

PROGRESS.

Board of Works May 96

VOL. II, NO 404.

ST. JOHN, N. B., SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 1896.

PRICE FIVE CENTS

FINDING A CANDIDATE.

QUESTIONS THE LIBERALS WILL HAVE TO SETTLE.

The Live Point of Whether the Man Ought to be Selected by the Committee Which Chose Weldon and Ellis—Reasons on Both Sides of the Question.

The liberal candidate to supply the vacancy caused by the death of Mr. Weldon is no better known than he was last week, when Progress gave a list of men who were named as available or otherwise. That list, however, by no means exhausted the possibilities, and it may be that the candidate finally selected may not be any one of the number. Much depends on who does the selecting.

That is a point upon which there is a chance for debate. The party was called together months ago and organized for the campaign which was then supposed to be close at hand. The executive consisted of a fusion of what had been the discordant elements of the old and young liberals and represented the patching up of the peace that was made. The gentleman composing consisted of Messrs. Weldon, Ellis, George McAvity, McKeown and G. Wetmore Merritt. The nominating committee chose Weldon and Ellis as the candidates. This committee was not discharged but was supposed to continue for the purposes of the campaign then expected. The question now is whether this is the committee which ought to be entrusted with the choice of Mr. Weldon's successor.

Some affirm that it is. They say that, never having been relieved of its duties, it exists as much for nomination purposes today as it did if Mr. Weldon had been taken away the week after he was nominated, in which case there would have been no suggestion that a new committee was needed. There are others who take a different view.

These latter say that when the committee presented its report and that report was accepted, its functions as a committee for that special purpose came to an end. In ordinary procedure, the acceptance of a report is the act by which a committee is discharged from the duty to which the report relates. A stronger reason, however, in the minds of some, is that the nominations then made were to suit the conditions of that time, with no thought that the committee would be called upon to make new nominations at a late date. Suppose, for instance, that some extraordinary event would make a dissolution seem certain when a parliament had existed only for a short time, and that in anticipation of a dissolution an opposition convention nominated two men as candidates. Suppose further that the expected dissolution did not take place, but that parliament existed until the end of its term, three years later and that in the meantime both of the candidates so chosen died or otherwise ceased to be eligible. In those three years new issues might arise and the conditions of the party be changed in many respects, yet the contention could be that the old committee still had the right to choose candidates on the basis of the conditions of three years before. In the present instance only months have intervened, but the point is whether the principle is not the same irrespective of the element of time.

It can hardly be questioned that the conditions of the local liberal party have changed since a committee favorable to Messrs. Weldon and Ellis made the nomination. Mr. Ellis is and must be the nominee unless, as can hardly be expected, he acts on the idea that the good of the party calls for new action by which the convention would either confirm his nomination or feel free to choose another in his place. He, however, would probably be the choice even were there a wholly new nomination, but there might be a difference in the colleague he would choose through the committee already pledged to him, and the colleague the electors would choose for him through a committee which represented their own ideas of the kind of a man needed in the coming contest.

The choice of a man who would not be the selection of the committee which was pledged to Weldon and Ellis would, say some, give a strength which the latter ticket did not of itself possess. The choice was perhaps as good a one as could have been made under the circumstances, and indeed it would be difficult to see how it could be avoided without creating a hard feeling. There was no good reason for dropping the old candidates so long as they wanted to run, or perhaps it is better to say that there was no good reason which could be openly expressed, though the acceptance of the ticket was not as hearty as it might have been. Both candidates had been faithful to the party, and it would have looked like an ill return for their service to have dropped them at a time when, in the opinion of many, nomination meant that the candidates would at least be with the successful party in the general election whether they themselves were elected or not. Neither Mr. Weldon nor Mr. Ellis could be nominated

without the other. It was either both or neither, so both were taken though there were many who wished that it could have been otherwise.

Now that there is a vacancy to be filled, the question of Mr. Weldon's successor is one of great importance. There is a portion of the party in St. John which has been openly voicing its discontent for some time past, and it is a portion which cannot safely be ignored. Whether this portion is duly represented on the nominating committee is a question. If it is not, there is a current opinion that it ought to be.

The name of G. Wetmore Merritt should have been included in the list given last week as an eligible candidate, though what Mr. Merritt thinks in the subject is not known. It is also reported that Dr. D. E. Berryman would not take kindly to a suggestion that he should be a candidate.

