# PROGRESS Pages 9 to 16.

## ST. JOHN, N. B., SATURDAY, APRIL 18 1896.

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# TROUBLE OVER A BOOK. | m'steriously disappeared some time before,

DR. REID OF THE VICTORIA HOS-PITAL TO THE FRONT.

He Accuses a Nurse of Theft-The Bouse Staff and Fourteen Nurses Resign-The Hospital Commission |to Begin Investigations Immediately.

HALIFAX, APRIL 16 .- It looks as if nail after nail were being quickly driven into the coffin of the Victoria General Hospital management. The commission of erquiry has been moving slowly because it cou'd not help itself, but when it does get to work in earnest the indications are that a comparitively brief period will elapse ere the public will know the worst or the best, let it be hoped regarding the institution. The commission wi'l meet to take evidence on Tuesday next. Much of the delay that has been caused is due to the absence of Dr. G. N. Murphy, of Windsor, who is now taking a post graduate course in New York. Dr. Murphy refused to wait the pleasure of the commission at a cost of his losing time that he wished to put in at New York, and now he says he will not return prior to the close of classes, for the purpose of givir g evidence, at least unless his expenses are paid. At first there was a d sinclination to agree to such a disbursement, but now it seems as if these would be paid in order to secure Dr. Murphy's attendance without de ay.

Another witness who shoold be brought home to give testimony is Dr. Cogswell, who is with Dr Morrow in Montana, but the expen e will probab'y prevent.

Dr. McCawley, of Tnorburn, is the third ex-hou e surg on to be called on behalt of the medical board to testify to the "gross inefficien y and neglect of duty by the hospital managem nt."

Dr. Irwin, of Hebron, Yarmouth county is the fourth. Yet another is Dr. Moore, now of the hospital for insane, Dartmouth. When those men tell all they know of the Victoria hospital there will not be much Mrs. Oukeston; and Mrs. Murray. unsaid, but what there is will be drawn from the nurses. Dr. Reid, the superintendent; Mr. Puttner, the steward and apothecary; an? Miss Elliott, the superintendent of nurses, have anything but beds of roses these days, and the general belief, whether based on fact or not remains to be seen, is that their positions will become yet | house medical staff and of fifteen out of more unpleasant before the commission and the medical board are done with them. The occurrence that caused the remarks about nails and coffins with which this letter opens was the sensation of the end of last week at the bospital. The story has before been told but briefly and imperfectly. More than a year ago war broke out between the nurses and Miss Elliott, caused by instructions given by Miss Elliott, and which the nurses claimed could not be carried out by anybody who made pretensions to decency. Dr. Reid backed Miss Elliott and the nurses were suspended. One of the latter was Miss Strong, of St. John's, Newfoundland, who was appointed by Premier Fielding personally. Miss Strong refused to accept the suspension of the hospital authorities and went about her duties as if nothing had happened. She defied Dr. Reid and Miss E liott. On that occasion the nurses won a decided victory. At the end of the recent session of the legis'ature the committee on humane institutions of the house of assembly began an inquiry into the alleged abuses at the hospital. Miss Strong was again prominently to the front in response to the summons of the committee. Besides her, Miss Allan and Miss Taylor, two em ployees of the hospital, were also asked to give gvidence, some of which is said to have been very damaging, reflecting on the conduct of Dr. Reid, Miss Elliott and Mr. Puttner. The morning after the evidence was given Miss Allan was dismissed. or "promoted" from Pattner's office to the kitchen. The management was powerless to thus punish Miss Strong,-but it can be easily imagined that she was not favorite with them. Now comes the sensation which caused the resignation of the house staff. Dr Reid Cad left a book on microscopes in the telephone room which was to be called for in the morning. One of the staff is kept constantly in this room. Miss Strongwho had been on duty all night, called in to the telephone office, on her way to her room in the morning, to obtain postage stamps. She had a number of books and papers in her hands and these she laid upon the table while waiting for her stamps. The telephone attendant looked over the books as they lay on the table, as any one would naturally do. In a few minutes Miss Strong picked up her material and started for her room in the nurses' home some distance away. Later in the morning Dr Reid ing

