

PROGRESS.

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THE CUSTOM HOUSE BAR.

IS THE NEW BUSINESS A WHOLESALE OR RETAIL ONE.

How Samples are Tested by the Gaugers—What Becomes of all the Stuff Sent in—An Embarrassing Situation for Officials—Col. Domville's Services Needed.

Will the provincial liquor law interfere with the sale of liquor at the Customs house, is a question that many are trying to solve. Has Inspector Jones' jurisdiction in the case, or can the best of whiskey, brandy and other liquors be sold in the above named institution in defiance of the inspector and his provincial authority? This is a question that is being asked by everybody just now.

A few days ago a druggist purchased a gallon and a half jug of liquor. The purchase was made in the gauger's room at the Custom House and the liquor was a "sample" that had been taken by the gaugers from the different casks that they were called upon to test.

The story goes that certain importers of liquor who under the law, were obliged to have these liquors submitted to government test, sent samples of their goods for inspection, it is understood that these samples after the removal of the quantity necessary for the test shall be returned to the importer. As a matter of fact, so goes the story, these samples in all cases, have not been returned.

Perhaps had the goods not been put up in cases the importers would have found no fault. Indeed, when a quantity from a cask is forwarded to the gauger's department for test, no portion of it is expected to be returned. It appears that obligation of return is only expected in respect to case goods. The accumulation of liquors it will be seen, would be large in a very short time, and the stock would soon become a matter of importance. Such appears to be the opinion held by the officials concerned, as they get the credit of disposing of the stock thus acquired to a large liquor dealer who had no samples among the lot or the druggist mentioned above. What action will be taken by the authorities remains to be seen, but a desire for truth impels the remark, that there is nothing new in this—it only happens that the circumstances have now become public property for the first time. It has been asserted in some quarters that a number of years since a certain liquor dealer was set up in business, with a supply of goods procured through this same customs department, but whether as a gift or as a subject of sale is only known to the parties directly concerned. That was several years ago but there are many alive today to whom the recent "discovery" presents no new features. The time appears opportune for a thorough investigation although it is probable the preponderance of evidence would show that in respect to some importers at least, the greater part of their sample bottles are restored to their possession.

Enquiry at Collector Ruel's office elicited the facts that the gaugers room is under the control of head gauger Robertson and two assistants, Messrs McCart and Connors. It was also learned that liquor had been sold from the samples for years and the sale was being continued despite the commands of the collector.

The gaugers do not deny that the liquor was sold but they claim it has been the practice for years to sell it. The method of testing liquor is an interesting one. Every cask or barrel of the ardent that comes into the customs house is tested, samples being taken from each cask. When the samples have served their purpose and have been tested, what is left is poured into a large jug and this concoction of mixed drinks is looked on as common property. Flour, molasses, oil and other commodities are it is said tested in the same manner and in every case the gaugers appropriate the samples for their own use. Probably the men did nothing wrong in selling the liquor from an official point of view, but Inspector Jones may consider that they had no right to violate the law by selling intoxicating liquors without a license. The inspector is in a peculiar position as his office demands that if the customs house is turned into a mere tavern he will exact a license fee and will demand that they procure a license, that they close at the legal hours and that they specify whether a retail or wholesale business is to be conducted.

He will also doubtless insist that the regulation light be placed over the big front door. This might be extremely humiliating to the officers of the Customs service, but it would only be just to the public and the trade generally. If the business is allowed to continue and is pronounced legal it will be a question whether the other saloons in the same ward will allow this competitor to continue business in the haphazard way it is now being conducted.

They will probably demand that if the government, either of its own free will or by the act of some of its employees, is

going to "rush the growler" in this way it must come out and sell according to the strict letter of the law.

It would seem that a little of the energy displayed by Col. Domville in having the House of Commons bar closed might have been exercised a little nearer home; perhaps the glory would not have been so great but the work was just as necessary and now the gallant colonel and his friends must bear the stigma of neglecting a duty near at hand for the performance of one that could only affect us indirectly.

As far as known there does not exist any rule of bye law which provides for the disposal of the liquor used as samples in any manner but one would think the proper course would be to return it to the importers in proportion to their imports. By this means the difficulty would be overcome and further violations of the law prevented.

Mr. Robertson or his assistants can not be held seriously in fault for this transaction as they have only followed out the custom of other years. In this instance however, the sale was more open and so become public property. If as the gaugers claim the practice of selling sample liquor has been carried on for years then the government has been culpable as it should not have allowed its employees to become liquor vendors.

