

PROGRESS.

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ST. JOHN N. B., SATURDAY, MARCH 21, 1896.

PRICE FIVE CENTS

ALL THE LAW THEY ASK.

THE NEW LIQUOR LICENSE ACT MAKES BIG CHANGES.

Heavy License Fees and Heavy Penalties for Violators—It Hits the Buyer as Well as the Seller—Prohibition for Places now Without License.

The mayor and a delegation of the common council went to Fredericton in a great hurry this week, or at least with as much haste as comports with the dignity of the chief magistrate of the winter port and his cabinet, including the high constable. The latter functionary is not usually an adjunct of civic delegations, but he went this time at the suggestion of several of the aldermen, who probably thought that his presence in an official capacity would lead an added impressiveness to the party, and convince the legislators from the country districts that the citizens of St. John were not to be trifled with when it came to making laws in respect to the sale and consumption of spirituous liquors.

The delegation, thus constituted, went prepared to deal with all phases of the liquor question and they succeeded in creating an impression, if not a sensation. They also succeeded in having some sections of the bill amended so that the city is in a better position under the law than if they had not gone. Previous to going the council had a special session at which all the aldermen joined in condemning the proposed measure and there seemed to be an impression that the legislature was intruding on holy ground in attempting to control licenses which the city had heretofore issued under its charter. The lawyers at the board, however, showed that there was no question of the government's right to do as it pleased, and the only thing for the city was to get the best terms possible.

On the evening of the same day the prohibitionists held a meeting at which the bill was discussed, and though they admitted they did not know much about what was proposed, they resolved to protest against it.

The Licensed Victuallers' Association also held a meeting at which the provisions of the bill were the subject of protest, on account of the high fees for license and the new restrictions on the traffic.

Thus it was that all classes in St. John were opposed to the measure. A bill with such a scarcity of friends in the community chiefly designed to be benefitted by it was never brought before the legislature, but it got there just the same, and it will be the law of the land the moment the governor signs it, which will probably be by the time PROGRESS goes to press.

The little snowball which has just created such consternation as a legislative avalanche was put in motion several weeks ago when, in an unlucky moment for the liquor interest, one man conceived the idea that he would apply for a license in Carleton. This aroused the prohibition sentiment there, and as prohibitionists get excited on very slight provocation they not only killed the idea of a license in Carleton but undertook to have more restrictive legislation for all the rest of the country. They succeeded, in spite of the protests of the St. John members, in getting the passage of an amendment which was likely to cause all kinds of trouble by its operation, and then they began to agitate for the Scott Act.

In the meantime, Solicitor General White was engaged in the task of preparing a bill to consolidate and amend all the existing acts in respect to liquor, thus wholly bringing to naught the amendment which had been tacked on to the old law. The Liquor License Act of 1887 has been superseded by that of 1896.

The feature of the new law which has caused the most comment is that the provincial government takes the place heretofore held by a city or municipality in controlling the issue of license and in receiving the fees. Each city or county has an inspector and a board of three commissioners appointed by the government. After these officials have been paid and a deduction made for any other expenses, half of the money remaining from the license fund shall be paid to the city, while the city is also allowed two thirds of the fines collected for violation of the act.

This would mean a great decrease of revenue to St. John, were it not that the license fees are increased to a figure that beats all previous records. An ordinary tavern license, which has cost \$150 in St. John, will cost \$300. As this applies to the present year it is probable that a number of the present licensees will be pretty closely pressed to raise the amount, and some of them may not succeed. Even at the former figure some applicants have had to delay the payment of the fee for weeks after the stipulated period, and the civic authorities have been accustomed to make allowances in this respect. For some of the smaller dealers to be now called on to raise \$300 at short notice may

mean that they will go out of business. This year the same number of licenses, 84, will be issued as in the past, but in future there will be only 75 ordinary tavern licenses for the whole city.

