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IT IS THEIR TURN NOW.

THE NEW COUNCIL ENJOY THE HONORS OF MAJORITY.

How the Chairmanships Were Divided—A Sharp Discussion Over the Disposition of Them in the Council—"Tit for Tat" is the Principle Some Aldermen Favor.

The lack of interest in civic affairs that is manifested by the citizens was drawn attention to by his worship in his inaugural address on Thursday, and it is a surprising fact.

There were a thousand copies of the enquiry report printed, and pretty nearly the whole thousand are still on hand and the civic officials are wondering what they will do with them.

The council meetings have an average of six or eight citizens watching the proceedings, and there are not two hundred people who have now seen the inside of the chambers when councils are meeting. It is worth seeing too, for it is an imposing sight, as many people know who had the pleasure of shaking hands with the governor-general there last summer.

At the head of the room is the large high-backed chair of the mayor on a raised platform and down the centre of the room facing each other are two rows of desks behind which the aldermen sit. This is the order of the seats:

Mayor Robertson.
Ald. Cooper, Ald. Wilson,
" Blizard, Ald. McRobbie,
" McLaughlan, " Law,
" McCarthy, " Purdy,
" Millidge, " Smith,
" Waring, " Baxter,
" McMulkin, Ald. Christie,
Ald. McGoldrick, Ald. Christie.

Large and fulsome exchange of courtesies and polite and conventional expressions of good will and esteem toward one another characterized the inaugural meeting of the new city council on Monday. Everything was lovely and nothing seemed to mar the serenity of the board. It would have been thought that no more amiable men could be found anywhere.

Or rather this was the general intent of the meeting until near its close. Then some bubbles of discontent arose to the surface and showed that things were not so placid as they seemed. It even gave indications of the presence of partyism in civic politics and hinted at caucuses and other such manifestations of the desire of the majority to lord it over the minority.

The first thing that engages the attention of a new board of aldermen is the distribution of the positions of honor as chairmen of the council, the boards and committees. Then secondarily comes the divisions among the representatives of the positions on the different boards. The custom has been to hold a caucus when all the members of the boards were present and the positions were then divided. This being done to the satisfaction of all the state was passed in the council without any hitch.

This year there was quite a hitch when the matter came into the council and it was because three of the board had not been invited to the caucus. There were the three T. R. A. men who were elected. Alds. McRobbie, McMulkin and Waring, and who might be considered under present conditions the opposition.

The government do not deny that they did not expect any invitation to the opposition, but by way of justification for the actions of the T. R. A. council last year who did not invite the opposition to their caucus. Ald. Christie made this claim in the discussion of Thursday declaring that he and Ald. McGoldrick were overlooked last year. It such is the case neither side can kick, but it is a bad custom to inaugurate.

When the appointment of the boards came up all three of the opposition made objections and Alds. Baxter, Christie, McCarthy, Blizard and others were heard in reply.

Ald. McMulkin was the first to raise a dissenting voice. He said that he had not been treated fairly. He should have been on the board of works.

Ald. Baxter made some remarks of a conciliatory but not of a satisfying nature. He did not, however, state one thing, and that was that the reason why Ald. McMulkin did not get a position on the coveted board was because Ald. Millidge had wanted it.

Then Ald. Waring arose and he too wanted to be on the board of works. If he was of any use to the city at all it would be on the board of works. He seemed more concerned over the matter than Ald. McMulkin and emphatically refused to serve on the treasury board. Ald. Waring had a good case and there is no doubt but that, being a practical mechanic, he should be on the board of works. He was not on that board last year on account of his absence from the city but that should not have been allowed to affect the question.

In their remarks Alds. McMulkin and Waring had declared that the thing had been arranged by a caucus. Ald. Christie then arose and admitted this fact, but said

that the last council had held one also when the opposition were not invited. He wanted to see unanimity in the council and so he proposed that all the members entitled by statute sit on the board of works. This would mean the number written.

Then Ald. McRobbie spoke, saying that he had nothing to complain of as he had been given the honor of the chairmanship of the treasury. He expressed his gratitude for this but felt that it was a rather ingenious act too and not altogether without purpose.

Then Alds. McLaughlan and Baxter spoke in reply to this. The former said that Ald. McRobbie was the best man for the chairmanship and no other reason he had been elected. Ald. Baxter used still stronger terms. He said that Ald. McRobbie was the only man in the council to hold the position and he advocated his appointment without any condescension of party.