It is a notorious fact however that the government was never at any time as particular about the Customs department as could be desired. For instance, it is just as wrong to allow a supernumerary official not employed in the government to have a room in the building free of rent—an office where he conducts a regular brokerage business, and takes away work from legitimate brokers who do not happen to have a government pull. Perhaps in this case, however, the action of the government was prompted by charity but it seems a trifle strained to bestow upon a very well to do supernumerary official a room which is heated and lighted free of charge so that he may add to his supernumerary allowance by negotiating bills of sale and similar affairs. That is precisely the use to which one of the rooms is now put. In the course of time other business offices will no doubt be opened up in the building though just at present the wholesale and retail bar is having everything its own way and samples still flow freely customwards.

The case against John Sullivan, charged with the murder of the Dutcher family, is still exciting the Moncton people, writes a correspondent. Sullivan in court is a fine looking young man who resembles somewhat a commercial traveller or business man, rather than a common day laborer, which he is. He sits close to Mr. Smith, his counsel, and occasionally leans over and whispers to his lawyer in a confidential manner. He seems to know that the entire population of the 'Hub' is against him, and does not notice the court loafers who boldly declare that 'Sullivan ought to be hanged without a trial.' During the progress of the inquest Mr. Smith claimed the right to see his client and talk with him but this was refused by coroner Wortman and a watch was placed over Sullivan as though he were a condemned man.

Mr. Smith remarked at the time that he would see Sullivan in spite of the local authorities and to this end he laid the matter before the Hon. Attorney General, who at once ordered the coroner and City marshal to admit Mr. Smith to the cell of the prisoner and further to allow him to hold private conversations with the accused man. That such a right would be refused even the vilest criminal in the land, is an ever lasting disgrace to the parties who were connected with the matter.

Back was hanged by having a special trial, and a prejudiced and one sided jury, and now the case of Sullivan is up, and if Jack Sullivan were to be tried today by twelve "picked up" Monctonians, he would be sentenced to death in twenty minutes without evidence. Dr. Ross had a conversation with the writer and he says that a child's skull is an easy thing to destroy, and that it is quite possible for Maggie Dutcher to have received her wound, while in the hands of her half stupid uncle. But suppose Sullivan a guilty man, is he not entitled to a fair trial? Surely he is. He is a Canadian born citizen and under the British law he is entitled to fair play, and he is entitled to protection, while he may be a criminal. In Moncton the authorities seem to be satisfied if they get a man and all they want for an excuse is for some person to act suspiciously and they are after him. Sullivan while drunk left his home, and for doing that the whole machinery of the law has been set in motion against him. If he were rich he could get bail, or a constable would watch him at his home, but he is poor and he must take his medicine like a man. We hope that he will get fair play when the case opens at Dorchester.

Go to McArthur's Book Store for Souvenir Cards.

HE DECLINED TO SPEAK.

SULLIVAN ON ADVICE OF HIS COUNSEL REMAINED SILENT.

Verdict in the Moncton Murder Implicates Sullivan—Prisoner Remains High in Moncton—Some Important Evidence Given in the Dutcher Case.

The coroners inquest into the cause of the Meadow Brook tragedy was brought to a close on Saturday afternoon, and the seven good men and true who comprised the jury have handed in their verdict which declares that in their opinion, Eliza Dutcher, and Harris Dutcher of that place came to their death through foul means, and that the circumstances are such as to implicate John Sullivan. In accordance with this finding, Sullivan will be brought up for his preliminary examination before the stipendiary magistrate this morning, and be given an opportunity to testify in his own behalf. Two or three times during the inquest he has been offered this opportunity but acting on the advice of his counsel he has persistently declined to say anything.

The inquest has been unusual both as regards the number of witnesses examined, and the length of time it occupied, being the longest ever held by Coroner Wortman. During the last week nothing of great importance was elicited until the last day but one, when a man of the name of Moses Steeves testified to seeing Sullivan counting over a roll of notes containing something like three hundred dollars, in the bar room of the Brunswick Hotel. The notes were fives, tens, and some twenty dollar notes, as far as the witness could see. This is perhaps the most damaging evidence yet submitted, as the prisoner's lack of money has been a decided point in his favor so far. It seems strange that of all the people who were with him during the two days of his stay in Moncton after the tragedy, this man to whom he was a stranger should be the only one to see him with more than a few dollars.