This does not include the hotels. These have heretofore ranked as ordinary taverns but now they have a special license at a cost of \$400, and they are not allowed to sell on Sunday. There are six hotel licenses allowed, with an extra one should there be an hotel with accommodation for 200 guests.

Clubs, which have escaped license in the past, will have to pay \$300 each.

Wholesale license, which now costs \$300 will hereafter be \$500. If the law is enforced there will be an end to retail sales under wholesale license. One provision of the recent law which was a dead letter was that a wholesaler could not sell in less quantities than two gallons, but anybody who wanted a bottle of liquor and did not choose to go to a bar room for it could get it at a wholesale store without trouble. The limit under the new law is one quart.

Another new provision is that brewers must pay a license fee of \$800, one half of which goes to the city.

Druggists must keep a record of all sales of liquor, and cannot sell in quantities larger than six ounces without a doctor's certificate, nor can they sell during the hours prohibited for all places.

The penalties under the act hit all around and ought to be a terror to evil doers.

For selling without license, the first offence means not less than a fine of \$50 or three months' jail; the second offence is four months' jail without a fine, and all subsequent offences six months in jail each. This will make short work of the widows on whom the chief inspector has levied so often, and it should make equally short work of the dens of ill repute which now get clear by easily paid fines.

The wholesaler man will have to keep a sharp lookout. For allowing a person to drink on the premises the fine is \$40 for the first offence and \$80 for the second, while the person who drinks will have to pay from \$10 to \$20. The wholesaler is also not allowed to sell to persons who intend to retail if they have not a license.

For selling on Sunday, the fine for the first offence is from \$50 to 100; for the second, from \$100 to \$200, and for the third from \$200 to \$400, with forfeiture of license. The person who buys during such hours may be fined from \$2 to \$10.

Then there are stringent provisions as to sales to minors, inebriates, and intoxicated persons, with a liability for damage when a person supplied with liquor gets injured in consequence of it, or commits any damage. No bar can now have half a dozen entrances, but is limited to one.

Licenses in St. John are issued according to wards, but it is a majority of the ratepayers of any ward vote against license in it none shall be granted, and this vote may be taken every three years. In Carleton, where there is now no license, none can hereafter be had and this is the case with all districts in the province where there is now no license. This means prohibition in all such districts.

Such are a few of the many provisions of the new law, and it is no wonder that it has been a big surprise party to the public in general and the publicans in particular.

Their New Waiting Room.

At one time this week the dream of the long-suffering public was at last realized in the presence of a waiting room at the head of King street, but it was not a fixture. One of the new cars, No. 40, broke an axle and was compelled to stand there for over two days. On Tuesday evening the disabled car was boarded by about twenty odd "passengers" most of whom were intent on going to the rink. What was their disgust when informed that the electric car was stationary and that they were about a quarter of an hour behind time.

Remove Rings Before Washing.

A well-known lapidary cautions those who own turquoise rings to remove them when washing the hands, lest the color be injured. The explanation of the change from blue to green that sometimes takes place in the stones is that they are affected by acid emanations from the skin as well as by certain elements in some kinds of cologne and other perfumes. The changes in the color of the topaz are believed to be due to light and heat, as experiments with the stones show that strong sunlight will bleach them.

Feminine Smokers.

Although the new woman era in this city still appears in the dim perspective, yet there are evidences of her masculine propensities almost daily. It was only a short time ago that five St. John maidens were seen sitting on the stairs of a stately but unoccupied residence puffing away at the deadly cigarette with all the ease of a confirmed "chappie."

AMOUNTED TO A FRACAS.

A LITTLE MISUNDERSTANDING IN HALIFAX SOCIETY.

One Lady Jostles Another Who is Therefore Moved to Make a Remark—The Retort Was Keen But Not Courteous—Cakewalk Episode in High Toned Circles.

