

# PROGRESS.

Board of Works 8 May 96

VOL. VIII., NO. 414.

ST. JOHN N. B., SATURDAY, APRIL 11, 1896.

PRICE FIVE CENTS.

## HIS WORSHIP ACCEPTS

MAYOR ROBERTSON WILL AGAIN BE A CANDIDATE.

He Explains why He Does so—Others who Are in the Field, but All May Not Be.—Some Lively Contests for the Aldermanic Seats in Certain Wards.

Probably on the principal that the people know a good thing when they see it Mayor Robertson has been asked by some four or five hundred electors to come forward a third time as a candidate for the mayoralty. He would not in all probability have given a third term a thought had not such a representative requisition been

however, and until there is he is presumably in the field. Like Mr. Baskin, he is a good temperance man, but unlike him he has so far had no experience as a member of the council.

Ex-elderman Baskin has also been announced as a candidate on his own authority, but his card has not yet appeared, and at the time of this writing there appears to be an uncertainty whether he will be in the field or not. Mr. Baskin is no stranger to civic politics, but he has been out of the council for some time, and with the present candidates to the front the indications are that he will be out for some time to get, whether he runs or

## A SHINING AND MAGNETIC MARK.



"Yesterday I was J. J. Tucker; today I am the Public's Servant" [Col. Tucker the day after the Convention nominated him.]

meeting refuses to ratify the choice of the convention there will be more fun on the programme. It may be that in any case the young liberals will put up a candidate, though it is understood there is no definite resolve to that effect so far.

The principal objection to Col. Tucker as a candidate seem to be that he was nominated by a family compact, that apart from a knowledge of ships acquired while he was Lloyd's surveyor in the East Indies, he is not supposed to be informed on or interested in the resources of the country, and that his chief qualification seems to be the fact that he has some money. Apart from these objections and the fact that he is hardly the kind of a man the toilers of the country would look on as their representative, he is believed to be a very decent sort of a man.

At the convention on Tuesday night, Col. Tucker remarked that he had gone away from this country with a hundred dollars in his pocket, that he had made some money abroad and had come back to St. John with it.

"And now you will have a chance to spend it," was the remark of one of the meeting in a very audacious undertone.

Probably he will if he runs. Somebody told Mr. Ellis not long ago that \$50,000 would not elect Col. Tucker, but Mr. Ellis did not believe it. Col. Tucker is not likely to spend \$50,000. Rumor says the amount he has named is just a fifth of that sum.

Viewed from the standpoint of his admiring and shouting followers is not the gallant Colonel, as shown in the cartoon PROGRESS prints to-day, a "magnetic mark."

The question is, how much will he put into the fight? Will he put up \$8,000 or \$10,000, or will his followers bleed him until the \$15,000 or \$20,000 mark is reached. His party papers commend him "as a man of independent means" and happy expression!

### WHO ENGAGED MR. BAXTER.

The City Does Not Know and Mr. Skinner's Statement is in Evidence.

The suggestion thrown out last week that Alderman Baxter was an unnecessary lawyer in the March bond case has caused some of the aldermen to inquire by what right and in whose interests both he and Mr. Skinner appear as prosecuting the case. PROGRESS has it upon the best authority that they do not represent the city and that the corporation has nothing whatever to do with the case. Mr. Skinner stated in court that he represented the crown and when Mr. Manning stated that Mr. Baxter was the lawyer of the school trustees, he gave that an unqualified and flat denial. Now, the question arises who does Messrs. Skinner and Baxter represent.