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and that this kind of thing must stop now. Chief O'Sullivan was communicated with and a request made for the services of Detective Power. The detective went to

the hospital and was instructed to make a search of the nurse's apartments. Dr. Reid accompanied the officer and made a direct line for Miss Strong's room. A moment's search revealed the missing book, Miss Strong, Dr. Reid and the detective looked at each other with wondering eyes. The nurse was overcom; with chagrin that a police offic r should have been brought into her room to search for stolen porperty. and that she should appear to be guilty, but she was able to explain how the book must have found its way to her room her theory being the same as that already stated, of the early morning visit to the telephone office for stamps. It certainly was a reasonable explanation, but in the face of it Dr. Reid turned to Detective Power and said :

"Officer do your duty !"

The detective has had far too long an xperience to do anything rashly, and he felt his duty was to do nothing at all more in the matter, and the reply he made to Dr. Reid was to that effect. So Miss Strong was not arrested.

Dr. Reid, however, suspended her or suspicion of theft.

The news of what had happened spread like wild-fire through the hospital wards, and the indignation on the part of doctors and nurses was intense. The house staff immediately resigned-Dr. Holmes and Dr. Shaw, house surgeons, and Mr. McEwen and Mr. Shaw clinical clerks.

There are nineteen lady nurses in the hospital and fourteen of them wrote out a resignation which they signed, to take effect if Miss Strong was not at once and honorably reinstated. The four nurses who declined resigning on account of Miss Strong were Miss Sorby, Miss Fitzgerald, Meanwhile Miss Strong saw J. Johnston

Hunt, a solicitor, who waited upon Dr. It was now the sup rintenden turn to become a'armed, and he showed his fear. He only had a few minutes to decide whether he would reinstate the nurse or see the hospital bereft of the the entire staff of nineteen nurses. So he ate his action of a short time before and reinstated Miss Strong. Then the house staff agreed to withdraw their resignations and the nurses did not send in theirs. Dr. Reid was not through with this nurse however, who now for the third time had come into collision with him and with Miss Elliot. After J. Johnston Hunt's [conversation wi h him Miss Strong drew up the following statement which Superintend-

### WOMEN AND AUCIIONS. ATTENDANCE AT SALES GETS TO BE AN OCCUPATION.

The Auction Rooms and Clearance Sales at Private Houses Fascinate Them at This Stason-Sometimes They Get Bargains and Sometimes Not.

Hundreds of women have contracted the auction fever in a virulent form, and go to auctions as regularly as they attend to any other part of their customary round of pleasures, says the N. Y. Sun. Buying at auction has more tun in it than bargain bunting at the stores. Whether the women get things cheaper than at the stores or whether they are cheated are matters entirely outside the question. Besides the tun of bidding after they get bold enough to raise theis voices above a whisper, the women like to buy at auctions because it his a spice of gambling in it and in addition offers some features of the continuous variety performance.

"I haven't bought a taing for my house at a store in five years," says one auction woman. When the house needs anything, a rug or a piece of furniture, I wait till what I want is put up at auction here. I can't wait I tell he auctioneer what I want and he gets it and puts it up, and I have the pleasure of trying to get it. Then you never know what you're going to pay for anything. It's fun to buy that way." "Before I began coming here," says another auction woman, "I suffered dreadfully from nervous prostration. I tried everything and only got worse. Then I came here, and it has cured me. I am all well now. No, I don't bave to buy things to keep well. I didn't really buy anything for six months after I began coming here. I was too frightened. I didn't dare to speak loud enough to hear my own voice, let alone making a bid that the auctioneer could hear. And a quarter !" she shouted suddenly, as the writhing auctioneer, with despair stamped on his tace, assured the crowd the vase was worth ten times as

