists, though there was more or less to be found around the city among those who did not go. Nor did any signal calamity overtake the pleasure seekers, such as used to be visited, according to the traditions, on people who went swimming and boating on Sunday. On the contrary, those who returned expressed themselves well pleased with their experience, and most of them are likely to go again, should life and health be spared and the weather be fine on Sundays.

For it is quite possible for a man to go on a Sunday excursion, or even be a promoter of one, who is neither an atheist, a libertine, a scuffer, a wine-bibber, a dishonest man, a traducer or a defrauder of the widow and orphan. The chances, too, are that he may not be a canting hypocrite or a man who bottles up his piety for six days of the week, so as to reserve it all for the seventh. The Sunday excursionist may, indeed, clearly understand the distinction between morality and religion, and may try to live in this world so as to be fitted for the world to come. He may differ from many other good men in his view of what may or may not be lawful on Sunday, but he does not attempt to compel them to think as he does, nor is he willing that they should attempt to compel him to think as they do. His views may be more advanced than theirs are, but he may argue, and very rightly, that their views are very much more in advance of those held by their fathers a generation or so ago.

For instance, it is not a matter of ancient history when the words, "My house shall be called a house of prayer" had a very rigid interpretation among some of the flourishing communities of this city. Churches were painfully barren of ornament and the singing was of the severely orthodox character. Divine worship could hardly be said to have the accompaniment of music, for even an organ designed only to play godly tunes was not permitted in the edifice. This is not the case today, for not only are there organs on which paid organists play all sorts of operatic airs as voluntaries, but there are paid singers as well, and there are even times when a string orchestra is introduced as an inducement for outsiders to attend. Nor is it considered unusual or improper for this or that church to have an announcement that this or that vocalist will be an attraction at a next day's services. The inducement is held out for the public to attend for the enjoyment that will be afforded to their senses. In this respect certain churches are in line with the Sunday excursion steamers, only the latter do not throw in a sermon. In both cases it is a bidding for the patronage of people who do not want to hear sermons, but who do want to enjoy themselves.

There is in this city an organization with the somewhat formidable title of the Society for the Promotion of the Due Observance of the Lord's Day. The secretary is Rev. GEORGE BRUCE, a gentleman much esteemed by all who know him, and whose opinions are entitled to respectful consideration. Dr. BRUCE, on behalf of the society with a formidable title, addressed a letter to the Sun, last Saturday, protesting against Sunday excursions as Sabbath desecrations. The statement was made that such "attempts to disturb the quiet of the day and to deprive working men of their legitimate relief from labor" had been protested against in the past, and had been so discontinued by the public that they were abandoned. "The attention of the public is called to these excursions once more," says the letter, "in the confident hope that the people of St. John will make their opinion felt, so effectually as they have done in the past, that it will not be

necessary to take further action in the matter."

To this course there can be no possible objection. If the people of St. John do not want Sunday excursions the fact should be known. There is justice, too, in the contention that those who wish to enjoy the day in quiet should not be disturbed, whether they go on excursions or stay at home. Nor should any working man be deprived of his rest against his will.

Last Sunday was a day of excursions, but there is no evidence that the quiet of any Sabbath observer was seriously disturbed. There was, indeed, very much more quiet than on Sundays when members of this or that society put on all sorts of rigs and tramp to and from church with brass bands. The city was even more quiet than it is the excursionists had remained home. Each class of citizens had a chance to observe Sunday without being interfered with by those who held opposite views. This seems fair enough, unless one of these classes is determined to dictate to the other.

The fear that working men will be deprived of their rest may have some foundation. On a river steamer which carries two or three hundred passengers three or four hands are employed. There is no complaint from them, but if any one of them feels that an injustice is done him by his employers, he has only to speak out and he will be heard. Should he lose his place for protesting, there is every reason to believe that a sympathizing public would see that he did not suffer. So far, no such workman has spoken, nor have any of the domestics who are compelled to labor every Sunday of the year to cook the dinners of the people who go to church instead of on excursions.

If the public do not want Sunday excursions, the appeal of the society with the formidable title will have very speedy results. If the public do want these excursions what is the society with the formidable title going to do about it?

The early missionaries, in the old world and the new, had to contend with a great many pagan festivals and customs which the people were anxious to observe. Had they undertaken to abolish these customs when they recognized them, they did better, when they recognized them and diverted them to christian uses. There is material for a good deal of thought on this idea in relation to Sunday excursions, should the public persist in wanting to enjoy them.

## THE DOCTOR GOT THERE.

Adventures Remarkable Enough to Make a Heart Broken Coroner.