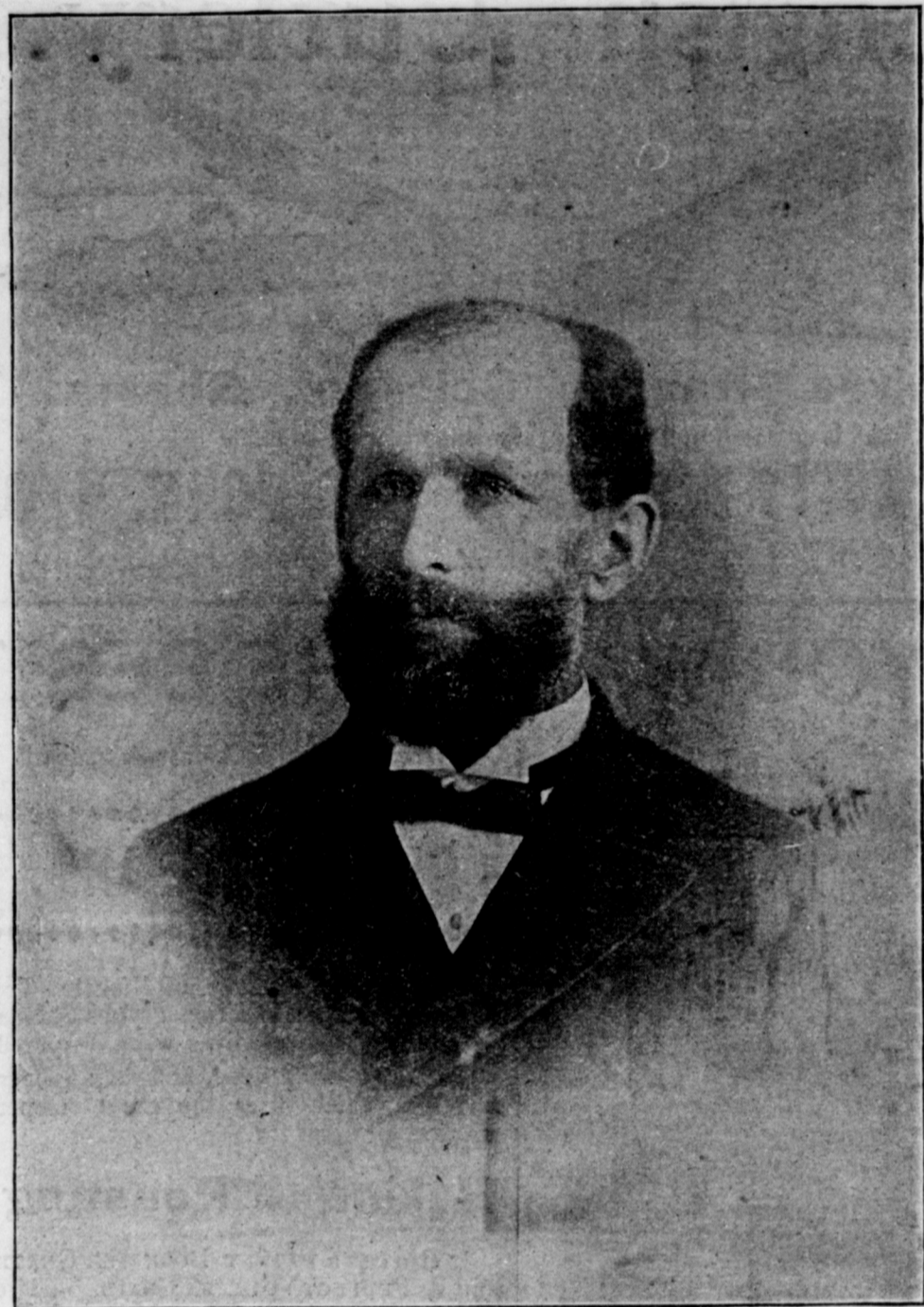
It will be remembered that in the absence of Recorder Skinner, Mr. Baxter was asked by Finance Chairman D. R. Jack to make out an information which was signed by Mr. Manning and upon which a warrant was issued; of course that was one way to do it but that while it brought the matter up did not make it necessary for the school trustees to prosecute. That is usually the duty of the Crown and though Messrs. Skinner and Baxter do appear the school trustees are not anxious to shoulder the responsibility of the arrest and prosecution. Perhaps some astute mind has persuaded the school trustees that it is in their interests that Mr. Baxter should give him the benefit of his keen experience but what the taxpayers will want to know is who will pay for this array of talent?

