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MATTERS MUCH MIXED.

SPECULATION IN REGARD TO THE TANGLE AT OTTAWA.

Men in St. John Who Want Offices and What Some of Their Chances Are Like—It Seems to be Cold Weather for the Faithful Who Have Had the Pull.

The new year has started in with a series of exciting episodes. The Venezuelan difficulty is not yet adjusted, the invasion of the Transvaal Territory has led to the fear of war between England and Germany, Premier Bowell and his cabinet have been having a monkey and parrot sort of a time at Ottawa, and a double acoustic has been worked off on the editor of the Telegraph.

Any one of these, coming alone, would have furnished a fruitful theme for public talk, but coming all in a heap, as it were, they have set some good people at work on the interpretation of the prophecies of Daniel and the visions of the Apocalypse, with the idea that something like the end of the world is at hand.

Everybody who is interested in the Ottawa business knows all there is to be known about it, and nobody is much wiser than his neighbor in this respect. The main fact which is apparent is that seven cabinet ministers have resigned and that Mackenzie Bowell has not resigned, though that is less his fault than the result of the queer situation in which he finds himself. He has not wanted to hold on to office, but he has been unable to do otherwise for fear of getting into worse trouble. He is much in the position of the hunter who had a tree between himself and a bear and had hold of the bears paw. It was not a comfortable thing to hang on, but there would be a great deal more trouble if he ventured to let go. In this instance Bowell has been the unfortunate hunter and Lord Aberdeen the bear, while the tree may be said to represent the cabinet, to which Bowell has found himself held whether he wanted to stay or not.

The cabinet is to be reorganized, so it appears, with Sir Charles Tupper as minister of the interior and Mr. Blair as minister of finance. Mr. Foster is not in it, and neither are the gentlemen usually known as the conservative machine in St. John. It is not likely they would have recommended Mr. Blair as a prop to the conservative party, and it is not yet clear why he, a liberal, should have been mentioned in such a connection by anybody. That his name has appeared would seem to foreshadow the accession of Sir Charles Tupper to the leadership, as Sir Charles has a very high opinion of Mr. Blair and has been his warm friend for many years. In the meantime, in the unsettled state of affairs, there has been a good deal of speculation as to how some promised offices are to be filled in St. John. There has been an idea that Bowell might take a sudden notion to fill the vacancies in just such a way as Mr. Foster and the machine combination do not want them filled.

There is a judge to be appointed, and Mr. E. McLeod has been slated for that position for a long time. Chief Justice Allen's resignation has been in the hands of the government a good while, but has not been acted upon for the reason that the acceptance of it would make no little trouble in the camp of the faithful. It would mean a new chief justice as well as a new puisne judge. In point of seniority, Judge Tuck would be entitled to the chief justiceship, but nobody had felt that he would get it, and if he did get it there might be some strained relations in the judiciary. There is a precedent for appointing a junior judge chief justice, as was done in the instance of Sir William Ritchie. It is unusual. It is believed that Sir Jean Thompson's idea was that Attorney General Blair could probably be made chief justice, but Sir John died soon after this idea began to crystallize and since then nothing has been done. Mr. McLeod has generally been looked upon as the coming puisne judge, whoever might be made chief justice, but with Foster out of the cabinet and the machine out of favor, his chances have not been brightened within the last few weeks. There has been a widespread belief that Recorder Skinner would be the man, and public rumor has had him as good as appointed two or three times in as many days.

Four men are understood to want the office of collector of customs. The first of these is Collector Ruel, who sees no reason why he should be retired. Other people, friends of the office seekers, claim that he has enjoyed the emoluments of office so long that somebody else should now have a chance, though one prominent conservative is quoted as saying that if Mr. Ruel were retired today a majority of the merchants would be willing to sign a petition to have him reinstated tomorrow, because he is the right man in the right place. This is poor logic for those who are hungry for office, however.

One of these is John A. Chesley. He is entitled to an office of some kind, and the collectorship would suit him very well indeed. He has been after it for a long time, but while the machine has had to ac-

cept him as a good enough conservative, it has never forgiven him for defying the machine and beating it in an election. His chances for a collectorship have not been brilliant under the regime of the late cabinet, and they would now seem to be considerably improved.

Mayor Robertson is the man whom Mr. Chesley defeated, and he too would be glad to be made collector of customs. Rumors of his appointment have been almost as plenty as the rumors of the elevation of Recorder Skinner to the bench, but Mayor Robertson has not yet got there. The name of Charles A. Everett has also come up incidentally, but it has been generally conceded that he is not in it.