Then Ald. McCarthy and Blizard opposed any change in the boards as stated, while Ald. Wilson made his maiden speech, a very sensible one by the way, supporting Ald. Waring's request believing him to be a good practical man for the board.

But fate did not look kindly upon the two aldermen and when Ald. Christie's motion was voted on there were only six in its favor. They were the three opposition men and Alds. Christie, Purdy and Wilson.

"A REGULAR SWINDLE."

This was the opinion of a Young Man Regarding the Vaudeville Show.

At the vaudeville show in the Mechanics Institute one night this week, there was one much dissatisfied young man. He had paid the very small sum necessary to get in, and had seen a long programme, which almost anyone else would consider the worth of the money. But as it is the usual thing that the same entertainment is produced twice in the same night in the Institute by the vaudeville performers, it was particularly amusing to hear the comments of the young man after he had stayed out one round of the show, and after nearly all the people who came in at the same time he did had gone home.

"Why, this is the same thing over again," he audibly remarked when the Dutch comedian came on to do his joking and dancing a second time.

"Yes, it's the same thing," said a man next to him, who was so pleased with the Dutchman's marching dance that he waited to hear it again.

"And it's the same jokes!" said the young man, "I didn't come here to hear the same thing over and over."

By this time the young man was attracting the attention of several people in the audience. When "Christie" and "Pearl" came on to do their somewhat wearisome dialogue, the young men were very much disgusted.

"And here's another thing, just like they had before!" he said. "This is a regular swindle." He then made some offensive remarks aimed at the stage, but was very quickly suppressed by some that sat near him.

"I came here and paid my good money," he complained to a companion, "and I didn't expect I'd have to hear the same thing over and over. It isn't fair. I'm going to tell everybody not to come near this show, for it's a swindle. No wonder some of those people got up and left. I'll tell you what we'll do, Jim, we won't listen to it any longer; they're giving the whole show over again."

"It's what they call an encore," said his friend.

"I don't care what they call it, it's a swindle, and I'm not going to stay here any longer," said the young man; and he strode haughtily to the door. Nobody who had sat near him seemed sorry that he had gone.

When a little girl appeared in short skirts to do some dancing, some women in the back of the hall covered their heads with their capes. Seeing some men laughing at them, they took them off their heads; but their capes were awry during the rest of the evening.

SUII in the Wilderness.

Some St. John Sunday school teachers have been furnishing some remarkable stories of the saying of their pupils to PROGRESS lately. One of the girls it will be remembered, supplied the information that John the Baptist was the man who baptized people at Lower Cove slip; and many other youngsters gave wonderful illustrations of the intricate vagaries of the youthful mind. A story in a little different vein is that related by a lady who has been teaching her class about the children of Israel for the last month or so. Last Sunday a boy who has not been to Sunday school for two or three weeks was once more in his accustomed place. After listening to the teacher for a few minutes with infinite disgust, the boy remarked: "Say, ain't them gosh-hanged children of Israel out o' the woods yet?"

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DARK DAYS FOR KING'S.

THE OLD COLLEGE MAY HAVE TO CLOSE ITS DOORS.

One Professor has Taken the Governor's Notice in Earnest and Left—A Proposition to Allow the College Funds to Accumulate and to Start Again in the Future.

HALIFAX, May 9.—These are dark days for old King's college, at Windsor. Apathy regarding it in the church of England, funds far short of the requirements to keep the institution going, students fewer and fewer are the conditions which prevail. A year ago the professors of King's were given notice that their services would not be required at the close of the year. This was done not with a view to closing the college immediately, but that in case the authorities deemed it best to do so at the end of the year the way would be clear. The staff at that time gave up \$100 each from their salaries; the alumni put their shoulders to the wheel, and the university was kept afloat for another year. A committee was appointed, and a scheme propounded for enlisting the sympathy of the church and for raising money. The year has gone, and there is no response in funds, and none, so far as could be seen, in sympathy.

Professor Charles G. D. Roberts, who had charge of the English department at King's and is one of the brightest stars in the Canadian literary firmament, has got tired of his connection with so unsatisfactory an institution in many respects and has retired from the college. Possibly this action was brought about by two causes; first that the notice to the professor to leave was again given this year, and secondly to some talk that the college might be kept going with one less professor. Neither the classical, nor the mathematical, nor the divinity, nor the modern languages professor could be dispensed with and the college continue. The only branch that was not absolutely indispensable was "English." This was not said in so many words, but it was an impression with friends of the college. The notice regarding their services came to the professors and Professor Roberts, a man of whom any college might be proud, took the governors at their word and left.