At the time of his arrest Sullivan stated that he would have no difficulty in proving that he was sixty miles from the scene of the murder at the time it occurred, but this one witness C. Bruce McDougall, who gave direct testimony in his favor, as tending to establish an alibi seems to have made a mistake as to the night on which he says Sullivan was with him almost at the time the crime was committed, as the evidence of other witnesses would tend to prove that he was a day out in his calculations, and at the time he believed himself to have been conversing with Sullivan on Thursday night, he was in reality asleep in the house of a man named John Macdonald. Mr. McDougall honestly believed himself to have been conversing with Sullivan some time during Thursday night or in the early hours of Friday morning in the bar room of the American hotel, but the bar tender swears positively that the bar was locked between eleven and twelve o'clock on the night in question, and that he does not remember seeing Mr. McDougall or any stranger in the bar during the evening, and there the matter rests for the present.

Meanwhile the prisoner is kept in close confinement and not allowed to have any communication with his friends, though he has managed to elude the vigilance of his guardians with great ingenuity, and succeeded in sending messages to his family written on scraps of newspaper with his own blood. It is supposed that these messages have been secreted in the baskets in which food has been carried to Sullivan, as one was picked up yesterday in a street car by one of the conductors, which had been dropped by the prisoner's father. The message read—"Send for John Warren, I got money from him [and George, on Sunday in St. John]."

Up to yesterday even the prisoner's counsel Mr. R. B. Smith has not been permitted to see, or at least to speak to him, but yesterday, after much effort an order was obtained from the Attorney General authorizing Mr. Smith to hold any necessary communication with his client.

The charge on which Sullivan will be brought up is assault on Maggie Dutcher, with intent to kill. A new and it may be an important feature of the case, is the discovery of a car pin which was picked up amongst the ruins of the Dutcher house last week. The pin had evidently been through the fire, and as neither Mrs. Dutcher's sons nor any of the Green family ever saw it before, or knew of such a thing being in the house, there seems some ground for the supposition that it may have been the weapon used by the assassin in taking the lives of his victims.

The condition of the little Dutcher girl whose testimony may prove so important to the crown is still far from being satisfactory and though her medical attendant, Dr. Ross, is a man of undoubted skill, there seems to be a growing feeling in the community that no effort should be spared to save her life and reason, and that it would be better if a consultation of several physicians could be held. There is little

doubt that some portion of the fractured skull must be resting in the brain, and keeping up a constant irritation which retards her recovery, but which could be removed by a comparatively simple operation.

The child's life is of such immeasurable value to the ends of justice that it seems almost criminal negligence to let slip any chance however faint, of saving it. The child's condition is reported as slightly improved today, but as it is now three weeks since her injury and she has simply fluctuated between slightly better and a good deal worse, it would seem that some more active measures should be taken before the feeble life which has flickered for so long goes out finally.

WHERE ARE THE FUNDS.

A Question as to the Assets of the Union Engine Company.

HALIFAX, Sept. 30.—The Union Engine Company of this city had been prominently before the public for many years and it had an honorable career. A couple of years ago it came in conflict with the City Council. The result was that it was relieved of its duties as a fire protection corps, and its members were relegated to private life. The company determined to keep up its existence despite the fact that they had no public functions to perform. One good reason for doing this was that there was a sum of from \$800 to \$1100 in the funds. This money, the faction in the company which sided into the city, claimed should not remain with the U. E. C. but should be divided up pro rata among all hands. The dismissed U. E. C. took the other view. They held on to the money and defied their enemies to take it from them. An injunction was talked of to compel the officers of the U. E. C. to hand over the cash. In order to defeat a possible decision of the courts in this matter, should this injunction case have come up, the U. E. C. decided on an anticipatory counter move. The funds were placed by check in the hands of a party to act as trustee, and so leave the legal impression, should the eyes of the law look into the company coffers, that the U. E. C. had no available funds, it was supposed to be a smart trick. The doing enemies of the U. E. C. dropped their injunction intentions, partly for political reasons for the Mackintosh-McPherson majority elections were on and the existence of the money was forgotten.

Now there is renewed war, but this time within the ranks of the U. E. C. while its old enemies one looking on enjoying the struggle. The question is where is that money? The U. E. C. members want to see it with their own eyes. It is needed for the use of the company—and at once. It may be all right, but pertinent questions have been asked though under stress of strict secrecy. A committee has been appointed to hold an investigation and they are to have the cash within reasonable distance of their hands, or know the reason why. The matter is expected to come to head next Wednesday, and after that time others than the enemies of the U. E. C. may be watching a fight of considerable interest. Already some of the members do not 'speak as they pass by.'