There is also a senatorship, which need not of necessity be filled, and until the turn over at Ottawa, W. H. Thorne was looked upon as the man. One report has given the position to John Connor, but there has been nothing to confirm the idea, except the fact that he went to Ottawa last week.

Last week PROGRESS mentioned the rumor that Judge Wilkinson was to be retired and Dr. Quigley appointed in his place as judge of the county court of Northumberland. Since then the name of George V. McInerney of Kent has come to the front as that of another candidate for the position.

Nobody knows where all these rumors came from, but each of them is received with ready credence until the next one comes to contradict it. There is however, said to be a quiet but vigorous movement on the part of a number of anti-machine conservatives to have the wires pulled while the opportunity offers. Just what all the pulling will amount to remains to be seen when the government gets into shape again.

ANOTHER CHANCE FOR OFFICES.

Vacancies Likely to Be Made in the Post Office in St. John.

There has been some talk this week of an intention to superannuate two prominent members of the staff in the St. John post office, Assistant Postmaster Woodrow and M. J. Potter, who have been respectively 36 and 30 years in the service. In the order of promotion their places would be taken by A. W. Reed and Andrew McNichol, and this would leave two vacancies for which there is an active hustle in advance.

Both Mr. Woodrow and Mr. Potter are good for active work and neither of them considers himself an old man yet. When people are told of the length of time they have served, there is an impression that they must have gone into the office when they were small boys. When they began their service, John Howe was post master and the post office was on Canterbury street where the Walker building now stands. The only railway connecting with St. John in those days was the line between St. John and Shediac, and the mails for the United States went by stage coach to Calais, as well as by steamer to Boston. The number of boxes in the post office was limited and none of them were lock boxes. All who wanted letters had to call for them at the window, where there was a turnstile such as is now in the ferry houses, and which compelled the crowd to move only in one direction. On nights when the English mail arrived there was a big crowd always in waiting at the solitary window, and the man who came late had to exercise the virtue of patience until his turn came. Messrs. Woodrow and Potter have seen the postal service develop beyond the most extravagant dreams of the citizens of a generation ago.

Both men have been faithful officials and outside of active politics. Years ago, however, Mr. Woodrow got a great scare and learned a useful lesson. He was a warm friend of Hon. Isaac Burpee, and in the election in which the liberal party found its Waterloo, in 1878, Mr. Woodrow was not at all backward in doing what he could for Mr. Burpee. When the returns came in that night and the liberals were found to be out of power, Mr. Woodrow is said to have been in great trepidation as to what would be the effect of his political zeal. Nothing happened, however, and since then Mr. Woodrow has taken good care to keep clear of politics as a thing dangerous to be handled.

Should the proposed changes be made, there will be two good officials in the persons of Messrs Reed and McNichol.

Has Had His Share of It.

Mr. D. P. Chisholm, of the school trustees office, is now teaching at the grammar school, pending the arrival of Prof. Bridges, who will assume charge. Mr. Chisholm was always a favorite with the boys when he was in teaching work, and they would doubtless be glad to have him with them in the future. He is said to feel, however, that he has done his share in instructing the youth of the land, and does not wish to resume the work as a permanent occupation, even though he might have a choice of the city schools.

NO THIN EDGE FOR THEM.

WHY SOME OF A CONGREGATION HAVE BEEN DISQUIETED.

They do not want to have any Ritualism and Propose to Check even the Appearance of Innovation—Prayers for a Choir Lead to Suspicious of Danger.

While there has been an increase in the number of episcopal churches which now have mattins with two "c's" and evening instead of the old fashioned morning and evening prayer, it will be some time before St. Luke's, North End, is likely to come into line. The congregation proposes to have the church conducted on strictly evangelical lines, and where there is any possible doubt to give themselves the benefit of it. The latest effort in this line has been the frowning on what seemed to be the entering in of the thin edge of a ritualistic wedge in the form of a procession, as they interpret it.

There are several grades of processions, according to the degree in which a church is "advanced" The first step toward any kind is a surpliced choir, and when that point has been gained the advancement is supposed to be merely a matter of time when some of the old-fashioned folk die or go to some church in which there are no innovations of the sort. The simplest kind of a procession is when the choir boys come into church from the vestry by a short cut and take their seats. The next kind is when they march up the aisle to the accompaniment of music, with the clergyman behind in a long surplice. A stage beyond this is where the clergyman wears a short surplice. Further than this is the stage where the procession is headed by a cross-bearer and the minister wears vestments of the color proper to the season, all singing a regular professional hymn and bowing to the east when they arrive in the chancel. Beyond this again is the same kind of procession where some of the boys wear red cassocks and there is the addition of incense. Now St. Luke's has not so far even taken the first of these steps, but some of the congregation have thought there were indications of a tendency in that direction. It happened this way.