### His Heavy Dog Tax.

The new law passed by the local government regarding the licensing of dogs is causing no end of consternation among dog-fanciers and owners of canine pets. The fee for harbouring a dog is now placed at two dollars and for a female dog five dollars. It is expected that along with floating barns, haycocks etc. the bosom of our mighty St. John will be dotted with detestable tramp-worries at freshest time. A North End barber got quite a scare on April fool's day on this score. He received an itemized bill made out on official paper for dog taxes. One dog (female) and twelve puppies, on seven of which \$5 was levied were the items. It all amounted to \$50. Almost paralyzed the tonor at once sought legal advice and commenced a series of murders most foul on the innocent town-wives. His provincial political ideas, were very soon revolutionized but when he discovered the joke, tore his rich black hair in a real dramatic manner; in deed worthy of an Irving.

### Complying With the Law.

The liquor dealers appear to be willing to accept the new law and to abide by its provisions. The licenses will be taken out by such as can get them, and it is probable that some who have hitherto been unable to get retail license will now be able to do so, in Kings ward, through the two vacancies caused by the hotels having a special license. In the meantime the strongest provisions of the new law are having a salutary effect in restraining illegal sales, and this is likely to continue to be the condition of affairs for some time to come.



GEORGE ROBERTSON, Mayor.

presented to him. In fact he had made up his mind that the same time and thought spent upon his business would pay him better than being in the mayors chair, which he has occupied in a business sense more thoroughly than any chief magistrate St. John has ever done. This is perhaps a strong statement to make but those who have had business with the mayor know that from ten o'clock in the morning until three or four in the afternoon and sometimes until six he can be found at his desk.

Two years of this has been enough to convince him that the office is no sinecure and that the work is continuous and steady

not. The mayoralty seems to have got into his bones last winter when the prohibition element came to the front with the idea that no licenses should be granted in St. John. One of the ways in which it was thought the desired state of things could be brought about was by the election of a mayor pledged to total abstinence principles, and Mr. Baskin, who took a prominent part in the meetings, is just that sort of a man. Unfortunately for the prohibition cause, the local government stepped in and passed the new license law, by which the mayor has no more to say in respect to licenses than has any other citizen. Mr. Baskin, should he run will get a good share of the temperance vote, though some active temperance men are among the signers of the requisition to Mayor Robertson. Mr. Baskin was an ardent friend of Tax Reform, but that is not to the front as an issue in this election.

So far as now appears there are no combinations among the aldermen as there have been in the last two elections. Last year the citizens ticket and the T. R. A. tickets were squarely pitted against each other, and the former had an easy victory through an effective organization and combination by which the candidate in one ward worked hard for his colleagues in the other wards. This year there is less cohesion, for the reason that a number of the present aldermen are unopposed, and as they don't have to hustle for themselves, are not throwing themselves into the fight for others. It is therefore a kind of a scrub race, though there may yet be some combinations, especially if more candidates come to the front.

So far there is a triangular fight for aldermen at large. The present incumbent

The seat in Kings ward being vacated by the retirement of Ald. Cooper, three candidates are after it. The first in the field was George R. Ellis, whose name has been to the front in previous elections as a probable candidate. He gained some ground by being first in the field this year, but J. B. Hamm starting more recently has been conducting a very brisk personal canvass. Mr. Hamm is an old time member of the board and was an active and aggressive member of the council years ago. Then, in addition to these, the name of D. J. McLaughlin, who was a member of the board under the first T. R. A. election, is mentioned as a third candidate. Mr. McLaughlin made a very good representative when at the board, and if he runs will poll a strong vote. Indeed, none of the three are weak men and the fight in Kings is likely to be a very interesting one indeed. Mr. Hamm will have one strong pull on his opponents from the fact that he is the owner of several coaches and a lively stable, so that he can carry his stray voters to the polls at a minimum of expense.