The fate of the institution will soon be known. A proposal has been made to close the college for five years so that the resources of the institution may accumulate, and that at the end of that time a new fund might be created. It does seem a remarkable way in which to raise an endowment fund—to close the college and let the income aggregate into something substantial. But when the church will do nothing; when a committee is appointed and starting out with loud professions at the end of twelve months has hardly raised a finger to accomplish its object; when the church is divided regarding the college—the high church party nominally friendly and the low church openly hostile,—then there does seem an excuse for closing the institution in order that its income may accumulate sufficiently to enable the debt to be wiped out.

It is safe to say, however, that if King's college is thus closed, as it certainly will be sooner or later, that it will never be reopened as a university. Its day will have gone by.

King's has lost heavily within the last four or five years in this city, and Wycliff college, Ontario, has correspondingly gained. Rev. Dyson Hague, rector of St. Paul's, is a governor of Wycliff, so is Rev. Mr. Wilkinson, of Dartmouth, and so are others of the best church of England ministers in this vicinity. They have no sympathy with King's and its present theological troubles. The low church laity care not a straw for King's. The high church laity does perhaps entertain kindly feelings for the college. But here's the rub, the low church has the money; the high church is poor. They cannot help King's even if they would and the low church will not.

It was a sad day for King's when Dalhousie's offer of federation was refused. The late Bishop Binney and Dr. Partridge, now of Fredericton, were heartily in favor of affiliation with the more powerful institution at Halifax. They were voted down. King's chose to keep on the tenor of its way, till now it has few friends, fewer students, no money, beyond its insufficient endowment, and a proposal is made to close the university for five years which really means to end it permanently. The time was when Dalhousie asked King's to come; now, like Newfoundland with confederation, it is King's which will have to seek admission or stay out.

The annual meeting of the governors, and the convocation of the university, will take place next month. Then, if not before, it will be known what will be the course of the college for the coming year, or possibly what will be its fate forever.

King's might become a divinity school pure and simple, but then the question arises—can the endowment fund, which

was raised for the purpose of maintaining university, be legally used for any other purpose, such, for instance, as carrying on a divinity school?

WINE CELLAR UNDER A CHURCH.

The Early History of the Kirk Cleveland's Grandfather Preached In.

HALIFAX, May 9.—St. Matthew's Church is one of the historic places of worship in Halifax. Though now, and for more than a century presbyterian, St. Matthew's was originally a congregationalist church. One of the trustees showed a correspondent the other day an old communion token of St. Matthew's dated 1784, bearing the letters P. C. H.—"presbyterian church, Halifax." A peculiarity of the government of this church was that till a time previous to the calling of the Rev. Thomas Fowler, who now occupies the pulpit, the only people who had the right to sign a call, were pew-owners. Because a man was a communicant he had necessarily no voice in deciding who was to be the minister. A few years ago this anomaly was swept away by the legislature.

St. Matthew's church was first located at the corner of Hollis and Prince streets, where Murdock's Nephews' wholesale dry goods warehouse now stands. The congregation moved to Pleasant street, near the site of what is now the academy of music. The cellar of the old church was used as a wine vault, a perfectly legitimate purpose to which devote surplus church property one hundred years or less ago, though now it would be considered the height of heinousness. The contents of the basement gave point to the words a wag early one morning inscribed on the cellar doors of St. Matthew's:

Spirits above and spirits below,
Spirits of love and spirits of woe;
The spirits above are spirits divine,
The spirits below are spirits of wine.

An early minister of St. Matthews was the grandfather of Grover Cleveland, president of the United States. One of men who helped to make St. Matthew's famous was Rev. George M. Grant, D. D., now president of Queens college, Kingston. Dr Grant was greatly loved as a pastor in Halifax, and his memory is yet kept green in the memory of many in this city.

Following Dr. Grant came Rev. Robert Laine, and he in turn was succeeded by Rev. Thomas Fowler, whom the congregation called from Scotland. Mr. Fowler is possessed of one of the finest minds in Halifax, and while opinions may be divided regarding his preaching there are many, both inside and outside his own congregation, who give him a position of pre-eminence among the preachers of this city. He avoids sensationalism, extravagance, or emotion in his pulpit efforts and yet he not infrequently melts some of his hearers to tears. He is gaining in the regard of his people. In conversation Mr. Fowler is inspiring and exhilarating.