St. Luke's has a mixed choir, that is, one composed of both ladies and gentlemen, and most people would think it would be quite out of line for a mixed choir to undertake anything like a procession, especially as the men wear only their Sunday clothes without cassock, surplice or cotta, as insignia of office. Not long ago, however, somebody made the discovery that they really did have a procession and that there was processional music.

It has been the custom of the rector, before the beginning of each service, to assemble the choir in the vestry and engage in special prayer. To this laudable practice of itself, there could be no objection, though it is just what is done with high church surpliced choirs. Somebody noticed, however, that when the choir of St. Luke's came out from the vestry, which adjoins the chancel, they did so in a body and while a voluntary was played on the organ. This was enough of a procession to suggest the idea of the thin edge of the wedge and lead to more or less talk. Some of the choir are said to have taken the same view and to be unwilling to take part in the ceremonial until it is quite certain that nothing more advanced is to follow. There has been no disturbance of harmony, however, nor is there an immediate danger of any, for the rector is a man of undoubtedly evangelical cast, and has succeeded admirably in pleasing a congregation which his predecessor, with the best of intentions, could not wholly conciliate. The scruples in regard to the alleged procession simply show that St. Luke's proposes to stand where it has always stood in its definition of who are "prayer-book churchmen."

That Double Acoustic.

It is understood that no clue to the acoustic perpetrated on the Telegraph has been found, but it seems pretty clear it was not written by any man connected with any of the St. John papers. It is perhaps as well to state this, as there seems to have been some impression to the contrary. Newspaper men, as a rule, are not given to playing underhand tricks on each other and though they may laugh at one of their fellows when a trick has been cleverly played, it is doubtful if there is one active journalist in St. John who would either do such a trick or be a party to the doing of it. It is only right that the line should be drawn somewhere in the ethics of newspaper work.

Want the Street Improved.

The residents of Murray street, North End, think that the city should try to give them a better kind of a highway than they have had. A good many people may travel along Main street and never know there is such a place as Murray street, because the end of it is fenced and the only access to it at this point is by steps put up at the expense of

residents near by. The street may be reached in other ways, it is true, but after it is reached it is found to be in very bad order the year round. Each season sees an additional number of houses built in the locality and there is also a baptist church in the vicinity. In view of all this some of the people in the neighborhood think the mud holes should not be allowed to stay next summer as they did last summer. They may be a little out of the world, they say, but they are of opinion that they have the same rights as other citizens as doubtless they have.

MAY HAVE A PLEBISCITE.

The Council Will Let the People Settle the Question of Standard Time.

The common council seems to have decided that it will not try to grapple with the question of standard time. It is entirely too much for it to undertake, though at the outset nothing seemed more simple than to refer the matter to the general committee, to let the advocates of this or that time to be heard and then to report to the council. So the question was referred and that was an end of it as far as the council was concerned. The committee has never been called together, and perhaps never will be, unless to resolve to do nothing.

The trouble has been the fear that if Eastern standard were adopted people would insist on keeping the same hours on standard that they now do on local, and thus the evening would be abridged by more than half an hour to the great prejudice of cyclists and others who want as long summer evenings as the climate will afford. The number of people, who are possessed of this idea is probably not large, but enough has been said to give some of the individual aldermen the idea that they might displease somebody if they espoused one time or the other, and now that election day is approaching each of them is anxious for all the votes he can get. They want the people to settle the time for themselves.

When the mayor was asked about the matter recently, he smilingly remarked that he thought he would have to put the responsibility on Ald. McGoldrick, who made the motion to have the matter referred. Now Ald. McGoldrick is chairman of the safety board and has a regard for his own aldermanic safety as well. If he were only dependent on the vote of Stanley ward, there is no telling what pernicious activity he might show in the matter, for Stanley of itself would no doubt be willing to adopt Greenwich time if the alderman ad vitam favored it. With the whole city to vote for a representative for Stanley, however, behooves the alderman to be as prudent as his colleagues, and he has now another idea for a settlement of the question.

This is to have a plebiscite, by which the people can vote for whatever kind of time they prefer. This could be done at the time of the civic elections and involve little or no extra expense. The voters would simply have to mark their ballots for Local, Eastern or Atlantic Standard, and the majority vote would settle the result. This would show clearly what the people wanted and let the council very neatly out of the hole into which it seems to have floundered.

