

THEY ARE NOT HAPPY.

OLD LIBERALS RATIFY TUCKER.
YOUNG ONES SULK.

A History of the Mismanagement of the Party—Will the Citizens Bring out Other Candidates on an Anti-remedial Commercial Platform.

Perhaps in no constituency in Canada are political matters more mixed and unsatisfactory to both Liberal and Conservative parties than in St. John today. Both parties have their candidates in the field and neither of them are satisfied with them. This is especially true of the liberals, a large portion of whom are now looking around for some way to escape taking any part in the coming contest. They have been particularly unfortunate, since, a year ago, when the first stir in nominations was made, they made a fight against having the two same old men. Their objection was unheeded and a convention fight was forced and the young men beaten.

'Tis was unfortunate for the party and discouraging to that growing and vigorous portion of the party which it was acknowledged on all sides was such an accession to it. For years before and a short time after the last election the cry had gone up from the liberal party, "We want young men, we want a regular organization, we want to treat the boys for their votes and their enthusiasm." The big majority of the three conservative candidates at the last election showed how great was the need of young men and to the credit of a few energetic spirits a club was formed and that has been the only live affair in the liberal party all these years. The young men joined it. Some-what regular meetings were held, discussions were frequent and hope revived in the hearts of the party. It was acknowledged that much of the strength of the conservatives was in the ranks of the many young men that clustered around their standard bearer and the older heads and the leaders were wise enough to see it in time and to meet the boys more than half way when the suggestion was made that there should be a young man upon the ticket. Mr. Hazen was promptly brought out and the party was united. The result was told by the majority, some 1100 in the city and county and six hundred in the city.

But the liberal leaders could not see that the young men had any right to bring forward a candidate and so they crushed it. Mr. Weldon must be the candidate again and Mr. Weldon was. But Mr. Weldon died and the young men felt that without any doubt wisdom would come to their alleged party leaders. But no. For a time matters remained in a quiet condition and then to the surprise of all who heard it, the name of Colonel Tucker was mentioned. This was treated as a joke at first but when the name cropped up persistently at every corner, then it became apparent that some one was booming him. Who that some one was did not remain a mystery long. Mr. McLean, the law partner of the late Mr. Weldon and an associate of him and his brother-in-law, Colonel Tucker, in the ownership of the Daily Telegraph was the man in the fence. To replace Mr. Weldon with Colonel Tucker was the task he set himself to and he has been successful.

In his project he was supported by the Ellis-O'Brien-Lan-alum wing of the party. It takes a lot of money to run an election and these gentlemen realized that and concluded that Colonel Tucker with his fat bank account would be a good mark for them. But before he could be nominated he must be boomed and the work passed around. It was a fortunate thing for them that the Executive decided that the old convention that had nominated Mr. Weldon was still a live body. Everybody thought it was dead. The delegates had been appointed to do certain work and had performed their duty. No one thought for an instant that they were electing a permanent convention to pick and choose candidates whenever the party should happen to stand in need of them. But in this convention there were 80 or 90 delegates who stood behind the Ellis-O'Brien-Keefe and Lan-alum faction much like voting machines. What they did and said was good enough for them. If they wanted Tucker why Tucker was the man for their ballot. He must be all right in other ways. More than this he had only one open opponent and he was H. A. McKeown who, as an orangeman and an opponent of their in local affairs was too distasteful for their consideration. And so the vote went and Tucker received the nomination.

If the leaders had any doubt of the storm such an act would raise it was speedily dispelled when the decision was announced. Not only the young men but the older ones expressed their opinions plainly and it was seen that a row and a party split was soon to follow. Then Mr. Davies put in appearance and when he left had apparently persuaded the Colonel to resign but he had reckoned without counting upon Mr. Hugh McLean who had no idea that

his pet candidate should give in to the younger element. Consequently Colonel Tucker went to the ratification meeting. The young liberals were going to do great things at that gathering. According to report there was likely to be a scene of the liveliest character. A programme had been mapped out and the boys proposed to take the meeting in hand, show the party how strong they were, refuse to accept the Colonel as a candidate and then turn around and nominate a man to fill his place. It was pleasant to talk about; a splendid topic of conversation in the offices and at the corners. Everybody and all his friends were going to be there and they would vote against the Colonel. But what a disappointment! If an opera company opened up to so many empty seats the management would have been "in the dumps." In spite of the urgent invitations of the chairman there were scores of vacant chairs in front and the front row in the balcony was all that was filled. No one appeared in the gallery. The young liberals were present and they were silent. There was nothing to arouse their enthusiasm. Mr. McKeown kept out of sight when the "platform men" made their appearance. He would have got a rousing reception but he was not on hand. The entrance of the Opera house seemed to be a more attractive spot for him. At any rate the motion was made to ratify Tucker and the yeas and nays called for. There were plenty of both, and the many conservatives present did not keep their mouths shut either but when the standing vote came the "sand" went out from many of the young liberal supporters. It is one thing to stand on a street corner and talk and another to stand up and vote openly against a man.