One day last week, two young men from the city were fishing at Brandy brook, seven miles or so from the city, when they were assailed by a most unpleasant odor. Going as near as the stench would permit, they found in the brook the remains of something which had been a long while dead, but not long enough to approach the cleanliness of a skeleton. The smell was so frightful that they made a very hasty examination from a distance and beat a hurried retreat.

A little later, after they got to a place where they could venture to take a long breath, they began to discuss their experience, and one of them suggested that the remains must be those of the missing man Horn. This was the view that others were disposed to take of the matter when the young men returned to the city.

Coroner Berryman has a keen scent for "subjects," and does not propose that Coroner Hetherington, his rival, shall get ahead of him, if he can help it. The story of the remains at Brandy Brook reached him, and he lost no time in starting for the scene, with one of the young men as a guide.

They went with the doctor's horse and carriage, but it was necessary to leave the team on the road, and take to the woods on foot. It was a weary walk, and the day was warm. Through brush and bog they toiled until the stream was reached, and the smell of the remains was painfully apparent. All the coroner had to do was to follow the scent.

He did so, wading down the stream with a handkerchief tied over his mouth and nose. The young man prudently kept far in the rear. When the coroner found the remains he saw they were those of a dog or a sheep or some other animal, but certainly not of a human being.

The doctor had been at the dinner of the medical society, the night before, and was both tired and sleepy, as there had been a late session. He and the boy rested in woods for a while, and when they started to return they were dismayed to find that they had lost the road.

They had to camp in the woods that night, and as they had brought no luncheon, were as hungry as they were tired. They had a very uncomfortable night, and felt pretty well used up when they started, early in the morning, to get somewhere by wading down stream until they came to the mouth, at the Mispic river. From that point they reached the road they had left, and after tramping it for some time, met the horse, which had broken its fastening and was wandering around the highway in search of something to eat. The distance the coroner and his companion travelled on foot is estimated at about thirteen miles. Both were very tired, very dirty and it may be interred that the coroner was the maddest man in town.

## HIS ZEAL IS REWARDED.

ALONZO CHESLEY IS TO INSPECT NEWMAN'S BROOK BRIDGE.

Alderman Christie's Back Office Gets In Its Work—The Alderman on the Citizens Ticket Pay Their Debt of Gratitude at the Citizens' Expense.

Dr. Christie's back office has not been heard from directly since the civic elections until it came to the front this week in connection with the bridge over Newman's Brook.

The latter water course meanders through the North End without making a great deal of noise on ordinary occasions. In the course of its travels it crosses Adelaide street so that a bridge is required, less on account of the magnitude of the stream than because of the width and depth of the gulch. There is no water worth mentioning, and some people who have lived in the North End all their lives never heard of Newman's Brook until tendered for a bridge over it were called for a short time ago. They knew where the old bridge was, but did not know the place by any particular name.

The old bridge was a wooden structure, and a better affair has been a long felt want. The board of works considered the subject and finally decided on an iron bridge of 90 feet span, with piers of masonry. Tenders were accordingly called for, and three were received. They varied considerably in size. They were: Wm. Lewis & Son., \$1,885, and \$10 per cubic yard masonry; Jas. Fleming, \$3,170 and \$7.50 per yard masonry; John A. Jones & Co., \$3,099.80, \$7.50 per yard masonry. These were opened last Saturday and there was considerable surprise expressed at the different ideas of the cost of construction held by the parties tendering. The question was whether ex-alderman Lewis was sacrificing himself for the good of the city or the others wanted more than the job was worth. The official statement that the estimate of cost made by the city engineer was about \$2,000, seemed to settle the doubt, and there was no further fear that Mr. Lewis was anxious to pose in the roll of a martyr in the cause of civic expenditure.

There was, however, some doubt expressed as to whether Lewis & Son would do the work as it ought to be done. The question was asked whether highway bridges built by Lewis over the Inter-colonial track had not been badly constructed, but after more or less discussion of this point the board reached the conclusion that Lewis could do the work and that, as he was the lowest tenderer there was no question that his offer should be accepted. They decided to so report the council.

There is a place in the North End much better known than Newman's brook has ever been. It is the little back room in Ald. Christie's drug store. It is an historic spot. In the days of old Portland, when misrule was rampant, it was the executive chamber of the men who ran the machine.

It has been a gathering place for the civic politicians ever since, and is so to this day. It is a private club room where the genial doctor is glad to have his friends assemble in the evenings, swap experiences, spin yarns and discuss the good and welfare of the city in general and North End in particular. It is a great place on the eve of elections. It was here Portland aldermen vowed there should not be a union of the cities. Here the fiat went forth that the amended city charter should not be accepted because the old system of ward elections made it possible for some men to get in the council who could not get there by the vote of the citizens. In both of these instances the prophets were mistaken, but since then they have been meeting with greater success.