There is just one possible complication, and that is that some of the electors will insist on the candidates pledging themselves to this or that time. Were this in an election for the legislature it would make matters awkward, but in a civic election there is nothing to hinder a candidate pledging himself to all three of the times, according to the locality he canvasses and the people he meets.

The plebiscite seems to be as practical an idea as has yet been evolved, and if the people can have their say at the polls the minority will probably be willing to abide by the result. It will be a good thing to have the matter settled in some way before the summer travel begins. Otherwise, with the present mixture of local and standard St. John will be a city of terror, rather than of refuge, for the tourists.

Fredericton Adopts It.

Though Fredericton people may do less loud talking than their neighbors in St. John, they get down to hard facts when anything is to be done. That city has officially adopted Eastern standard time, while our mayor and corporation seem afraid even to discuss the question. It is true that Fredericton is a few minutes of time further west, and has therefore less of a difference between its local time and Eastern standard than St. John has, but this is scarcely worth speaking about. The Fredericton people would have made the change had they been precisely in the longitude of St. John.

Should Look After Them.

One of the daily papers very properly calls attention to the practice of cab drivers and teamsters leaving their teams on the street on severely cold days with no protection for the horses. This seems to be a matter in which the S. P. C. A. should interest itself. In many cases this negligence of drivers is simply the result of ignorance or want of thought, and a very little effort would be required to make the men more careful of their horses.

MR. TREMAINE'S LATEST.

HE AGAIN OBJECTS TO A STORY TOLD BY "PROGRESS."

The Warren, Smith and His Connection With It—He Says He Has Sent the Balance to the Plaintiff—The Mystery of a Letter that Warren Has Not Yet Acknowledged.

Mr. F. J. Tremaine is a Halifax lawyer with whom PROGRESS has had occasion to deal in one or two instances, the latest being a claim entrusted to him for collection by W. H. Warren of Boston, the defendant being C. Hudson Smith, another Halifax lawyer whose name is tolerably familiar to the readers of this paper. The story, in brief was that Warren had retained Smith to collect a claim of \$300 due on the sale of a patent; that Smith had collected the amount with costs but not paying it over, Warren retained Tremaine to collect from Smith. Then the statement was made that Tremaine, apparently had not been able to realize the money, as Warren had written him a number of times and could get no satisfaction. The farther statement was made that Warren "says that it is necessary to hire yet another lawyer to secure his money, he will do so."

And now at this day comes the said F. J. Tremaine, in his own proper person, with a letter to the editor of PROGRESS, dated Halifax, Jan 7. He says:

"I understand the issue of PROGRESS of 28th Dec. contained a reference to me, in connection with an action in supreme court at Halifax. W. H. Warren, (of Boston) against, C. Hudson Smith (of Halifax), in which I acted as plaintiff's solicitor. The article, I understand insinuates that Mr. Warren having been unable to get some money due to him, from Mr. Smith retained me to collect it. And is now obliged in turn, to employ a solicitor to get the money from me.

"The latter assertion is entirely false. The matter is not of public interest, but as you have thought it worth space in PROGRESS it is better you should hear facts, than fiction. The facts are:

"In Dec. 1894 the claim was handed me and a writ was issued against Mr. Smith claiming an account and payment of the amount found due. After a long inquiry of seven months, judgment was obtained in favor of Mr. Warren. Subsequently the defendant paid the amount of the debt, but did not pay, nor has ever paid the expenses which were heavy. An execution is now in the sheriff's hands for the costs, and when they are paid will be handed to Mr. Warren.

"After deducting the cost and a small sum for the expense of examining Mr. Smith should be examined. I remitted the balance to Mr. Warren by draft on Boston, sent in a registered letter on the 8th of November last, and I, on the 11th of November sent him a full itemized account since which I have not heard from him—tho' I have written again.

"I do not know your informant but he is either ignorant or malicious and it would seem reasonable that you should yourself have inquired of me or declined to publish matters of such small public interest without inquiry. I am yours &c.

F. J. Tremaine.

It will be observed that Mr. Tremaine merely "understands" that such and such things were stated leaving it to be inferred that he has had not read PROGRESS and therefore does not know what he is talking about. It is to be hoped Mr. Tremaine does not carry on a law business on the same principle of "understanding" things without taking the trouble to inform himself as to the facts.

There was no assertion that Warren was obliged to hire another lawyer to get the money from Tremaine, and the latter gentleman is therefore simply making evidence on which to pose as all ill-used men, Warren merely declared that he was ready to do so, if necessary. The story told came from a reliable source in which there was neither ignorance nor malice. Before it was published, enquiry was made as to the facts, and PROGRESS had the statement of Mr. Warren himself that he had never seen one cent of the amount, though he had written to Tremaine a dozen times.