The Sun thinks it strange that the name of Mr. Thomas A. Rankine, who was a candidate in the last contest is not now mentioned as being to the front. The reason is that Mr. Rankine has no desire to engage in the turmoil of another contest. His nomination in 1891 was not of his own seeking, nor was it brought about by any movement on the part of his personal friends. It was literally a case of office seeking the man. He had not been considered by the party managers until he was sought out by a newspaper man and interviewed on the question of unrestricted reciprocity as applied to his own business. He gave a very clear statement of his ideas on the subject, and the publication of the interview had the effect of bringing him into notice as an available man. Within twenty-four hours after the paper appeared he had been decided upon as the third standard bearer and when he was approached he consented to come because he believed he was wanted. Politics were not to his taste, however, and it was well understood that he had no desire to again engage in a fight of the kind, even were there to be an assurance of a much greater measure of success.

Mr. Michael Kelly of St. Martins has not yet been mentioned as a candidate. He mentioned himself as an independent one some months ago, but retired after the ticket was named. He now writes a letter telling what kind of a man is needed in the present emergency. According to him the candidate should be a man who, in the campaign should be able to take his meals with the boys in the lumber camps, or a cold dinner with them at their work and to sleep upon a bed of spruce boughs. He adds, "We want a man who shall prove a giant in debate and who in a joint meeting shall be able to carry at the point of the bayonet of argument the enemy's positions. We want a man of reputation, warlike and aggressive in his methods, who will court conflict with the enemy, relying upon his ability to defeat him."

From the military ring of the latter part of the party be changed in many respects, yet the contention could be that the old committee still had the right to choose candidates on the basis of the conditions of three years before. In the present instance only months have intervened, but the point is whether the principle is not the same irrespective of the element of time.

It can hardly be questioned that the conditions of the local liberal party have changed since a committee favorable to Messrs. Weldon and Ellis made the nomination. Mr. Ellis is and must be the nominee unless, as can hardly be expected, he acts on the idea that the good of the party calls for new action by which the convention would either confirm his nomination or feel free to choose another in his place. He, however, would probably be the choice even were there a wholly new nomination, but there might be a difference in the colleague he would choose through the committee already pledged to him, and the colleague the electors would choose for him through a committee which represented their own ideas of the kind of a man needed in the coming contest.

The choice of a man who would not be the selection of the committee which was pledged to Weldon and Ellis would, say some, give a strength which the latter ticket did not of itself possess. The choice was perhaps as good a one as could have been made under the circumstances, and indeed it would be difficult to see how it could be avoided without creating a hard feeling. There was no good reason for dropping the old candidates so long as they wanted to run, or perhaps it is better to say that there was no good reason which could be openly expressed, though the acceptance of the ticket was not as hearty as it might have been. Both candidates had been faithful to the party, and it would have looked like an ill return for their service to have dropped them at a time when, in the opinion of many, nomination meant that the candidates would at least be with the successful party in the general election whether they themselves were elected or not. Neither Mr. Weldon nor Mr. Ellis could be nominated

without the other. It was either both or neither, so both were taken though there were many who wished that it could have been otherwise.

Now that there is a vacancy to be filled, the question of Mr. Weldon's successor is one of great importance. There is a portion of the party in St. John which has been openly voicing its discontent for some time past, and it is a portion which cannot safely be ignored. Whether this portion is duly represented on the nominating committee is a question. If it is not, there is a current opinion that it ought to be.

ABOUT STANDARD TIME.

CLEAR EXPLANATION OF IT IN ALL ITS BEARINGS.

Intercolonial and Eastern Standard—A Correspondent who Favors Atlantic Standard for St. John—His Reason for It—Facts of Interest.

A correspondent writing from Halifax, who inadvertently omits to sign his name to the communication, supplies an interesting contribution to the literature of standard time, which aids to the General Public in giving the readers of PROGRESS a very clear idea on the subject. He believes Atlantic time to be the right standard for St. John, a fact which cannot be denied, but the point is to get the railways to adopt it and thus permit of a uniformity between them and the citizens in this important respect. The correspondent says:

"The writers have somewhat differed in their opinions, and I fear, from conversation had with some of the residents of your city, and the discussions heard upon the matter, en passant, that the general public have not made themselves sufficiently acquainted with the facts of the case, to come to a right and unanimous conclusion as to which of the standard times should be adopted at St. John—the so-called Intercolonial standard, or Eastern standard time."

"It was in consequence of the continued intercourse with other people, who came from long distances, and the improved facilities for travelling, that a difficulty arose when people were attending to their engagements, sometimes arranged by telegraph or letter, and passengers have often missed their trains in consequence of a difference of time existing between that shown by their watches and the local time of the various places, unknown to many, and therefore not allowed for."