Dukes ward will witness another lively contest, caused by the advent of Gerard G. Ruel as an aspirant to the seat so long held by Ald. Blizard. The latter does not take kindly to opposition and thinks that Ruel, as a young man, would have shown better taste in offering for Queens, where there is a vacancy, rather than in seeking to oust one of such long experience at the board. Ald. Blizard will undoubtedly have the votes of a large number of his old supporters, but Mr. Ruel is making a lively campaign and has many friends among the younger element of the electorate. He is sure of a strong vote whatever the results may be.

Victoria ward usually has a hot election. Ex-alderman Seaton was very early in the field this year, before it was known that Ald. Law was to retire. Mr. Seaton, however, will have an active opponent in T. Barclay Robinson, a former member of the Portland council. The only other contest in the North End wards, so far as now known, will be that in Stanley, where Mr. Holder, another former member of the Portland council, is out in opposition to Ald. McGoldrick.

In the West End, J. O. Stackhouse is again out in Brooks ward, in opposition to Ald. Baxter. If Mr. Stackhouse can divide the vote in Carleton he will find a decided and cordial support from the East and North ends of the city and such a vote as will make Alderman Baxter's return a matter of much uncertainty. There is no word of any contest in Guys ward.

Dr. Daniel will probably be elected in Queens without opposition. In the other city wards so far, the present incumbents have every indication of a walk over. There are possibilities, however, between now and election day.

## DECLINE TO RATIFY IT.

THE YOUNG LIBERALS DEAL WITH THE LATE NOMINATION.

Col. Tucker is Not Their Choice—They Object to the Convention and Say It Was Not Legal—Some of the Arguments Used Against the Colonel's Candidature.

Lieut. Col. Joseph J. Tucker has buckled on his sabre at the call of the liberal convention, to enter on a campaign as the candidate for the city and county of St. John. The battle has begun already and the shots are whistling through the air, but they do not come from the enemy. The fusillade has been started from the camp of the young liberals.

The convention to nominate Col. Tucker was held Tuesday night. The object was stated to be to nominate a liberal candidate in the place of the late C. W. Weldon, but if the call had simply read "to endorse Major McLean's choice of Col. Tucker" it would have about hit the mark. That was what the meeting was for, and that was what it accomplished, despite the kicks and protests of the minority. The latter had valid grounds of objection, but they got no chance to state them. Chairman Lockhart knew what he was there for, and did just what the combination wanted him to do.

The chief objection to the convention was that it was illegal. A convention had been held on February, 1895, and had nominated Weldon and Ellis. The nominating committee it was charged, had a specific duty on that occasion, which was to decide between the claims of Weldon and Ellis and those of Carleton and McKeown. Having nominated the first named two, their functions as a nominating committee ceased, and they were ipso facto relieved from all further power or duty. It was claimed that the same committee did not legally exist for the purpose of filling a vacancy, but the executive decided otherwise and so the convention was called.

The young liberals did not get much of a show. For instance, after the names of Col. Tucker and Messrs McKeown and Carleton had been put in nomination, Michael Kelly of St. Martins moved, that all three candidates should be heard from. His motion was properly seconded, but the chairman ignored it and accepted a motion by Richard O'Brien that the convention proceed to the business for which it was called. The whole spirit of the meeting, or rather of the majority who engineered it, was to get Col. Tucker nominated as rapidly as possible. Nobody else was in it. When the work was accomplished, Col. Tucker made a speech in which he promised to study up the affairs of the country and qualify himself for his novel position.

The young liberals had their say Thursday night, when they gathered to the number of 70 or 80. Richard O'Brien, who

had helped to engineer the Tucker boom, was in the claim, in his capacity of first vice-president, and he maintained an admirable composure in the midst of most discouraging circumstances. Col. Tucker was not in it this time on any point discussed, but the chief and fatal ground for his hopes was the illegality of the convention by which he had been nominated. It was pointed out that the nominating committee had no locus standi, and that the choice of Major McLean's convention did not represent the party. One manifest wrong about the whole matter was that the delegates of last year had been chosen on the basis of the lists of 1892, whereas they should have been on the basis of the present lists. To show the difference, it was pointed out that Lancaster, which had only 12 delegates would now be entitled to 21, so that the people had really not been represented in the convention.