In the last civic election, when the people came to the conclusion that the T. R. A. had outlived its usefulness and had become a clique, the back room received valuable accessions to its list of honored members. Men who had fought the Christie-Chesley wing in the council joined hands with it against the common enemy. The wise counsels of the back room were heard and heeded by all the candidates on the citizens ticket, and the triumphant return of that ticket was largely aided by the plans laid down in what had once been the repertorium toxicorum of civic politics. Good work was done, and among the most efficient workers was Alonzo Chesley formerly a member of the council.

It is conceded that Mr. Chesley did work which entitled him to the lasting gratitude of the successful candidates, and perhaps of the citizens in general. The T. R. A., had to go, and he was one of those who helped to make it go. Those who formerly opposed him became his friends, and they resolved that they would not forget him. They did not. Close upon the announcement that Lewis & Son were to build the Newman's Brook bridge came the rumor that Mr. Chesley was to be provided with an office as inspector of the work. It had

never occurred to anybody that a special inspector was needed for an iron bridge where all the details of the work were in plain view, and the rumor was not believed. It was true however, and the idea was apparent that an inspector was less wanted in general principles than that Mr. Chesley was to get a position.

The city has two engineers, a director public works, a street inspector and other men who are paid salaries to look after work on the highways. Either of the engineers is competent to inspect an iron highway bridge and to see that it is built according to the specifications. Were it a big work like the Sand Point wharves, a stone building like the custom house, or even a stone wall like that at the Mount Pleasant boulevard, the necessity for an inspector might be recognized. In such structures much of the work is hidden, but in a common iron bridge it is in plain sight. If the holes are not properly drilled, or the rivets are defective the city engineer needs not to take a special post graduate course to discover the fact. Any man with a mechanical eye can discover it, even after a rivet is clinched. He does not need to stand by and see every bolt driven.

The council thought otherwise, and it is decided, only Ald. Wilson, McMullin, McLaughlan and McRobbie opposing the idea. The amount involved was not large—say \$2 a day until the 1st of November at latest—but the principle was wrong, they maintained. If an inspector was needed in this instance, one would be needed in many future instances, and if this was to be the practice what was the use of having a city engineer?

The council first decided that an inspection was needed. Then it set about to appoint Mr. Chesley. Ald. Christie made a motion to that effect.

Then it was stated that Chesley and Lewis were not on friendly terms, and there was doubt if the contractor would be willing to do the work with such an inspector. This meant that the next tender would be accepted, at an additional cost to the city of \$1,500. Ald. McRobbie moved that John A. Jones be appointed, but the proposition did not meet with favor, because Mr. Jones had been a rival tenderer. Ald. Law professed to think that a better name than either might be suggested, and moved that the choice of an inspector be left to the board of works. This was done. Ald. Law would probably be much surprised if anybody but Mr. Chesley was appointed, but there is no danger of such a thing happening.

The board has not yet named Mr. Chesley, but it will do so. It is part of the programme.

There is just this much to be said. If an inspector is needed, Mr. Chesley is as good a man as they could get. He knows all about iron, and it is certain he will not allow the contractor to put in any faulty work. The only question is whether an inspector was needed for this bridge, any more than a fifth wheel is needed for a coach.

This is the view taken by the four aldermen who opposed the appointment. Some of them were sorry to do it, on Mr. Chesley's account. They felt that they owed him a debt of gratitude for the good work he did in helping to elect the citizens' ticket, but they also felt that they had no right to pay that debt by making unnecessary appointments at the expense of the citizens. The rest of the council thought otherwise.

Now that precedent has been established further instances of gratitude for favors received may be looked for by men who did good services at election time. Don't be afraid to press your claims, gentlemen. Barkis is willin' and the back office is open every evening of the week, Sunday included.

## Not Much of a Steal.

It would seem that some verses entitled "A Fisher," which appeared in PROGRESS last week, were not written by "R. J. W." St. John, but were copied by that individual from Whitcomb Riley. A knowledge of the complete works of Riley and most other dialect writers may be a source of enjoyment to some minds, but it is not a necessary part of a liberal education, even in these advanced days. The alleged poem in question needed not a colossal intellect to conceive and put it in shape, and might very easily be mistaken for the work of a local poet, and not an extra one at that.

## The Salvage Corps Outing.

The excursion of the Salvage Corps on Wednesday evening promises to be an event in the history of that organization and the friends of the members will have ample opportunity to show their appreciation of their efforts by patronizing it. The steamer David Weston has been chartered and an efficient committee has the affair in charge.

## Omitted this Week.

Owing to the pressure upon PROGRESS columns this week society letters from several towns have been unavoidably omitted. Correspondents are reminded that PROGRESS goes to press Friday morning and communications of a social nature must be received not later than Thursday noon.