

# PROGRESS.

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## WILL NOT RUN AGAIN.

MAYOR ROBERTSON HAS HAD HIS SHARE OF HONORS.

That is, so far as civic politics have the power to charm—He has an eye on the House of Commons—Ald. McLaughlan to the front as a candidate.

Mayor Robertson will not offer for a third term. That is one of the facts of which there now seems no question. His Worship has intimated as much to his friends for some time past, but there has been some uncertainty as to just how his words were to be construed. There were some who interpreted his words to mean that he placed himself in the hands of his fellow citizens to do with him as they pleased. He would not come forward and say he was a candidate, as that might look as though he wanted to grab the office, a situation in which previous incumbents of the office have brought their aspirations to grief. At the same time, thought some, he would not be averse to accepting a third term if the citizens felt they could not do without him, and would give a gracious consideration to a requisition bearing evidence that the people cried for him and would be satisfied with no other brand. Should there be no such evidence of a demand for his services he would retire gracefully and with honors.

Such supposition did His Worship an injustice. He has not wanted a requisition, and no attempt is likely to be made to induce him to change his determination. He will go out of office with a very good record, in which his occasional official breaks will not be remembered against him. Under the administration of himself and the existing council the city affairs appear to have been well managed, and in some respects there has been a notable advance. He has undoubtedly tried to do his duty, and it may be added that in his public life he has, like some kinds of wine, been maternally toned down and improved with age.

One good reason assigned for the Mayor's wish to retire from active civic politics is that he has other and more extended ambitions. There has been a belief that he would accept the position of collector of customs, if it were tendered to him in some more definite manner than the office of appraiser has been dangled before Messrs Hamilton and Kelly, though if both he and John Chesley were appointed, after the same fashion, Mr. Robertson might think the consequent scabbles just a little too rich for his blood. There is no certainty, however, that he will get the collectorship, for there is a belief that, come what may, something must be done for Chesley. Mr. Chesley himself has been strongly of this opinion for a long time past, and if the hope does not end in fruition, it will not be through any indifference or negligence on his part. The removal of Mr. Chesley from politics would give Mr. Robertson an opportunity for which he is said to be very wide awake.

That is to be one of the government candidates for St. John. When he was last put forward by the machine he was not in training for such a contest, and Mr. Chesley, coming forward as an independent, easily defeated him, very much to the surprise of the machine and its friends. Mr. Robertson proved himself such a good talker in that campaign that he talked himself out. Since then, with added experience and profiting by past mistakes, many of which PROGRESS has kindly pointed out from time to time, he has put some hoops around himself and grown stronger and wiser. Should he run an election again, it is safe to say that "I George Robertson" would not be so much in evidence, and that he would take a better method of posing as a friend of labor than by telling how he once went to the lumber woods with a little axe on his shoulder.

Should the machine not want him as a candidate, it is believed he will run without the machine, as an independent conservative. He saw the success which attended such an experiment of Mr. Chesley, and he doubtless feels that having been two years before the people he has a personal strength that would ensure him a victory. His friends say that he will be a candidate in the general election, even if he has to go it alone.

The question of a successor to Mayor Robertson has become an important one. The names of several aldermen have been mentioned, but only one is known to be in the field. Taking them at random they may be disposed of as follows:

Ald. Bizard, the father of the council, has been mentioned. He is so well known that it is not necessary to speak of his good qualities. He would give the office of chief magistrate an air of eminent respectability, and would have abundant license to devote to civic affairs. Ald. Bizard is not likely to come forward unless he thinks he is wanted, but would no doubt give a requisition his favorable consideration.

Ald. Christie has been thought to be in

training for the Mayor's office, but whatever his aspirations may be he does not want it this year. He declined a nomination for the local legislature, and seems to be content to serve as an alderman for a year or two yet, until he can arrange to spare more time from his medical practice, which is large, and in which he has at present no assistant to divide the work with him. Ald. Christie has gained strength at the board within the last two years, since some of the other aldermen were sent back to private life, and has shown himself a very efficient worker during the last twelve months. He will probably be in the field for mayor some time, but it will not be this year.

One of the papers have mentioned the name of Ald. McRobbie, though there does not appear to be any good foundation for the rumor. Ald. McRobbie, when asked by some of his colleagues if he intended to be a candidate for alderman this year, gave no definite reply. Some ingenious logician may have interpreted this to mean that he was not sure whether he would be a candidate for alderman because there was a possibility of his being candidate for mayor. There is no McRobbie boom yet, however, and there seems to be no indication of one just at present.