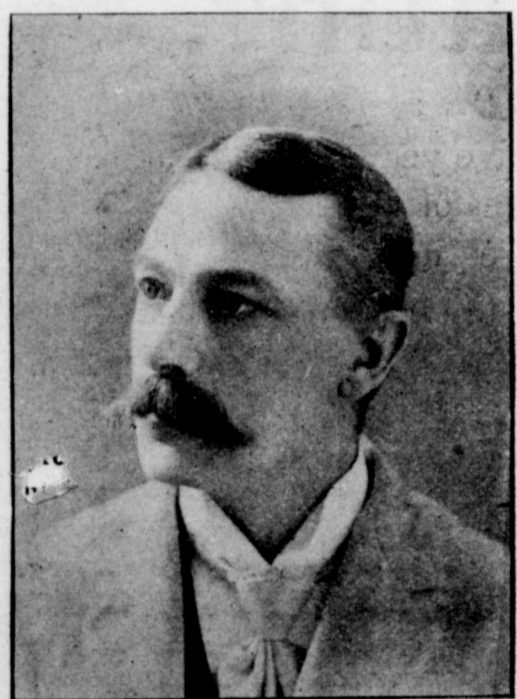
There was some plain talk as to the unwisdom of Col. Tucker's nomination and as to his claims on the party. In answer to the question of what he had done to merit recognition, one of his supporters adduced the fact that he had once presided at a meeting in Millidgeville in a highly creditable manner and that he had always been willing to contribute to the party funds. These seemed to be the chief arguments in his favor.

Against them was the feeling that he had been chosen merely because he had money and would thus make the campaign easy for Mr. Ellis. It was understood he was prepared to be bled to a considerable extent. This made it all right with the Ellis wing. It was further considered that Major McLean had engineered the nomination with a very definite object in view. Nobody gave him credit for thinking that Col. Tucker stood any chance of election, but should the liberal party come into power Major McLean would have his say in the dispensing of the patronage of this constituency. There was some very free talk about the family compact business.

One pertinent question put by one of the speakers was that, in event of death removing either of the candidates before the election, would it follow as a matter of course that Major McLean would have to be the next candidate. In other words, was the succession fixed as in the case of the royal family?

Finally a resolution was offered that the meeting decline to ratify the nomination of Col. Tucker. It was late when this was reached and there were just 60 in the hall. They declined to ratify Col. Tucker's nomination, by a vote of 42 to 18. Had all remained who were there at first the majority would have been larger.

It will now be in order for the liberal party to call a meeting to ratify Col. Tucker's nomination, and then the young liberals will be heard from again. If the



ALDERMAN McLAUGHLIN.

to any one who proposes to attend to it. But in spite of this the mayor is out again at the request of those citizens whose names appear in another column of this paper and many others. The names there can be said to represent the most important business interests in the city and are a guarantee of a good vote at the start. But Mr. McLaughlin's friends do not think Mayor Robertson treated their man fairly since it was understood, so they say, that he was not going to offer for a third term and upon that belief, Alderman McLaughlin allowed himself to be brought out.

Mayor Robertson's answer to that is that early in the year he had no idea of coming again but with such a requisition and so much unfinished and important civic business in hand he could not see his way clear to refuse.

Mr. T. H. Hall is another friend of Tax Reform who has also been to the front as a candidate for mayor this week, though it is said that he may retire since Mayor Robertson has accepted the requisition and consented to run. There is no official announcement of Mr. Hall's retirement,



DOUGLAS McARTHUR.

bents, Alds. Purdy and McCarthy are in the field and Douglas McArthur is the new man. In a fight of this kind it is hard for anybody to predict the figures which each will roll up on election day.