Many of the loudest talkers were too timid to rise and record their votes and some of those who voted followed their opinion out of doors and did not remain to hear the Colonel's acceptance speech.

Hugh McLean must have been proud of his candidate as he stood upon that platform and tried to say something. The feeling of shame that came over many of the good liberals there as they tried to make excuse for their nominee was easily explained. In fact Colonel Tucker explained it himself. He said that only once before in his life had he stood before a meeting to address it. Just think of it! And this is the kind of a man the liberals have chosen to carry their standard and lead them on to victory. Eleven hundred votes is a big majority, Mr. Hazen, but if Colonel Tucker is the only opponent you have in the election in June you can count upon hundreds more of a majority.

There is another movement, however, on the part of the business men and the anti-remedialists that is not satisfactory to the conservative party. The business men are up in arms because the report of St. John stands in a fair way to be ignored and yesterday, after PROGRESS went to press, a committee was to wait upon the finance minister and obtain from him an assurance that St. John would have the same chances as Halifax to be chosen as the winter port of the fast line. This project is dear to the hearts of St. John merchants and if the claims of the port are ignored two candidates will in all probability be in the field. The anti-remedial men are willing to join forces with the business men and they consider that they have just as strong a plank to stand upon. There is danger to the liberal and conservative parties in such a combination which would have strength from all quarters. The organs of both parties are fighting shy of remedial legislation. The greater part of the liberal party in this city want the demands of the Manitoba Catholics satisfied and that alone is enough to prevent the Glote and the Telegraph from touching the question. Messrs. Hazen and Chesley are on record as supporting the remedial policy of Sir Charles Tupper and, therefore the Sun is silent. But the people are not silent and the one question that is uppermost in their minds is remedial legislation. The liberals say "If Mr. Laurier gets into power Greenway will set the question." This is a common canvass these days but they cannot find any assurance of Greenway that he will do so. The wish is father to the thought.

It is said that the oranges ledges in this city and county are controlled by the conservative party and that they will not have anything to do with candidates, but a prominent orangeman assures PROGRESS that such is not a fact; that the orangemen are solid upon the question and if they can secure the men they are after, the vote on election day will surprise the "machine" politicians.

What an Advertiser Thinks.

Mr. H. B. Harding son of the late Sheriff Harding and actuary of Humphrey's Homeopathic Medicine Co., writes "We have had a fine trade in '77" in the lower provinces this year, and I think it is largely due to PROGRESS.

LIVES OFF THE PEOPLE.

A STRANGER IN ANNAPOLIS WHO GETS DISLIKED.

Many Tricks that Have Brought Discredit to Him—His Favorite Occupation at Present—How the Organ Pipes Were Disarranged.