The name which has been most to the front for some time past is that of Ald. McLaughlan. He is quite willing to run and may be said to be in the field. The alderman has served five years at the board, has filled the positions of deputy mayor and warden of the municipality, and has acquitted himself with credit in all that he has done. He has a clean record, and has a large circle of personal friends, and in an event of a contest would undoubtedly poll a splendid vote. It would take a strong man to beat him on his personal popularity and civic record, and as there seems to be no public issue on which an opposition can be founded, Ald. McLaughlan's chances for being the next mayor may be said to be particularly bright.

The T. R. A. has not been heard from this year. Some people assert that it is still alive, but if it is it has not yet shown any signs of kicking.

## JUDGE TUCK'S CONDITION.

Able to sit on the Bench Without Meat or Drink for Nine Hours.

An incident last Saturday in the Supreme Court at Fredericton shows that there is friction sometimes outside of the Cabinet at Ottawa. For the convenience of the lawyers residing in St. John and to permit them to get home for Sunday the Court has been adjourned to sit on that day until two or three o'clock without adjournment; and so on that day when a certain case was finished at about one o'clock, Judge Tuck, who is acting chief justice, called on the Consolidated cases and said that the three judges including Justices Landry and Vanwart would hear the argument until two or three o'clock, if the counsel thought they could get through, until half past three.

Mr. Pugsley, one of the council, arose to begin his argument when Mr. Justice Vanwart interrupted him and said, "Gentlemen, you will have to excuse me for the present. I find the condition of my health such that it injures me to go without my midday meal; in fact I am likely to have a head ache and suffer to such an extent by doing so that I am unfit for work. I have spoken about this before, now I am going to act and in future look after the man instead of the judge."

There was a pause and the naturally ruddy complexion of Judge Tuck brightened as he replied. "Perhaps I have been too urgent in asking the court to sit. In fact I have not given it a great deal of thought other than to suit the convenience of the counsel, but the fact is, gentlemen, I find myself in such physical condition that I could sit here from nine o'clock in the morning until six in the afternoon without anything to eat, or for the matter of that, anything to drink."

The court adjourned until two o'clock, however, when Judge Vanwart was present to listen to the argument.

## The County Won't Get Left.

The county of St. John gets printing amounting to between four and five hundred dollars done every year and tenders are asked for the work. This year the committee made a departure and with each tender requested a certified check for \$100 as a guarantee for the satisfactory character of the work. Twice the deposit was about one quarter of the amount of the whole year's work, and the request was considered as somewhat extraordinary. Still three concerns Messrs. Barnes & Co., G. A. Knodell and PROGRESS print put in their tenders and checks. Mr. Knodell's estimate was the lowest and the contract was awarded to him. The principle of requiring a check with tenders is no doubt an excellent one but there should be some reason in the condition. To ask a deposit of one hundred dollars for doing four hundred dollars worth of printing, spread over twelve months, in a satisfactory way is unreasonable.

## TALKING ABOUT TIMES.

FURTHER DISCUSSION OF WHAT IS A LIVE QUESTION.

Captain Smith's Letter Last Week Brings Out a Letter from a St. John Man—The Canadian Pacific Has Its Own System of Arranging the Standard.

Last week PROGRESS published a valuable contribution to the literature of standard time, in the form of a letter from Halifax dealing very clearly with the subject. As was stated at the time, the writer inadvertently omitted to send his name, but it is now learned that the writer was that excellent authority on many subjects where latitude and longitude are involved—Captain W. H. Smith, R. N. R., chairman of the board of examiners of Masters and Mates. In a letter since received from him, he explains his omission as follows: "I was enclosing similar communications to some local papers of St. John, the same day, and having my time occupied with other important matters, I presume the letter was inadvertently put in the envelope addressed to you."

"I desire to say that I take a great interest in the matter of Standard Time, and I would like to see that a useful and correct arrangement should be adopted by all cities and towns, and will end this letter with a bit of advice to all, and that is stick to the time of your zone."

Captain Smith's letter, however, even without the authority of his name, appears to have attracted much attention and to have been read with an interest that has set some people thinking on the question. Here is another letter, from a St. John citizen, which shows that the railways are very far from being right in their adoption of times and that at least do not attempt to "stick to their zones." This correspondent says:

"It was a great pleasure to read the exposition of the principles of Standard time in your last issue. A great deal of light has been thrown on the subject by your timely publication and the citizens of St. John will no doubt profit thereby."