HALIFAX, March, 19.—Human nature is pretty much the same wherever you find it; whether it finds its pleasure in the high-toned receptions of "society" or in the common festivities of the "cake-walk." The heart is alike in both spheres; it is only the outside veneer of "culture" or "refinement" that makes the difference. The methods at the "society" reception and at the cake walk are different. In the one the object often is mainly to conceal one's real feelings and opinions, while at the cake-walk the participants in that plebeian amusement take little trouble to disguise their sentiments. Rough and ready is the motto; give and take their principle, and everything goes happily unless the police are called in to interfere and preserve the peace.

But sometimes the difference in "tone" of the "society" reception becomes almost unrecognizable in its manifestation from the style of behavior at the cake-walk. What little advantage there is may be in favor of the latter.

An instance of this sameness occurred in fashionable "society" in this city last week. It was at a reception in a hospitable mansion on Spring Garden road, that has often been the scene of pleasure-making by much of the youth and beauty and chivalry of Halifax. There were many guests in attendance, and the "function" was going as merrily as a marriage bell. The generous hosts were as usual indefatigable in their endeavors to see that everybody was in the way of securing a full share of the enjoyment that might be expected and success was apparently crowning their efforts. Suddenly the uproarious cake-walk spirit manifested itself on the part of two of the dames present. As has been stated the scene is laid in a Spring Garden road mansion and besides the host and hostess, the other members of the company of guests, and the servants, the dramatic persons were two ladies, one of them residing on Hollis street, and the other on Morris street. Both are exceedingly "well connected."

The fracas, for "fracas" the disturbance those ladies caused it may truthfully be called, arose in a simple way. Whether accidentally or intentionally cannot be stated, but the Hollis street lady jostled against the Morris street dame. This action led the latter to make a remark concerning the jostler to a friend with whom she was vivaciously conversing. It was to the effect that she "had been drinking." The representative of Hollis street overheard the half audible aspersions which had been uttered.

She turned square round and glanced at the woman who had made the insinuation and little wonder, for it was a statement which had far better been left unsaid. This savage rejoinder was immediately forthcoming:

"I may have the fault you charge, but I can at least pay my debts. I do not need to run head and ears into debt to keep 'in society' as you do. I would not speak as you have done regarding one of whom you have often borrowed money in order to make a show at such affairs as this. Were it not for the money you have obtained from me and from others, and the shop-keeper's bills you leave unpaid, you would make a poor appearance indeed in society!"

This was said in so loud a tone that every one in the large room could hear the words, and while many pretended not to know what was going on, every ear was strained that not a syllable of the sweet scandal might be lost.

The Morris street dame turned pale and red in quick succession, as she managed to stammer out some reply or excuse, but this only served to aggravate the situation, for the Hollis street assailant, now that her blood was up, was evidently determined to teach such a lesson as should never be forgotten, either by the victim of the scourging which was in progress, or by those who were unfortunate, or fortunate enough to witness it. So the changes on the enormity of women setting themselves up as "society ladies" and pretending to criticize short comings in others, whether in "society" or out of it, who were beholden to friends or tradesmen for the wherewithal to keep up appearances in that precious "society."

Round after round was fought, and the more courageous guests had formed a ring in the momentary lulls of the battle, which outdid Corbett and Fitzsimmons for wordy ferocity, the swell "society" spectators of the melee fairly shook with subdued excitement.

How long this "cakewalk episode" at this "society function" would have lasted no one can tell; when the finish would have come no one knows; but at last the host appeared and constituted himself the referee. Calmly but firmly he requested that the participants be separated and he looked as if he wished the crowd could be dispersed. He went further and gave directions that both ladies leave his house immediately. This order was obeyed and peace once more prevailed. Yet it was only an outward calm for a storm of indignation raged in the breasts of the kind entertainers and the guests were throbbing with ill-concealed excitement. A vow of secrecy was supposed to have been taken, by the company, but some one broke it. "Society" is the poorest kind of a secret-keeper, as this incident most notably proves.