"In the year 1883, I believe, Standard time was first proposed. This was afterwards brought into operation, more on account of railway travel than for any other purpose. The people living in any particular town had no reason to ask for a change of time from what they were accustomed to keep—Mean Solar Time which was correct for purposes of their own business."

"To a certain extent some difficulties still exist with reference to the time by our clocks and will remain so until a uniform system, such being a correct system, is adopted both by railways and the cities they pass through."

"Even in the same town, there is at present a difference in the time at the various hotels, post offices and railway stations, which leads to endless confusion."

"Standard time is now in general use in the United States and Canada, but in some states and towns the phrase is misleading in consequence of the right standard not being used, and the terms Railway standard, City standard and local time, being mixed up."

"I may state that if the correct standard of time were adopted for each locality, according to its zone, the utmost that any people would have to change their clocks, from the mean solar time of their own meridian, would be 30 minutes, either forward or backward, according to the position in which they were situated, either to east or west of their newly adopted standard, as no city or town could be more than 7 1/2 degrees either east or west from the standard meridian."

"Most towns would have to alter the time much less than half an hour, for instance, Halifax, only 14 minutes—and St. John, 24 minutes, (both having to move the hands of their clocks forward.)"

"It is to the westward of the standard meridian, the hands of the clock must always be moved forward, as in the case of Halifax and St. John, and towns to the eastward of the Standard meridian are required to move the clocks backwards."

"For the purpose of bringing standard time into operation, our continent was divided into five zones, each of such areas to include 15 degrees of longitude, this being equivalent to one hour of time, and the difference in longitude 900 miles."

"By this is not meant the distance in railway miles, but the actual distance directly east or west of the last meridian where the clock was changed."

"These zones or areas, stretch from the Atlantic to the Pacific and commence at the 60th. meridian, or four hours west of Greenwich, (the 1st. meridian.) They are named as follows:

STANDARD TIME.	
Intercolonial or Atlantic	60 degrees, or 4 hours West of Greenwich, 3 1/2 degrees East of Halifax.
Eastern Standard	75 degrees, or 5 hours West of Greenwich, between New York and Philadelphia.
Central	90 degrees, or 6 hours West of Greenwich between St. Louis and New Orleans.
Mountain or Western Standard	105 degrees, or 7 hours West of Greenwich, passing near Denver, Colorado.
Pacific	120 degrees, or 8 hours West of Greenwich, 1 1/2 degrees from Sacramento, and including V. no. over and most of British Columbia.

"It must here be observed that there should really be no such thing as Railway

standard time under the new order of things, for the railway clocks ought to show the same time as the cities on the line, through which the trains are passing."

"I desire now to draw attention to the name Intercolonial" having been adopted for the standard meridian upon our side of the Atlantic, as in my opinion it is not an appropriate term."

"If the western side of the continent is termed Pacific standard, our side should be called Atlantic standard, and many people do so designate the Meridian of 60 as Atlantic meridian, at this present time."

"The five zones would then be named—Atlantic standard—Eastern standard—Central standard—Western standard—and Pacific standard, and these terms can be easily understood and remembered."

"Unfortunately the railway lines running into Halifax and St. John, have adopted Eastern standard time for their own convenience, which is not correct according to the Zones, but it suits their purpose and prevents the employees having to change the time on a good portion of the railway route."

"If the Atlantic standard time had been adopted by the railways when leaving the stations at Halifax and St. John, the railway and city times would have been the same."

"The C. P. R. would simply have to change one hour at McAdam Junction and the Intercolonial the same when passing Matane, on the River St. Lawrence, and they would then both have reached the area of Eastern standard time, which is also correct, without any further change, on arrival of the train at Quebec, Montreal, or Ottawa, and in no area would minutes have to be taken into consideration, as the change in each must be an even hour, which could always be remembered and allowed for if the traveller did not wish to alter his watch."

"I am of opinion that for uniformity, convenience and the saving of time and trouble, and for correctness, it would be to the great advantage of the people of St. John to adopt the Atlantic standard time of the 60th. meridian, as the hands of their clocks and watches will only have to be moved 24 minutes forward from the mean solar time they are at present regulated for and which is, I presume, the time that has always been in use in your city."

"This time will also be the same as that kept at Halifax and one hour ahead of the present Railway time, and passengers travelling to the other areas, will simply have to make a change of one hour in their watches, upon arrival at the margin of those areas and then run fifteen degrees of 300 geographical miles of difference of longitude in a western direction, before changing another hour."

TO BENEFIT ST. JOHN.

Mr. Cruikshank Is Trying to Get the Government to Do Its Duty.