much as was offered. While the auctioneer writhes and roars, it is easy to hear plenty of such confidences. There are halt a dozen auction rooms in town, some of them, alas ! objects of pursuit of the Association for the Suppression of Fraudulent Auctions, where special efforts are made to attract the patronage of women. The kind of women wanted are those with plenty of money and plenty of leisure and no especial way of disposing of either : such women are treated with deference and consideration, while others are tolerated only. Some of the auction rooms are very handsomely fitted up and decorated with rugs and bric-a-brac in a way calculated to make some of the customers jealous and give ideas on the subject of ornamentation to all. They are crowded day atter day. There are some men, but the women buyers, are preferred and are in the majority. As a rule they are women without household cares or duties, who are tired of their ordinary occupations, and are looking for new sensations. Some are experienced and skilled hunters after bri-a-brac and such things that are worth having. and they snap up the prizes eagerly. Toward 5 o'clock men begin to drop in on their way home from business. Some men are buying on their own account, while others are hus bands or friends of the auction women. The auctioner furnishes support to the theory that women like to be bullied. He bullies his customers. He roars at them and bluffs them and bullyrags them, but only enough to keep their interest excited. Most of the time he holds their attention simply by acting as a low comedian. His reward for amusing and occasionally knocking down lots to them is their implicit confidence and unswerving taith in this the hour of his tribulation. To the professional expression of despair on his face, he adds anguish, patience, injured innocence, virtuous indignation, and a dozen other sentiments, as he tells of the wickedness of the Association for the Suppression of Fraudulent Auctions and its persecutions. The simple faith of the women breaks out in cries of "They're jealous of you, Mr. Smith! That's why they do it?' and they

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purchases at the auction rooms. Some of | v hipped cream. In case he is deposed he- marck taked the phi'osophy of smoking to them are very rich, like Mrs. Blank, and is well trained to conduct a boarding house, seem to buy things simply because going as all the remainders of roasts are made in to auction is the most exciting use they to hish. The Emperor of Austria likes cigar, saying he did not smoke). When spactzle, a kind of macaroni, and apple can find for their time in the afternoon. wine; while the food of the Empress con-They are certainly having plenty of fun for their money in these days, thanks to the sists of cold meats, fruits, the juice of raw efforts of the Association for the Suppression of Fraudulent Auctions. Excitement has been added to the bidding, the spice of gambling, and the continuous variety perprovide for his simple wants he has a French tormance of the auctioneer. Thus on one chief, who ranks as Colonel in the army. occasion in one auction room the auctioneer objected to the presence of an agent of the has under his command at court banquets association who was taking notes of everything that was said or done. He ordered about 1,200 subordinates. On ordinary occasions tour head intendants, twentyhim out. The agent refused to go, and the four sub-intendants, thirty four lackeys, auctioneer promptly began hostile operations. The women were treated to an ex- sixty buffet moujiks, two chiefs, and four under chiefs are in service. hibition of Græco-Roman wrestling on the spot. The two men rolled over the auction THE BENEFICENT CROW. room floor in great shape, smashing chairs

"It was simply grand !" said the woman who saw it. "They must have broken hundreds of dollars' worth of things."

and bric-a-brac.

history and its bearings on their property Spurred by the spirit of emulation, a -- the relation of hawks to their hen coops, spectator who had absolutely no concern in the quarrel banged the auctioneer on for instance-there would be better paying