"One point was not elaborated by your correspondent—the world wide importance of the subject. Standard time is the outcome of an international conference called together by the United States in 1882. To this conference twenty five nations sent duly accredited representatives. The countries represented were Austria-Hungary, Brazil, Chili, Columbia, Costa Rica, France, Germany, Great Britain, Guatemala, Hawaii, Italy, Japan, Liberia, Mexico, Netherlands, Paraguay, Russia, Salvador, San Domingo, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, United States and Venezuela. This conference after a full month's deliberation, promulgated the hour zone system or Standard time, so called, which your correspondent so ably explained. But while the conference established twenty four zones and defined their boundaries it allowed a certain amount of latitude for practical application. The hour zones theoretically extend seven and a half degrees of longitude on each side of the hour meridians, but in practice it is by no means an essential rule. The boundary line of contiguous zones may be governed by national, geographical or commercial purposes."

"The C. P. R. has taken advantage of this proviso to such an extent as to practically destroy the whole intent of the conference."

"In our latitude an hour zone would be from 850 to 900 miles wide, but how does the C. P. R. regulate its time zones? The Pacific time zone extends considerably into the Pacific ocean and the portion of land included in this zone amounts to only 600 miles. On the line of the C. P. R. the boundary between the Pacific time zone and mountain time zone would fall in the vicinity of Calgary, but the C. P. R. moves the boundary about 200 miles west to Donald, making the run on Pacific time 454 miles. The run in Mountain time zone is 891 miles from Donald to Brandon. The boundary has again been moved west from Winnipeg 125 miles. The run on Central time is 559 miles from Brandon to Ft. William. The boundary has been moved west again this time 375 miles from Chapleau. The run on Eastern time is 1754 miles from Ft. A. William to Halifax. The boundary is moved east this time about 625 miles from McAdam. This is how the C. P. R. arranges its time zones:

"Pacific standard time	454 miles
"Mountain "	891 "
"Central "	559 "
"Eastern "	1754 "

"The deviation of the roadbed from a straight line if taken into account would not materially affect these figures. The C. P. R. track is very straight and runs nearly due east and west."

"These figures show that the C. P. R. does not attempt to run on true Standard time but adopts standards to suit itself. If the American railways should adopt as arbitrary time zones as the C. P. R. has done there would be no such thing as standard time in North America."

"In the face of these facts how can any one claim that it is the proper thing for the localities along the lines of the C. P. R. to adopt the same time standards that it has? This community should adopt the proper standard, i. e. the standard to which we belong according to the international conference known here as Atlantic Standard, and then every effort should be made to induce the railways to adopt the proper time as well."

There can be no doubt that the term "Atlantic" standard, as Capt. Smith suggested last week, is a better term than "Intercolonial" standard which was the designation given in the schedule and maps published after the convention of 1883. Nor is their doubt that New Brunswick and Nova Scotia properly come under the Atlantic standard, and were so scheduled at those conventions. The Intercolonial railway runs for the greater portion of its length within the designated limits of Atlantic time, the zone of separation being about where the railway comes out on the shore of the lower St. Lawrence. The Intercolonial, however, adopted the Eastern standard at the outset, and the Canadian Pacific having also adopted it, the present state of things has been brought about.

The question in St. John is a vexed one. Uniform time is demanded, and that means one time for both railway and citizens. Eastern standard for the one and Atlantic standard for the other, as in Halifax, will not bring uniformity, though the difference of an even hour is preferable to the present difference of odd minutes between Eastern standard and local mean time. Should the city adopt Eastern standard, as a matter of expediency, uniformity is secured, but the time is not the true time according to the arrangement of the standard meridian. On the other hand, should Atlantic standard be adopted, there is no assurance that there will ever be uniform time, for as far as heard from the railways have negatived the idea that they will ever consent to change their standard.

The more the time problem is discussed the more need there seems to be that it should have the fullest consideration before any final step is taken to adopt our standard or the other.

## INVADED A PRIVATE HOUSE.

Latest Idea of the Police in Regard to Searching for Liquor.

Robert Hickey, an employee in a bottling establishment lives with his wife and four children on 55 Britain street, in the third flat. Three of his children have been sick with the measles and their mother was attending to them last Saturday night when she was surprised, during the absence of her husband, by the entrance of two policemen, Sergeant Jenkins and Sergeant Kilpatrick. They demanded of her that she hand over to them any liquor that was in the house, and she pointed to two bottles of whiskey, which they took. Not satisfied with this, they searched around and found a soda water bottle with a very small quantity of gin, which had been procured for the sick children. There were no glasses or other paraphernalia of a bar room found, no persons frequenting the place, and not the slightest evidence that liquor was kept for sale. To the minds of the two policemen, however, there was proof of the violation of the Liquor License Act, and Mr. Hickey was notified to appear before the court on Monday.