St. Matthew's has an endowment of from \$10,000 to \$12,000. Recently the congregation's finances had been going behind, and the balance was many hundred dollars on the wrong side. This was partly owing to extraordinary expenditures which became necessary for repairs and also on account of decreasing contributions. The time was when St. Matthew's had five rich men for every one she numbers in her membership. The people were equal, however, to the financial emergency, which came upon them, and the result of the work of a committee which has not yet quite concluded its labors is that both ends will be made meet hereafter, and that the accumulated deficit will probably soon disappear.

Rev. Thomas Fowler is a chaplain to the troops in the garrison, and soldiers of this denomination must attend St. Matthew's if they wish to retain their presbyterian connection. Rev. A. Hockin is the Wesleyan chaplain; Rev. Canon Carmody the catholic, and Rev. Mr. Bullock the church of England chaplain.

Halifax a Bicycling City Too.

HALIFAX, May 9.—There are today in Halifax between 700 and 900 bicycles. With accessories, those represent a value in wheels of about \$100,000. By July it is estimated that there will be in use in Halifax nearly 1,200 bicycles. One dealer on Monday paid \$382.50 in customs duty on an importation of wheels which had all been ordered beforehand. The Ramblers' cycle club is flourishing this season. The membership is over 150, and a country club house has been purchased. The lucky wheelmen will now repair to the Prince's lodge, a round building erected on the shore of Bedford basin by the Duke of Kent, father of the queen. A more suitable building could not have been secured by the Ramblers as a club house. The club and its energetic officer and committee are to be congratulated on their sagacious aggressiveness. A large bazaar is being actively prepared for to take place at the drill shed in July, in aid of the club house fund.

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CONTRACTORS FALL OUT

ON ACCOUNT OF SOME TENDERS FOR THE NEW BUILDING

To be Erected by the Board of School Trustees—Chairman Weldon Decides in Favor of an Expensive Structure by a Casting Vote—The Meetings Should be Open.

The board of school trustees is very much in the nature of a silent corporation and they are very seldom known to invite the public to lend them its ear while they tell them all about the things that they are doing. In their little back office in Oddfellow's Hall they follow their own devices, never disturbed by the inquisitive public or the zealous representative of the inquisitive public, the reporter. Public opinion never has an opportunity to pass judgment upon their actions, because their actions are seldom announced, and about the only things that reach the daily papers in reference to their proceedings are the rather unseasonal statistics of the monthly attendance at the schools and the applications for positions. This is as far as the trustees are willing to take the people into their confidence.

Now the people of the city would have liked to know all there was to know about the Erin street school and the contracts for its construction. But though they have felt that an interesting story might have been told about it in several chapters they have had to be content with indirect information coming through other channels than reports of the school board meetings. Secretary Manning guarded the actions of the board from publication as zealously as though they were ordered in council. After each meeting in which the building of the school was discussed the only information to be had to give to reporters was the statement that they had decided to build a school.

One reporter says that when he inquired after the last meeting what had been done Mr. Manning stated that they had decided to build a school. As he had stated the same thing three or four months before as the action of a meeting the scribe thought that they could not have been making great headway. It was the discussion of the subject, the development of the plans, the votes, the reports of committees, etc., that the public wanted to hear about, but of this they got no inkling.

From various sources PROGRESS has obtained the history of the whole question and discloses some very strange happenings and shows that in the best interests of all concerned the press should be admitted to the board meetings. The trustees have the expenditure of some \$70,000 or \$80,000 annually and the public is not given an opportunity to learn any of the particulars surrounding the expenditure of a dollar. The city council has been taking up the question lately and they have appointed men to the council when vacancies have occurred pledged to economy and to openness in their actions.

There were two sides developed on the question of the new school. The members of the board appointed by the province were as a rule for large expenditure, the city members were for economy. When, last winter, the subject of building a new school came up the idea generally held was to put up a wooden building to cost about \$6,000. It was felt that in the last end a school was needed. The Centennial and Winter street schools were overcrowded while in the Haymarket Square region a lot of children did not go to school at all. The trustees began to look around for a site and they found one in an old shipyard on Erin street. They bought three lots of land with 120 feet of front for \$1000. Some have objected to the site, saying that Erin street was not a good one from a sanitary point of view and they would have favored Delhi or some other street. But it is said to be a good site, being on a sandy knoll and with a good chance for sewerage.