All towns it is presumed have their objectionable people; Annapolis has them also. But it has one ex-residence on its society which it would be gladly rid of. He is an importation from the United States and not a native. He came here about two years ago from Liverpool, or some town on the South shore, and by now his welcome is pretty well worn out. He heralded himself on his arrival as being the son of very rich parents, who had just sent him down to Nova Scotia for the express purpose of killing time. But people were not long deceived in the matter, for it appears he was such a scraggy creature at home that his people would have nothing to do with him, and not trusting him alone even with his board money would send it direct to his landlord. His accomplishments embraced a radius from boxing to singing tenor. He had not been here long however, before his pugilistic honors were suddenly and swiftly snatched from his brow, by a popular young tailor, and his conceit was so well knocked out of that particular accomplishment that he forever after held his peace of what he could do in that direction. He made a great many attempts to ingratiate himself into the society of the "Four Hundred" of the town, and in some measure succeeded. But his society somehow would not wear; stories were getting about that were not calculated to do any one any good about him, and he was unable to refute them satisfactorily. When he had been here about six months he wormed himself into the good graces of one of our jewelers, and made an arrangement with the jeweler to clerk in his store if he was supplied with his tobacco, or enough money to buy it. A short time after his instalment as clerk the jeweler got married, and went on a few weeks wedding tour, leaving his trusty clerk in charge of his store. When he returned he found about \$5. in the till. His clerkship ended sudden, and as the jeweler did not want his worthless body, the matter rests that way yet. While in the employ of the jeweler, he did some neat financing tricks three of which will suffice as examples here. A professor of music purchased jewelry to quite an amount from the clerk and paid him the cash; he put it in his pocket and charged the professor with it on the books. In due time the bill was sent the professor, for the amount, who at this time resided in Yarmouth. He came up to Annapolis and a warm interview was the result, and he promised such things that stimulated the clerk to hustle around and borrow the money and fix up the matter. He did this identical thing with a young man in this town, but a threat to bring in the sheriff to help him straighten out the matter made him arrange it very speedily. The other was where he borrowed \$4 from a clergyman here and charged that on the books also, and when the bill was sent to the clergyman his eyes opened, and a similar scene and result ensued as with the Professor. Shortly after he came here he got himself asked to sing in the choir of St. Luke's Episcopal church, and sang or was supposed to sing tenor. He would grin and smirk the first part of the service through at the young ladies in the front pew, and sneak out as soon as the sermon began. He gave out at one time that he was engaged to a certain young lady in the choir, and that he was to be married in a short while; but somehow the alleged engagement was broken, a most fortunate thing for the young lady, if the engagement ever existed.

He did a very nice piece of work worthy of a wall street broker with one of our legal firms. He went to the jeweler first mentioned and told him that there was a man up at the hotel where he boarded who wanted to buy a gold watch, and asked the jeweler to give him one for an hour or so until he sold it for him. On the strength of this the jeweller gave him a gold filled case watch worth about \$20; with this in his pocket instead of selling it, or failing to do so returning it, he went to the above mentioned barristers and negotiated a loan of \$10, thereon for 30 days. The matter ran on for some six months, the jeweler in vain endeavored to get back the watch, his clerk always had a prospective sale in view or some other excuse. Finally by chance the jeweller found out where his property was and demanded it of the lawyers, and they on due proof of the circumstances, gave up the watch. They will now however it is said proceed against the clerk that took them in with such a knavish trick; and if he is convicted, he may get a few months or so in a quiet place to reflect on the risk there is in pawing other people's property. About six months ago he went into partnership with his only friend in town these two purchased an electro plating machine, and together they endeavored to

coax a few pennies from the pockets of the public. This is the only time our hero was known to try and do something for himself; perhaps he is not altogether to blame if he failed, but one thing is certain the drug firm from whom they purchased their battery supplies would not mind having them paid for. He now left the hotel where he had been staying and boarded with his partner. His introduction into the family of the grocer made trouble. The partner's mother-in-law, did not take kindly to what she called the "tramp" and threatened to leave the house, and the sister-in-law had a word to say also about the matter. However he is still there, and as the grocer has moved out to a farm, it is said our roving adventurer will work the place for him. A short time before Easter the organist was replaced by a most estimable young lady from Moncton. She had been here but a short time when she received the sad intelligence of the death of her mother in Moncton. The sympathy of the congregation was naturally with her. Another application for the organ was in at a much lower figure it appears than that of the present organist, by a person it is said whom the roving hero would be interested in having appointed. Be this as it may at all events, the first Sunday the new organist tried the organ she found it would not work at all, and after calling in assistance she discovered that several of the pipes had been stuffed with paper. Easter practice came on and our wandering minstrel had an important part assigned him, and was being practiced up in it by the organist but the Friday evening before Easter he left the practice in a stage huff and refused to have anything more to do with the matter. However his place was at once filled and the music went off nicely on Easter Sunday. The choir were glad to be rid of him so easily; and there is one thing certain it will be a long time before he gets back into it again. But before the service commenced on that day the organist again noticed something wrong with the organ and again on investigation she found that some of the pipes had been moved. There was no longer any doubt now as to who had stuffed the pipes and who had moved them. It was a scheme by which it was hoped to have disfavor thrown on the organist by bad playing so that she would be dismissed, and give some one else a chance at the position. A meaner or more low, contemptible trick, and to such a person in such circumstances can hardly be imagined. The matter was brought up at the last Easter meeting and he was soundly rated for his conduct by a vestryman, and the vestryman's sentiments were heartily voiced by all present. Lately however, he seems to have found something he could do, that is nursing babies. For now being ostracised from all society he spends his time wheeling the youngest around, and playing nurse girl generally. The partners wife pronounces him a brick and very handy indeed in that line.