Mr. Hickey is a man who believes that he has a right to take a drink, or to ask his friends to join him if he sees fit to do so. He has been in the habit of keeping liquor in the house, instead of spending his leisure hours in bar rooms, and the whiskey found by the policemen was solely for his personal use. He does not keep a shop of any kind, and when the searchers climbed up to the third floor, where he has his home, they had no expectation of finding a shop. They were looking for liquor, and they found it just as they might have found it in dozens of respectable private houses if they had intruded in the same way and for the same object.

Mr. Hickey appeared before the court on Monday, and Jenkins told his story. Mr. Hickey waited and got an adjournment of the case in order that he might show he was wholly innocent of the charge brought against him. On Wednesday he again went to court, in company with a lawyer, told his story and had the case dismissed. There was absolutely no evidence against him.

The Liquor License Act makes it the duty of policemen to search out and prosecute all offenders against the provisions of the act. There must, however, be a reasonable ground for belief that the law is being violated, and the presumption is that those who are entrusted with this duty of searching out have ordinary discretion. Were it not so, any man would be at the mercy of possibly spiteful persons who would tell the police that there was liquor sold in his private house, and thus no man would be safe from intrusion and from the necessity of having to go to court to free himself from an unfounded charge. Were the fact of a man having liquor in his house prima facie evidence that he was selling it, some of our prominent citizens would be forced to explain themselves in court pretty often, and some of the policemen themselves would be very liable to have a visit from the chief inspector or some of his ultra zealous sergeants.

## WHEELER IN HIS CELL.

HOW HE APPEARS AND WHAT HE SAYS OF THE MURDER.

Declares He Did Not Kill Annie Kempton but Thinks He Will Be Convicted of the Crime—Something about the Man and How He Is Regarded There.

The crime at Bear River is one to call for prompt justice when the guilt of the murderer is made clear. Annie Kempton, a girl of 15, was found murdered in her father's house, early in the morning. She had been dead several hours, and was probably killed the previous evening. The condition of the room appears to show that she had fought some person, who, knowing her to be alone, had undertaken to assault her, and that either angered by her resistance or frightened by her threats of subsequent prosecution, he knocked her senseless by a blow on the head with a billet of wood, and that afterward he cut her throat to make sure of having her life. Wheeler was the man who called at the house in the morning and found the body. According to the story of young Benson, Wheeler had been there the evening before and had cautioned him to say nothing about it. Evidence has also been given of remarks made in the past by Wheeler of designs he had against the girl, and his explanation of his movements on the evening of the tragedy has been shown to consist of clumsy untruths. Apart from the evidence of Benson, Wheeler's own words seem to form a strong case against him and naturally give color to the almost universal belief in his guilt.

A representative of PROGRESS visited Digby and Bear River during the past week, and had a talk with the prisoner. Wheeler is twenty-six years old, about five feet two inches in height, with broad shoulders, the lower part of his body being very slight. His face resembles that of an Indian, with high cheek bones, small snail mouth and snapping dark brown eyes. His hair is black and very thick over the temples. He is said to have come from Australia, but has knocked around the world a great deal as a sailor, and has a foreign accent in his speech. He says he has never been to school, but he is believed to understand two or three languages well enough to make himself understood in them, French being of the number. He can read and has been studying the bible since his arrest, remarking that it is now his only friend. When talking, he looks anybody straight in the eyes, and has no hesitation in answering any question he is asked.

Wheeler came to Bear River about twelve years ago, and for a while worked as a hand on coasting vessels. Of late years he has followed a sort of a free and easy life, doing odd chores, picking berries in their season and getting Mayflowers for St. John customers. He has not been a drinking man, but he has been in bad repute among the villagers on account of his living at the house of Tillie Comeau, a woman at least 20 years his senior and the mother of several children who have no positive means of identifying their fathers. The scandal caused by Wheeler choosing this boarding house has in the past given rise to occasional proposition to run him out of the district and he claims that once an attempt was made to get him drunk so that a sort of an improvised vigilance committee could deal out summary punishment to him.

Tillie Comeau, is a sharp, intelligent French woman, who has been in the habit of doing washing and housework for the people around Bear River. She had of late spent the nights at the Kempton house, to keep Annie company during the absence of the parents. One of the points against Wheeler is that on the night of the murder he told Tillie she need not go to the Kempton house, as one Grace Morine was to stay with Annie that night. The Morine girl declares that she had no intimation of any such arrangement.

Tillie says that Wheeler has always paid his board at her place and adds that he was of a kind nature and the last person she would believe guilty of murder. Her children also said he was always kind to them.