Mr. Robert Cruikshank, chairman of the Harbor Improvement committee of the Board of Trade, has been calling the attention of Mr. Hazen, M. P., to some things which St. John needs in the interests of the people and the rapidly increasing trade. Mr. Hazen will probably do the best he can, and it is to be hoped he will be rewarded with a fuller measure of success than has heretofore attended his efforts to get an appraiser appointed.

The smallest of these requests may first be mentioned. One is to have a clock placed in the Intercolonial railway depot in the place in the tower intended for a clock, which has been boarded over since the depot was built, ten years ago. The hole is there and there might have been a clock there long ago had the matter been properly urged.

Another request is to have the American Rock properly marked by buoys. This rock is not in the way of ordinary navigation, but there may be times when vessels in moving out may come nearer to it than is desirable. The peculiar form of the rock would make its removal a costly matter, but the placing of suitable buoys would involve a very small expense.

A third and more important request is that something be done with a view to deepening the north-east entrance to the harbor, so that the largest class of vessels can come in at any time of tide. Mr. Cruikshank recently went to the expense of having an expert from the United States come here to see what could be done, and his opinion is that it would be a very simple matter with the right kind of dredge. The presence of a stranger here for such a purpose gave one loyal citizen the idea that some American residents had imported a spy to find out all about our harbor in view of war over the Venezuelan question.

Mr. Cruikshank has by voice and pen, at home and abroad, been for years giving his attention to the harbor of St. John, and the valuable pamphlet prepared through his efforts a few years ago has done much to give strangers a more correct impression than they had of both the harbor and the Bay of Fundy.

SAD FATE OF A VETERAN.

HOW A CRIMEAN HERO CAME TO HIS END IN HALIFAX.

Went to Sleep in His Wretched Abode and Never Woke—The Horrible Story of the Decease—An Old Inquest Which Some St. John Men May Remember.

HALIFAX, Jan. 30.—The story of Daniel O'Connell O'Leary's tragic end told with some degree of fullness in the daily papers, and it is an inexpressibly sad one. He was a Crimean hero, who participated in the battle of Alma, Inkerman and the siege of Sebastopol, and for his services two medals were pinned upon his breast. When the war was over he had risen to the position of quarter-master sergeant in the 63rd regiment and was attached to the ambulance division of the battalion. Immediately on the signature of the treaty of peace the 63rd were ordered to Halifax. O'Leary had earned a pension, which ere long, in "haste to make rich," he commuted for a cash equivalent.

For thirty years O'Leary managed to gain a living in Halifax, but in the end he was literally devoured by his own dogs as he lay for three weeks upon the floor of his poverty-stricken room.

The cold snap of last month sent him home one night as usual. He sat on the floor at the edge of a wretched bed and near the stove. He evidently fell asleep, a sleep from which he never awakened. For three weeks he remained there not seen by a human eye, lying dead on the floor of his own house. People missed the familiar sight of "Dr." O'Leary, but they accounted for his absence on the theory that he had gone to the poor's asylum for a part of the winter, and besides he had no friends sufficiently interested to inquire particularly after him. O'Leary had two dogs, and during that long vigil of three weeks beside the body of their master they were not idle. The starving brutes satisfied their hunger with his flesh. One afternoon late last week when a neighbor entered the house to satisfy his natural curiosity, a horrible sight met his view. The two dogs crouched beside the mangled remains of O'Leary, savagely growled at the intruder. They had gnawed at poor O'Leary till there was little left but the bones. Kind-hearted John Snow took charge of what there was, and the body was buried in Fairview cemetery, but there was not a single mourner, and no clergyman uttered a word of service at the poor wretch's grave. The only man in Halifax who gave poor O'Leary a second thought was Undertaker John Snow who had the body taken to the cemetery and placed under the ground—a service for which he will never have other thanks than the commendation of a conscience which tells him he did what was right. The burial permit read that he had died from exposure and that he was a Presbyterian.

O'Leary had a store of fantastic curios in that death-room. One of them was "an inquisition" taken at the parish of Lancaster, St. John, August 21, 1857, into the cause of the death of Hugh Carroll. The paper should be in the custody of the probatory or some other authority, and how it came into the hands of O'Leary is a mystery. The inquisition was not held before a coroner but before W. O. Smith and John McGrath, justices of the peace. The verdict arrived at by the twelve persons is set forth in this wise:

The said Hugh Carroll came to his death by accidentally falling with his face into a spring of water in the parish aforesaid, while in the act of drinking water from the said spring, and then and there suffocated and drowned, and not otherwise.

The jurymen who, thirty-nine years ago, came to this decision were, James Skiffington, Nicholas Furlong, Hugh Quinlan, James Hamlin, William Miller, George Sanders, Josiah P. Smith, Andrew Springer, James Keete, Michael Sullivan, William Keen, and Phillip McCormack.