A building committee was appointed to look after the making of the plans and the construction of the school. Mr. R. C. John Dunn was employed to make the plans. Then the architect proposed that it be of brick, and members of the building committee seemed to take to the suggestion and their ideas enlarged until when the plans were completed they were for a building that would cost about twelve or thirteen thousand dollars. When the committee reported to the board there was quite a discussion on the matter and different views were expressed. The board was about evenly divided on the expenditure. Ald. Lockhart, the latest addition to the board, was strongly opposed to so large an outlay. Mr. Nase, who was on the building committee, was throughout in favour of the erection of a wooden building. Mr. Jack thought a smaller building would do and that an assembly hall was unnecessary. Mr. Baskin was for economy in the amount voted to the school. When the final vote was taken there was a tie, and chairman Weldon decided it in favor of the large expenditure. He was willing to take upon himself the

responsibility for the action, which was more than a chairman would usually feel himself justified in doing. At this meeting there were two absentees, Messrs. Baskin and Gorman, on either side, so their absence did not effect the question.

Then in respect to the tenders there was a difference of opinion and much ill feeling between contractors. When the tenders were opened it was found that Mr. McArthur had the lowest, his being in the vicinity of \$12,500. The board did not award him the tender, as they had decided to call for supplementary tenders for counter plastering. As a result of this a new complication arose. Mr. Mooney, one of the tenders, said he had included this in his previous tender and therefore there would be nothing additional. Mr. McArthur added between one and two hundred dollars to his tender. This was sufficient to bring his total above Mooney's and the latter was awarded the contract.

It is said that information about the amounts of the tenders had crept out, that some of the contractors knew about how they stood, and that Mr. Mooney knew that by including the counter plastering he would probably have the lowest tender. The specifications could not have been very clear to cause one man to include the counter plastering and the others not to. It is further stated that the plans and specifications did not exactly agree, there being more in the plans than was called for in the specifications.

Bad feeling was engendered between Messrs. McArthur and Mooney resulting as everybody knows in a scene on the street and a breach of the peace. How the contractors got their information about the tenders is not known but it was presumably from hints carelessly let drop by members of the board. It is not thought that any member purposely gave the figures away.

The city council has of late been trying to obtain more authority over the actions of the board. The mayor and alderman have by way of interview shown the members appointed by the city their position on questions coming up and they have succeeded in introducing into the deliberations of the board a more marked disposition toward economy. In this case, however, they did not succeed. When the building is put up it will be found that the new school will cost about \$16,000.

THE KIRK AND THE ELECTION.

A Halifax Elder in a Rather Uncomfortable Position.

HALIFAX, May 9.—There is trouble in a Ward 6 presbyterian church as a result of the mayoralty election. Two of the elders refuse to work, or say they cannot work, because they allege he took so violent a part on behalf of one of the candidates. They accuse their brother in the session with having had recourse to so many peculiar "methods" to secure success for his favorite candidate, that it is impossible for them to continue associated with him in work for the church. The elder in question thus finds his position rather uncomfortable. He has always been a leader in the cause, and a great "temperance" man. The trouble possibly may terminate without a serious break in the session, but it will only be an account of the peace-making efforts of the pastor, who is laboring hard to restore harmony. As a matter of fact the minister's sympathies were with the work of the two elders in the election contest, but he does not want to see the church's effectiveness impaired by a breach in its session, he wants to retain the third elder protested against; and his charity is sufficient to cover a multitude of sins of the kind alleged, differing, in this respect, so far, from the spirit of the two elders, who, however, are doubtless perfectly conscientious in their remonstrances against the election conduct of the third member.

Bloomers on the Stocks.

The bloomers are being made for the bicycling girls of St. John, so they will probably wear them. Several leading dressmakers say that they are greatly rushed on this account. There seems to be a sort of arrangement whereby it is agreed that the most of the ladies should appear out in the new apparel all at once. Some ladies are practicing riding with bloomers under the shelter of a roof, but they seem a little shy in following the example of the lady who appeared on the street with the new garment. The scriptural quotation about women wearing apparel appertaining to men has been used by some of the strait-laced, but this has been met with the remark that men would never wear such things as bloomers.

Please Make a Note of This.

The advertisement on the fifteenth page of PROGRESS noting the offer for subscriptions in connection with portraits is hardly correct, since that department has no longer any connection with D. L. Aspinall, who took orders for PROGRESS along with those for portraits and was allowed a commission by the publisher. It may be stated, however, that all orders for portraits in connection with PROGRESS subscriptions taken by him or his agents up to and including the 4th of May will be executed by him.