Architect Dunn Thinks it Wrong.

Architect R. C. John Dunn is after several scalps, mostly those worn by members of the school board, whom he says did not decide fairly in reference to the plans submitted by the several architects in the recent competition for the new high school building. Mr. Dunn says the choice should have been made before a full meeting of the board, not by any less a number who might be termed a packed jury. Four architects competed by submitting plans; these were G. E. Fairweather, R. C. J. Dunn, H. H. Mott and A. E. Anderson, the latter now residing in Boston. Of the plans sent, all were supposed to represent buildings that could be erected inside of \$40,000 the sum named for that purpose. Architect Fairweather's plans were chosen by seven out of eleven votes represented at the meeting. Mr. Dunn says his building can be built for \$40,000, but he says he is willing to bet the building represented by plans submitted by Mr. Fairweather can not be built for much under twice that sum. Mr. Dunn charges that the members of the board had their minds made up before the plans were submitted and that the choice was made not on the merits of the plans themselves but on personal grounds. Two members of the board Mr. Dunn feels voted against him on temperance principals and one against him out of spite. The disappointed architect says he will protest in a forcible manner at a later date.

Kicked the Rotten Sleepers.

The finance minister of Canada was on the wrecked C. P. R. train this week, and it is said took a lively interest in the condition of the road that has been the boast of the government for so many years. It is also vouched for by the passengers that he did not hesitate to kick the rotten sleepers of the "great national highway" of Canada with the toe of his boot and in many cases he found that his shoe leather was harder than the sleeper. The men who have to travel day after day on this road are getting scared but they are not in a position to say a word. Their jobs depend upon their silence but the postal service men are not so silent and the description of the condition of the road furnished by these authentic people is certainly surprising.

INVESTIGATION NEEDED.

YOUNG CHRISTOPHER DYING FROM SLOW POISON.

It is Suspected—Who Gave It to Him and for What Reason—Was It in an Orange or how it was Given—The Foresters Will Look into the Matter.

Truth is stranger than fiction and the happenings of life, if they were really known would be found more mysterious than any plot woven by the hand of fiction. This week the sensation of St. John is located in the North End. It has been discussed sub rosa for some weeks but at last it has become public property.

It is a tale of love and longing, of temptation and possible guilt, of the wronged and the wronger, an innocent victim and a somewhat villainous personage, whoever it may be.

Several years ago Miles Christopher came to this country from England and after a time married. Then his brother Frank came out. He had left the army and had a small pension. He took lodgings with his brother Miles and soon became well known and generally well liked in North End.

Everything was smooth and pleasant, so it is said, at his brother's house till Frank began paying attention to Miss Rose Coes, a very estimable young lady of Indiantown. The more ardent his attentions the more unpleasant his home life and a few days since the culmination was reached.

Frank and Miss Coes became engaged, the wedding outfit was ordered, and a flat was rented on Durham street.

Some time before this Frank Christopher joined the Foresters, taking a risk on his life of \$1000 which was made payable to his sister-in-law, Mrs. Christopher. When the date of the wedding was announced in the Christopher homestead, and it was seen that nothing could prevent it, there was a stormy interview. The certificate of insurance was destroyed in a rage, and a few days after Frank Christopher applied for a renewal certificate this time to be made payable in the risk of his death to his wife that was to be, instead of to his brother's wife.

A few days after he became violently ill and is now in a precarious condition, while the physicians, several of whom have treated him are very reticent about expressing an opinion, they have intimated that he has a very brief lease of life—that slow poisoning is killing him.

He is a physical wreck, and whatever the cause he appears to have been seized with a fatal malady. All sorts of stories are afloat. It is said that he ate an orange said to have been sent him and shortly after he was taken suddenly ill, and has gradually become worse. Another story is that a powder was sent to him to break up a cold and it was the cause of his illness.

The foresters are watching the case and as their duty is they are quietly investigating all its peculiar phases.

Much sympathy is expressed for Miss Coes, and her father came to the city yesterday and will attempt to fathom the mystery. It is generally believed Christopher was poisoned but the party who gave it is hard to locate.

North end is excited over the case and there are all sorts of stories going, so that it is difficult to get at the truth, but the above is as near the facts as can yet be ascertained.

JUSTICE IN THE COUNTRY.

A Salisbury Magistrate Decides in a Peculiar Manner.