AND BRUCE KNOWS IT ALL.

The Ubiquitous Bruce McDougall and his Testimony on "Booze."

At the inquest held at Moncton in the Meadow Brook tragedy this week two very important witnesses were called, viz. Dr. O. J. McCully gave evidence on "bones" and the effect of fire on human bones, and Mr. Bruce McDougall, gave evidence on "boozes" and its effect on the human system. To the average intelligent court spectator Mr. McDougall on booze, sounded much more topical than Prof McCully on bones. McDougall as a witness is hard to beat, he was on the witness stand all day and allowed the prosecuting attorney to thump away at him for all he was worth, while the witness sat with as much composure as though he were a Supreme Court Judge. He answered all the questions asked him with the shrewdness of an old attorney. McCully was very slow in his answers and often had to say "I don't know what this bone is, whether it is human or the foreleg of a quadruped." He was paid by the local government for giving his testimony, and he could afford to take his time.

Mr. Vadder's Clever Work.

Mr. Chas. F. Vadder, the lightning artist, who has been giving exhibitions at the exhibit of P. S. McNutt & Co. left for his home in Boston on Thursday afternoon. Mr. Vadder was the centre of attraction in the main building during exhibition. Specimens of his work will be found in most homes in St. John and are also largely circulated through the provinces. Mr. Vadder only worked seven days at the exhibition, and was constantly at work turning out first class hand paintings on an average of one a minute. His patience and pleasing manner have won for him many friends who be glad to see him on future occasions.

McArthur's for Dolls, Toys and Fancy Goods.

HOW THEY SAW THE FAIR

A HALIFAX MAN AND HIS SPOUSE DO THE CITY.

He Gets Some New Clothes and a Night's Lodging in Jail—His Wife Gets Gay and is Refused Admission to a North End Hotel—Other Matters.

A big affair like the exhibition brings to a city all types and classes of people and is productive of numerous incidents uncommon to ordinary every day life. Then too there is a sense of freedom when one reaches a strange city and if there is any inclination to a good time all restraint is thrown off and the good time is had, there being a feeling that those upon whom one may chance while in the whirl of enjoyment know not who you are nor will others be any the wiser, while those at home will be in blissful ignorance of all that may occur and are satisfied if they get a reasonable account of the visit.

One man who came to the exhibition brought up in Sheriff Rankins' hotel before he had been many days in town. It was all because of a little clothing bill—some \$30—owed to a King street clothing house. The limb of the law who sought to apprehend the party as he was about leaving the city to journey whence he came, found his task too difficult, for liberty was dear to the one sought for—and particularly so at that time. A policeman was summoned, however, and the refractory debtor was lodged in the debtors jail. He didn't remain long in custody for the ready was forthcoming and he paid the bill.

This one little incident does not by any means tell the whole story of his troubles and trials while here. When he came to St. John he was accompanied by his pretty wife. When he left he wasn't accompanied by her. They came here from Halifax, where he has been practising his profession—though he is not a native of that city, claiming a large United States city as his headquarters. After arrival in St. John, and before they had secured a boarding place, husband and wife became separated. He had been, like Dick Swiveller, "passing this rosy," a little too frequently and perhaps this may account for losing track of his wife.

However, that they did become separated is certain for at a rather late hour at night a coach rattled up to the door of an hotel situated on the road to North end and who should be inside but the professional man's wife and she, too, so the story goes, had also been imitating the example of the Mr. Swiveller before referred to. The hotel proprietor could not take her as a guest and she was left to the guidance of the coachman to find shelter from the September winds.

Coachmen do not tell tales—if they did many surprises would doubtless be given the public—and except perhaps to this particular job it is not known where the lady was driven this night after the hotelman's refusal to welcome her within his gates.

But a day or two later she was known to have been installed in a house in the same vicinity and one to which reference has before been made in these columns. Here she remained while her husband speeded back to Halifax town. All this time the lady's baggage lay in the baggage room in the Union depot uncalled for. But on Wednesday of this week it was found that her belongings had been taken away, by whom it is not known though it was learned that a large, rather good looking man had called at the baggage room for the luggage. This meagre description did not give much of a clue, but describes the husband, so that after separation in a strange city they were probably re-united and it is to be presumed spent the hours of their journey most entertainingly, relating their experiences. At first glance it looks as if the husband didn't have the best time.