There is at least, one thing lacking in the civic machinery of Halifax, and it is a provision for the burial of the friendless or outcast dead such as O'Leary. Snow interred the body as he has scores of others, without hope of reward, because there was no one else who would do it. If Snow had refused to perform his merciful work the body would probably have lain for some days longer, in addition to the three weeks it was upon the floor of that deserted house the prey of dogs, and then after added scandal, the city would have been compelled to step in. This scandal was avoided, but only because Snow voluntarily put the bones beneath the ground, without the slightest hope of even one cent of pecuniary reward.

The Days for Hunters Yarns.

These are the days for hunting parties and many of them are in the woods every day. When a company of genial fellows remain away a week or ten days in a section famed for big game their friends are naturally upon the tip-toe of expectation in regard to the results of their trip. They are inclined to listen but doubt, however, when they are entertained with fairy stories of bears-slaughtered, others captured and the

delicate flavor of the deer meat in that part of the country. Perhaps this is unfair and a slight upon the veracity of the hunters but in this practical age the best evidence of such facts is the dead game. Strange as it may seem there is never much doubt expressed about the load a party takes to the woods but the product of the chase must be in evidence before one ceases to be skeptical.

FOR THE HOSPITAL.

The Doctors of the City Want the Right to Treat Their Patients There.

The doctors of St. John, to the number of about 25 are trying to get the commissioners of the General Public Hospital to open the doors of that institution to them and their patients. The matter will come before the board in a form of an application signed by all the city physicians outside of the hospital staff, with three exceptions. The doctors who have not signed are understood to favor the proposition, but have good reasons of their own for not wishing to take an aggressive part in a movement which has in the past been vigorously opposed by the honored president of the board, Dr. Wm. Bayard.

The proposition is not a new one, but has never before assumed such definite shape. The matter has been heard of in the way of suggestions in the past, but the commissioners, in reply to such suggestions have been able to say they have never been formally asked to take such a step. They will have no such excuse after their next meeting.

Under the present rules, a private patient at the hospital can be attended only by members of the staff. A man or woman may be so situated that they should be in the hospital rather than at a private house, but the moment they enter their own physician is debarred from attending them unless he is one of the dozen or so doctors who are on the staff, or unless he is a homeopathic physician. The latter has a special privilege due to the fact that, years ago, one of the commissioners had a son who was a homeopath, and by his influence the provision was made for a homeopathic bed, though no physicians of that school are or have been on the staff.

A doctor outside the hospital corporation may have a patient for whom hospital accommodations is an imperative necessity. In such case he has to resign his charge and hand it over to some of the favored ones, though there may be reasons why he alone is best fitted to treat that special case. If he does not hand it over to the hospital he continues to treat it at a disadvantage, with possibly surroundings which militate greatly against success.

The contention is that the hospital should open its doors to private patients who are willing to pay for their board and attendance, and that they should have the right to call in any physician or surgeon in good standing. It is understood that several of the commissioners favor the idea, whether they think the time has come for it or not.

For the Civic Elections.

The civic elections are some distance off yet, but most of the present incumbents are understood to have made up their minds as to whether they will be in the field or not. It is believed that nearly all the aldermen are willing to serve the city for another year if wanted, with the possible exception of Ald. Cooper who finds his time much more occupied than he supposed would be when he accepted the nomination last year, and who is willing that his seat at the board should be filled by a less busy man. Ald. McRobbie, also, has not positively said he will be a candidate this year, though no one doubts that he will be, and no one doubts that he will be elected if he comes forward, whoever may come out to oppose him. As to the mayor's office, it is understood that Mayor Robertson does not want a third term. Ald. Christie is also reported as not anxious to be a candidate, but there is said to be ground for the belief that Ald. McLachlan will be in the field. There is yet plenty of time for more candidates, however, and a quiet election may by no means be taken as a foregone conclusion.

New Departure at Fairville.

Some of the congregation of the church of the Good Shepherd, Fairville, have quietly gone to work to solve the problem caused by their disapproval of the position taken by the rector. They have decided to have a service of their own every Sunday afternoon in the Orange Hall, and have arranged with Mr. Clark, formerly a lay reader in Ontario, to officiate. This, they point out is not setting up a new church or in any way infringing on the rights of the incumbent, as they have their service at an hour which does not conflict with the regular church service. The new move is simply a quiet secession by those who have been unable to agree with Mr. McKel's views, and they number about 70 adults. This seems to be the most peaceful way of satisfying all parties that has yet been attempted.