the head with a cane in an unnecessary crops. manner. Next, the women felt delicious thrills of borror as they listened to the bum ' ! bump ! bump ! of the three men rolling down the stairs into the street clasped in one another's arms. The auction had to be suspended three quarters of an hour while an ambulance surgeon was sent for. and when it was resumed the auctioneer's head was swathed in bandages. He was eight per cent. of the food was animal, rather groggy, but still in the ring. The woman said the spectacle was mangnificent, better than any theatre, for it was absolutely genuine and no sham about it. Moreover, it was entirely novel for most of But it isn't always neccessary to immolate an auctioneer to make a Roman holiday. As a rule the auctioneer is able to amus and interest his patrons by milder methods. The bargains, if they are bar- might have been added young birds, fish gains, are enough to excite the passions of the women most of the time. Just as with gamblers, the next best thing to winning mean and carrion of various kinds. Most of is losing, so those who are not buying can have the pleasure of seeing others buy. One New Yorker who built himself a castle in the country made a name tor himself among his triends by starting out with the intention of fitting it up and furnishing it with second hand things. He went a long way toward carrying out his idea. He bought doors, mantlepieces, and such things from the dealers in second-hand building materials, who got them out of the old-fashioned houses that were torn down to make room for modern structures. He spent several years in haunting the yards of these dealers and the shops of bird does. dealers in antiques, and when his castle was completed it was in itself a collection. A lot of women are following his plan in" furnishing their houses, but in a fashion involving less labor than he devoted to it. They simply go to auctions as often as they can and indulge in the tun of buying what they need.

his unhappy victim in this wi e "You are wrong (Favre bad declined a

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you enter on a discussion which may lead to vehement remarks, you should smoke. When one smokes the cigar is beefstake, and tea. She is very careful of held between the fingers; one must handle ber diet, as she is solicitous to preserve her it, not allow it to fall, and thereby violent figure. The present Emperor of Russia is movemen's of the body are avoided or a man of moderate habits in eating. To weakened. With regard to the mental condition, it does not deprive us of our intellectual capacity, but it produces a This functionary is profusely decorated, and state of kindly repose. The cigar is a diversion, and this blue smoke which rises in curves, and which the eye involuntarily tollows, pleases and renders us more flexible. The eye is occupied; the hand is engaged; the organ of smell is gratified; one is happy. In this state one is disposed to make concessions; and our businessthat of diplomatists-continually consists in mutual concessions."-Inter-Ocean

#### A USE FOR CORN PITH.

Has Been Adopted as a Lining for Steel Plated Ships.

The naval surgeons reported that the preponderance of steel now on war ships nade life intolerable. The state rooms o officers were rendered uncomfortable by the metal walls of the ships, against which the berths were placed, and it was found that the temperature in those berths was much lower than in the state rooms proper. It seemed to be necessary to regard in some degree the comfort of those who must inhabit war vessels, perhaps for months at a time. The experts hit upon the idea of adopting incombustible wood, not a novelty, but until recently never successsfully carried out. Experiments suggested the treatment known as electric fire-proofing, and the tests were conducted by Chief Constructor Hichborn, an interested spectator being Secretary Herbert. Mr. Hichborn shortly after placed a contract with a New York firm for doing the work, and now all lumber entering into the construction or decoration of war ships is treated by this electric fire-proofing process. It has been found to withstand fire and actually discourages flames, without even becoming as much influenced as metal itself. Future naval battles, therefore, are destined to be tree of one of the most terrifying elements

ent Reid appeared glad to sign: HALIFAX, April 10, 1896. Having interviewed Miss Strong, the telephone girl Jessie, explanations have, been made which satisfy me as to her innocence, in connection with the book found in her room.

A. P. Reid, M. D. (signea) To Miss Strong.

Thus stands this much mixed up and multitudinously governed Victoria general hospital.

#### WAS A PROVIDENT FOX.

She Got Lambs, Small Birds, and Seventy. six Owls for He Young.