TO THE EDITOR OF PROGRESS:—Allow me space in your valuable paper to give your many readers a short account of how I saw justice (?) administered in a certain locality in the Parish of Salisbury. The justice who heard the case was rather more than an ordinary one—something like a stipendiary or commissioner with several titles. The complainant was an innocent looking man from the country who had complained that one Hicks had come on to his land and assaulted him, by striking him on the head and then shoving him up against a building and striking him several hard blows. The constable who, I presume had been employed by the complainant to serve the papers and who did serve them, seemed now to be employed by the accused to plead his case. The complainant had a man employed to conduct the prosecution, but the justice would not allow him to plead. It looked to me to be a very peculiar freak of justice that the very constable who served the papers could stand for Hicks—the accused, while the complainant could not be allowed to have any person appear for him. However the show went on. The complainant told a straightforward story, and did not seem to me to be a man who would invoke the strong arm of the law unless driven to it. He, certainly from the evidence of himself and two witnesses, was driven to it as it was showed he was wounded unmercifully on his own premises, without any cause or provocation.

When the accused was asked if he was guilty or not guilty he answered "I struck him." He then went on the stand and corroborated the statements made by the other witnesses. The justice for some cause or other adjourned the course for a week, saying to the accused that he would have to fine him if he did not settle it by that time. Imagine the surprise on Monday night when the justice decided that the assault was justifiable, and complainant is stuck for costs. Among other peculiarities of the case the one which perplexes me most is how the Judge came to change his mind. It reminds me of a case I once listened to near Port Elgin. The case was very through and the defendant Silliker was very down-hearted as he felt the case was going against him. He could not see anything else for it and we all were of the same mind. The justice who had to decide the case without a jury adjourned the case from late on Saturday night till Monday afternoon, so Silliker remained all night in this neighborhood and started for home on Sunday morning. As he came along where the justice lived, he for some reason or other called some thing he had an idea of trying to "handle" the justice, when he was told the justice was at the barn. When Silliker entered the barn there stood the justice stringing fish for dear life, "now d— you" said he. "I'll learn you to string fish on Sunday if you decide that case against me." "Hush" said the J. P. "you are all right," and sure enough on Monday the justice decided the case in Silliker's favor. One is as much a miscarriage of justice as the other. In the first place the fellow got a beating and had to pay for it beside.

What is the matter with superintendent Downey of the Boys industrial Home? Many people think he is not the right man in the right place. Mr. Downey was placed in charge of the boys' home two years ago, when that institution was first started. He came well recommended, and his backing was many of the most prominent of the directors of the home.

Since the superintendents' advent into the home things have not been running smoothly; the first two boys sent to the home were over ten years old and named Higgins and Cunningham who were to spend four long years there under Mr. Downey they just stayed two hours and then skipped. The next were just as anxious to leave, and they did leave in a day or two after their incarceration.

The record of the two years just ending, since the starting of the institution, is one that neither superintendent or management has any reason to be proud of.

The police have aided the Industria Home greatly by hunting up escaped convict boys, but when these escapes occur as frequently as Supt. Downey is allowing them too, even police patience must give out. Young Higgins who is now a fugitive from the Home is one of the junior thieves about the city. He was sentenced to four years for petty larceny in stores about the North End; this was about two years ago. Two years of his terms has already been spent, but mostly outside the walls of the Home and with his bad companions.

There must be some looseness about the keeping of the place or a boy of the age of young Higgins could not get out four or five times unknown to the keeper. Somebody must be to blame, and if Mr. Downey is not capable of controlling the boys at the home another should be secured who could. According to rumor a boy named Williams was released from a four years term because Mr. Downey could not manage him. The same can be said of Oulette a French boy from Madawaska.

It is this why young Higgins is every now and then at large, the management or directors should investigate.

What About the Creditors?

According to a notice sent out by the official assignee, the sheriff, the estate of John W. Ramsdell, realized \$550.93 and the outlay was \$516.17 leaving a balance of \$34.76 to pay the assignee and the inspectors. A meeting was called for yesterday to determine the amount of that compensation. There should not be much difference but what about the creditors?

What About the Estate Mismanaged?

A curious story comes to PROGRESS regarding the estate of a widow and orphan and the management of it. The allegations are serious and, if the information this paper has received is correct, are likely to be investigated. It is said that the young lady or orphan has become aroused to the condition of affairs and has placed the matter in the hands of a competent lawyer. These accounts of estates, PROGRESS has always held should have the careful attention of the Probate court and the accounts looked into carefully before they are passed. Where there is any rumor it is impossible at this time to verify anything, but if there is anything in the old time saying that there must be some fire where there is so much smoke, reasons for the accusations cannot be wholly wanting.

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