After the Officers.

Some of the Candidates Talked About in Connection With the License Law. Chief Clark ceases to be inspector of licenses when the new law comes in force, and though the government will appoint an inspector he has no hope of being the man. A slight sounding of the intentions of the government showed him that he was out of the race, and now the question is who the new inspector will be.

The salary is not a large one, but it is enough to be worth seeking. It has not been fixed but will range from \$500 to \$700. Of course, were the inspector a man who could be approached on the boodle principle, he might contrive to make the office worth \$5,000, until his game was brought to an end.

THEY FAILED TO AGREE.

HUSBAND AND WIFE WHO PULLED AT CROSS PURPOSES.

The Trouble Began After the Honeymoon Ended—The Wife Undertook to Show Her Authority and Succeeded—Why One Man More has Joined the Exodus.

During the last week, as the culmination of long standing family trouble, St. John has lost the citizenship of a well known and respected North End carpenter. Although a joiner by trade the gentleman in question left his home in a very much disjointed condition.

About eleven months ago the joiner in question took unto himself a wife. The proverbial honeymoon had hardly subsided when the fair bride commenced to assert her rights as the better half. The young husband, naturally of an easy going nature, submitted to the prolonged ordeal, considering it at first more coquetish actions than earnestness, but matters grew worse and at times the bridegroom's lot was a most unhappy one.

It appears that before the husband entered Hymen's bonds he had built a large house, part of which was tenanted, the remaining portion being occupied by him and his aged parents. He acted in a commendable way towards his mother and at the time of, and after his marriage still continued in his goodheartedness towards them. It said that it is his attention to the old folks was food for the green-eyed monster which was rapidly overcoming his new spouse.

The first move in this game of family checkers was in the direction of the land of the tree. The wife wished her husband to throw up his trade here and work in the adjoining republic while she would stay in this city. She said he could make big money in the states and after accumulating considerable worldly goods he could return home and enjoy it. He went, and after a short stay received a pathetic letter from his wife full of sighs and pleas of loneliness and closing with announcing her intention of leaving immediately to join him. The husband sent her passage money and it was not long before husband and wife were again side by side. Dissatisfaction soon again made itself apparent and she made a speedy return to this city while her husband laboured on at the hub. Once more in this city the wife quarrelled with one of her husband's tenants about the storage of a piano and a telegram brought home the alien carpenter with all haste. To satisfy his wife the tenant was evicted. The wife next wanted to live in a flat self-contained, but her husband in this case ventured to disagree. He was afterwards however compelled to think of the matter differently, and arrangements were almost completed for the rental of a flat when a rupture between the mother-in-law and daughter-in-law upset the scheme. The husband came home from work one day and found his wife had flown, bag and baggage. Numerous and prolonged conferences with a view to conciliation were held but the wife was as adamant. All the while the husband bore his affliction without uttering a sentence of his trouble to even his most confidential friends. He endeavored to make satisfactory arrangements for the re-establishing of a home but it was no use, his wife did not see it in the same light. The whole matter was brought to a rather abrupt close within the last ten days.

One day last week, while the newly-married couple were living apart, the wife called at a neighbour's house to borrow the key of her former home from the tenant who was calling there. After getting what she wanted out of the house the wife locked the door and put the key in her pocket. The tenant returning from her call found her house locked up and reported to the landlord. A new lock was put on and a new key given to the tenant. When the wife returned the next day and found she could not gain admittance by the old key she seized an axe and began to demolish the door. Again the landlord was notified and in a gentle but firm way relieved his wife of the weapon and ordered her back to her mother's home where she had been staying. The tenant, who occupied the much abused flat, reported the matter to the police and both husband and wife were summoned before Magistrate Ritchie. The case was dismissed.

Apparently anxious for peace, the husband next sold his \$700 house for \$350 and left last Monday for the Western States. His wife knew not of his journey until long after his departure. So ends the story.

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