The fox vixens are as careful mothers as any, and the way they provide for their young is something amazing. It is related that one fox in Scotland had developed such a marked fondness for lambs that efforts had to be made to find her lair. It is not an easy job, but after a while the men succeeded, and, as they half expected, five young ones were there. They tound also a store of food calculated to last a long while. There were lambs, rats, and voles, black game, curlew, plover, and ducks, some partridges, and, most astonishing of all, seventy-six short-eared owls. All the game was dead. It was in May and naturally most of the owls were young, but eight of them were grown. Unfortunrtely the Year Book of the Department of Agriculure does not tell of the sex of the old birds, bnt, as they were probably captured while defending their young it is more than likely that they nearly, if not quite, all temales, as temale birds are, as a rule, more daring in the defence of young than the males.

The fox, being a night still hunter, had sneaked through the fields, and, on hearing the old ow's instructing their young in the art of catching mice or voles, had sprung among the happy fami ies and seized what she could get. As the owls were extremely numercus, having increased during the plague of vol s as did various other prepatory animals, the vixen got an unusual number of them. It is unusual for carnivorous animals to lay up such big stores, although it is common for hawks

eally believe what they say. It is really necessary that he should bully the women occasionally if the auction is to go on. As has been said, it is easy to hear plenty of confidences in the rooms. That is because the women who are regular attendants get to recognize one another and grow chatty. They learn the varied objects that bring them to the place and the special lines on which one and another make purchases. They are constantly called upon tc assist one another with advice. The old hands like to encourage new comers by telling them all about themselves and everybody else.

"That is Mrs. Blank," the old hand tells the newcomer, naming the sister of one of the toremost men in New York. "He," meaning the auctioneer, "let's her have everything. Oh, she must have spent thousands of dollars here. She has a great eaten at 1 o'clock, he has soup, meat,

TASTES OF THE SOVEREIGNS.

Dishes that Are in Favor with some of the Rulers of the World.

Cassell's Saturday Journal, in a recent issue, records the gastsonomic tastes of the reigning sovereigns of Europe. Qut en Victoria, it appears, is devoted to oatmeal soup. She likes pickled cucumbers, and roast beef is always served. She drinks white sherry out of a silver cup. According to a custom instituted by George II.

the name of the cook who prepared a dish is announced when it is placed upon the table. The King and Queen of Italy, when the royal guests are exclusively Italian, revel in spaghetti, garlic, onions, and oil. Fritto is another favorite dish. It is made of artichokes, chickens' livers, calves' brains, and cocks' combs. The Grand Duchess of

Baden makes her own coffee, while her husband grows his own wine and is his own head cellarman. Both delight in lentil

soup, seasoned with vinegar, and Frankfort sausages. The Pope is very simple in his tastes. His breakfast consists of a roll and cafe au lait. For dinner, which is

The "Year Book" of the United States Department of Agriculture tells about cow blackbirds and what they eat. About 2,300 of their stomachs have been examined, and of these 2 258 contained food. The birds were killed in twenty-six States. Fortyforty-eight per cent. was mineral. The blackbird has a variety of things to eats. "The animal food," says the report, 'consisted of insects, spiders, n yriapods (thousand legs), crawfish, earth worms,

What he Does for the Farmer and the Crops

Despite his Reputation.

It farmers would make a study of natural

sowbugs, hair snakes, snails, fishes, tree toals, salamanders (newts), lizards, snakes, birds' eggs, and mice." To these cast up by the tide, minnows caught while swimming in shallow water, and probably toe animal food is, of course, insects, These constitute forty-six per cent. of the total, the other two per cent. being the larger things, like mice. The animal food is taken mostly in the summer. In winter the food is mostly vegetable matter. The insects the bird kills more than make up the damage he does, especially as his nest robbing appears to be only an incidental habit not often indulged in. A large flock of the birds would of course destroy a lot of grain. Some 50,000 would eat about 3,000 pounds a day, but they would consume as many insects, which of sea fighting. would more than destroy the amount the