Mr. Tremaine, however, says that on the 8th of November, a date long prior to the time Mr. Warren asserted he had not heard from him, he sent Warren a draft for the balance on hand, and moreover registered the letter. This being the case it is evident either that the letter failed to reach its destination or that Warren has made a false statement, which is hardly probable. There is either a big mistake or a big lie somewhere. Which is it?

This Has Been Said Before.

Correspondents who furnish social news are again reminded that their notes must be mailed so as to reach PROGRESS earlier than Thursday night. Outside society matter cannot be handled on Friday morning. This week correspondence from Digby and Bridgetown, N. S., and Har-

court, N. B. is omitted because it came too late to be available. To make sure, all correspondence should be mailed so as to reach this office on Wednesday evening or early Thursday morning. Correspondents should make their calculations accordingly, and thus avoid having their labor in vain.

GONE WITH HER GOLD.

Mrs. Jones Crosses the Border Carrying Her Cash Safely Stowed.

The auctioneer has been busy at the Dominion Hotel this week, selling off the furniture and fittings left by Mrs. Jones & Co. when they retired from the scene in consequence of the swoop made by the police. The sale was by order of the landlord, but there does not seem any reason why Mrs. Jones should not have paid all dues and demands in cold cash had she been so disposed.

According to all accounts, her departure means the removal of a good deal of the circulating medium from St. John. Her name might not have been good at the banks but she cared nothing for that fact, as she was a travelling bank of herself. It is stated on good authority that she carried about \$2,000 in gold in the bosom of her dress and a wad of bills of large denomination in the concealment of her hosiery, wholly apart from the cash she carried in more convenient places for current expenses. Yet with all her money she and some of her company were turned back by the United States officials at Bangor. Baffled but not beaten, the exiles came back into New Brunswick, took a train for Houlton and got over the line without difficulty. It is understood that her destination is Boston. She could have probably have gone there without difficulty by the steamer, but there was the risk that if anything happened to the boat or she fell overboard the weight of the gold would sink her before there was a chance to pick her up.

GILBERT WALKER'S CASE.

An Explanation of the Explanation He has Made Regarding His Fines.

HALIFAX, Jan. 9.—Gilbert W. Walker evidently believes himself possessor of a grievance, but he is a mistaken man if he thinks either the police or any one else has a desire to show him up more than any other citizen who furnishes news. The record is against him in the matter of liquor law violations. If any one doubts this, all he has to do is to call in at City Clerk Tremaine's office and look at the books. There he will see under the date of September 19, 1895, that G. W. Walker paid a fine of \$20 in the police court on a conviction of violation of the liquor law. On November 13, 1895, he is down as having paid another \$20 for a second offence. Besides this there is no mistake in the words which under date of December 11, 1895, show that G. W. Walker paid a third \$20 on the occasion of a third conviction.

Everybody who was in the court room on that last trial remembers that Walker at first pleaded guilty and the fine was accordingly imposed, but when the defendant recollected possibly, that there had been two previous convictions he entered a plea "not guilty" and gave notice of appeal. Thus read the public records on Gilbert W. Walker's case.

HAD A LITTLE RECEPTION.

Why There is Something of a Kick in Civic Circles in Halifax.

HALIFAX, Jan. 9.—Civic officials and aldermen are like other people in having "feelings," as Charles Dickens would have said. The feelings of some of these in Halifax are not just as complacent and self-satisfied as they were before New Year's day. It seems that Recorder MacCoy had something of a little reception at the city hall on the first day of the year. It was not so swell as Governor Daly's levee, but, like his honor's there was a private entree, in fact it was all private, and only those who were asked came or were expected. This nice little discrimination is what grates upon the feelings of some civic servants and aldermen not in the charmed set. There were liquid refreshments, bracing and strong, and other creature comforts, and the occasion proved enjoyable par excellence. The supply of good things was so plentiful that there was some over till another day, when again thirty ones were refreshed. It was all right, only that it appears the word should have been passed round generally, then there would have been no kick. Mayor Keeffe had an experience with conviviality in the city hall. The present chief magistrate, it is hoped, will not find anything of the same kind in his lot.

We are Ahead of New York.

Our New York neighbors made a tremendous row on Monday because the thermometer showed six degrees below zero. We had it about fifteen below in this vicinity, and simply remarked that it was a cold day for the time of year. It should be remembered, however, that the cold in New York is of a kind not found in Canada, and one really feels it there as much at ten above as he would feel it in our dry and bracing atmosphere at ten below.