On Tuesday last Peter Wheeler was seen by a PROGRESS man in his cell at Digby. When asked if he knew who was talking to him he replied in the negative, but he asked if he remembered who he and Tillie Comeau used to gather mayflowers for in St. John, he at once spoke up in an easy off handed way and was as open for a chat as any man in his happiest mood. "Well, Peter," was asked, "have you anything to tell me in reference to this affair?"

"No, sir," was his reply, "Your trial is to commence at Bear River on Thursday?"

"Yes sir, and it they convict me which I suppose they will I will never gather any more Mayflowers for you."

Here the prisoner's voice dropped a little and in a soft and sympathetic way he went on to say that the people all seemed hard on him for what he could not say, and that

he thought they were treating him very badly, for "As God is my judge I never killed Annie," he said with great earnestness.

The people of Bear River are very much amazed over the different reports that have been published in connection with this murder, and they all say that none of the reports have been the same. The general opinion is that whoever the murderer is he evidently had a pretty rough wrestle with the girl in trying to commit an assault, and that failing in this he struck her with a club of wood to keep her quiet and on finding her again coming to her senses he cut her throat. They do not seem to support the reports that the upsetting of furniture etc. were caused in the struggle for life, but in previous a rough and tumble wrestle. They also think the death wound was made quick and on the sly, and that the stains of blood on the different articles and on the door, were done in the excitement of the murderer.

## THEY DROVE OUT AND DINED.

A Merry Party On a Pleasant Time—The Victoria Drive.

One up the events of the winter which many people look forward to is the "New Victoria Drive". For six years it has been an annual affair and the enjoyment afforded by it has even exceeded the pleasant anticipation of the event.

Wednesday a general party of friends of the house and the proprietor Mr. McCoskery found themselves in one of the big sleighs of Watson's livery and en route to the scene of their last merry making, the Clairmont, at Torryburn. The party was not as large as that of last year but there were plenty to make merry and enjoy themselves.

Supper was served with Mr. McCoskery in the chair while he was protected on his right by a strong arm of the militia, Colonel Domville of the 8th Hussars, and upon his left by that capable representative of Canada's navy, Captain Pratt.

The popular organizer of the affair Mr. Cameron filled the vice chair and if he experienced any difficulty in doing justice to all that was placed before him it was not because he lacked assistance from his wings Mr. Quinton and Mr. March.

With Captain Ferris presiding at another table and the redoubtable and argumentative "Mayor of Blue Rock," Mr. Timothy Donovan upon his left there was added a certain completeness to the arrangements for the feast and the merry making speeches.

Suffice it to say that while the keen appetites of the party were unsatisfied there was an air of business about the board that spoke volumes for the cookery of the Clairmont and the varied menu.

The usual formal and loyal toast of the Queen met with such a response in the way of cheers as is seldom heard about a festive board and the few but appropriate welcoming remarks of Mr. McCoskery in proposing it were warmly received.

Then replying to the health of Canada's governor general, Colonel Domville made a merry and practical speech introducing the broader politics of country before party and giving utterance to many sentiments heartily applauded by all present. The Colonel is as pleasant and agreeable an after dinner speaker as he is forcible and aggressive upon the platform.

Mr. Timothy Donovan was asked to speak for the governor and he did so in his own interesting and emphatic fashion. Mr. Donovan's speech was original in thought as well as words and afforded much enjoyment to those present.

The army and navy brought Captain Pratt and Colonel Domville again to their feet with brief speeches while Mr. D. Dias was excused upon the promise of a song at a later hour. Then our mercantile and shipping interests called for Messrs. Cullinan, Callaghan, Knex, and others whose names are not recalled at this moment. Mr. McCoskery and the New Victoria were both honored and replied to much to the satisfaction of those about the board. Other features of the supper were the eloquent speeches of Messrs. Quinton, March and Cameron in proposing and responding to toasts. The press was not forgotten, and the Sun and PROGRESS replied. Mine host Newcombe was called to the front and complimented upon his spread, and he too found that a speech was necessary. An hour or two of just and song, wit and humor were then pleasantly spent, and it is not necessary to say that they were all the more enjoyable because of the good singing of Messrs. Delay and Dias.

## A "Worth-Nothing" Young Man.

A young lawyer who took his best girl out for a drive a few days ago, met with a mishap, which threw both him and the young lady out. The horse got away and ran about a mile, shattering the sleigh so that it was hardly worth repairing. Now the young man who is zealous in his endeavors to collect accounts for his, or his employer's clients, sets up the claim that as he is worth nothing the livery man can whistle for the cost of repairing the sleigh. This is not an uncommon plea but in this case it would seem to merit a stronger adjective than "uncommon". The matter is likely to go to court.