TOBACCO AND DIPLOMACY. Some Philosophy by Prince Bismarck on

the Cigar as an Active Assistant. When Bismarck p'ayed great politics he

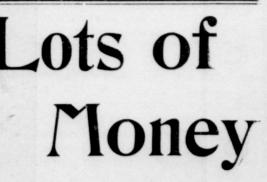
seemed not to disdain the stratagems of war; that is to say, something very like deccit came well to hand. Here is what he did in an interview with Jules Favre, who, representing the republicans of France, when Paris was to fall, was negotiating with the conquering Germans for the best terms under the circumstances. The twos tatesmen exchanged civilities and Bismarc's jumped in. He was after a tremendous war indemnity and the cession of Alsace and Lorraine. And he got them, and this is how he got them. He "put up" a big bluff. He said : "So you say not an inch of our soil, not a stone of our fortresses'-it is useless to discuss futher. My time is precious, so is yours, and I don't see why we should waste it. Moveover, you have come too late. There, be-Lind that door, is a delegate of the Emperor. Napoleon III., and I am about to negotiate with him."

This was a staggerer. The astounded Frenchman did not know that that door concealed nothing more important than a cupboard or a closet. The discussion was resumed. Bismarck, shortly rising as if to leave, put his hand on the handle of that Napoleonic door. Favre sprang up and implored Bismarck not to impose upon big house up on fith Avenue, and she pulls pastry, and fried potatoes or other veget- France the continued shame of a Bona-

The other success is the adoption of the American corn pith in place of cellulose. This pith is used as a lining for ships and is packed in narrow slits abutting the steel plating. It has the quality of enlarging enormously on moisture.

The principle on which it is advantage ously used is a simple one. When a shell perforates a ship side it tears a hole brough the corn pith packing. The first inrush of water saturates the pith, which dilates and quickly covers the breech, damming the flow, and perhaps saving the ship from inundation.

This pith, an inexpensive thing, to be had almost for the asking, is superior to cellulose, it is said, which in addition, is costly of manufacture. The constructors say the pith is excellent on trial and does not deteriorate. Samples of expansion kept on Chief Constructor Hichborn's desk attract much attention -Philadelphia Press.



is wasted buying new clothes when you could have the old ones made as good as new by sending them to UNGAR and having them dyed. Now is the time to look gay and UNGAR can do it for you at a

for his book on microscopos but it may	and eagles to have a rabbit or so ahead.	up the window curtains so that people can	ables. At this repast he drinks a single	some more. Not long after, what with	very small cost.	
for his book or microscopes, but it was	Atter a Steer.	see the things in the windows. People	ables. At this repast he drinks a single glass of old Burgundy. At 6 o'clock he	playing the Napoleon dummy behind the		
nowhere to be found. Hue and cry was	D	call it the junk shop. She is filing it,	takes a glass of claret and bouillon, and	door and the alleged Napoleon sentiment		
raised. The telephone attendant was ex- amined. She could offer no explanation						
amined. She could offer no explanation	Yongester (innocently)-Do you know	hardly walk across the noor. She in invite	at nan-past 10 a capped of houillon.	republican to his own terms.	TINGADIG TATINDDV and DVP WODT	70
of the loss. Asked if any one had been in	some other places where they bite better?	here for a little while and she gets to know	meat and another cup or bless the national	When the poor Frenchman had been	UNGARS LAUNDAL and DIP WORK	10 5
the moon she remembered the visit of		vou."	King Oscar of Eweden mice the earth and	they came to the easier matter of arrang-	23-34 Waterloo St., 66-70 Barrington	1 St.
Miss Strong. Dr. Reid appeared much	Firewood costs \$10 a cord in the Arctic	The women do invite one another to visit	meat and another cup of bouillon. King Oscar of Sweden likes the national dish of raw salmon preserved in earth and soun composed of boiled barley and	ing terms for the surrender of Paris, Bis-	St. finn, 13 Halitax, N. S	
agitated. He said that \$5 and a book had   t	town of Circle City, Alaska.	their houses and inspect the accumulated	a soup composed of boiled barley and	I mB commenter and		