THEY WERE NOT DRUGGED.

But Had Taken a Little too Much Wine With Former Friends.

There is a woman and daughter in this city who have figured a little before the public this week, and while not in the quiet way they are used to yet they have managed to be known a little better to their former friends who now think they have been nicely fooled. The startling announcement, at the first of the week, that two girls had been drugged in a house on St. David street aroused quiet a little excitement for the time, but the quiet way in which the affair has been dealt with, has kept the people from making further inquiries. It has turned out to be nothing more or less than a drunken spree and the gay young women had taken a little too much wine instead of being drugged.

The woman and daughter already spoken of are two stylish persons who have been in St. John for some time and who have been imposing on a certain church in this city for aid. Last winter the daughter was very ill and being a music teacher she was unable to attend to her pupils, and therefore the mother was compelled to ask for aid. She managed to

arouse the members of the church in mention and they were kept all through the winter in this manner. The daughter fully recovered and since then little has been heard from them until the fracas this week, when many things have leaked out that will be a warning to over credulous people in future.

MARITIME BOARD OF TRADE.

The Good that Will Result from the Late Provincial Meeting.

Representative business men of Nova Scotia met representative business men of St. John in this city at the Board of Trade rooms this week to discuss projects necessary to the future growth and progress of the provinces.

It was a sort of "Hands across the Bay" business—a general union of interest, good feeling and brotherly love—that brotherly love that has prevailed among merchants generally since the days of Tubal Cain—who was a merchant as well as blacksmith and who not only sold the spears he made, but made the spears he sold.

The meeting has been a grand one in more ways than one. It has brought some very able men to this city when St. John was at its best—arrayed in its best robes so to speak—prepared for the reception of visitors. The great exhibition in full blast; the hotels crowded, all the shops alive with buyers, the windows ablaze with costly wares—the best wealth could buy. It was a wise stroke of President Robertson and Secretary Cornwall to date the meeting at this time and some day these men will be honored not alone with addresses of congratulations as followed this week, but something more substantial.

It has been a grand thing for St. John, but what can be said of it from a Halifax standpoint? Much! Think of the opportunity thus afforded the visitors from Nova Scotia to get away for a few days from the cold and fog that is their never failing portion across the bay—and the golden opportunity they have had to learn of us, to examine our harbor, our homes, our hospitality—to drink in as it were all the beauties of communication with a people such as we are; and they enjoyed it—they said so. They will go home with clearer ideas of what we are, what we say, and how we say it—how we welcome visitors, and they will know that it is not exactly true that when the tides ebb the harbor invariably goes with them.

And St. John was pleased to have them—to keep them here for weeks in fact—would not mind it at all if they would decide to throw in their lot with us—remove Halifax over in the vicinity of Croucheville where there is room enough and to spare for that city and all the improvements that the much "speech thumper" Tupper secured.

What a glorious thing it would be for them, if they should come—and for St. John! The winter port question would be settled with a rush. Portland would have to take a back seat—the united influence of the two great Liverpools of America would be invincible. This matter was not suggested at the meeting of the board—but it will certainly be brought up at next session—and it would be a wise step if the Halifax board should in the interim take up the idea at its own meetings and get a plebiscite on it.

This union of the Board of Trade is a powerful lever for good. It has more influence than a local parliament because the men composing it are the business legislators of the country. Their suggestion must become law, because they are the outcome of views learned by a practical test with circumstances. The winter port was first broached in a Board of Trade meeting. The harbor improvements in this city first saw the light in a trade council; the arrangements of through freight orders on railways and steamers were first evolved in a trade meeting. So it has been—all business enterprises were first originated by the merchants and then made law by parliament, if necessary.

THE HUSBAND CAME BACK.

He Was Delighted With City Life and Was Loth to Leave It.

Among the many visitors to St. John during the week were a young man and his wife who came on the Shore Line Railway. After dutifully showing his better half about the buildings and taking in all the attractions of the exhibition the gentleman, with his wife, boarded the train on their homeward journey.

The wife is probably home by this time but the husband has not reached there yet, or at least had not, up to Thursday night for he still was about the city taking in the opera house amusement hall and, incidentally, another fun which might slip into his way. He didn't leave his spouse in the way usual at leave-taking; however, for he bought his ticket for home and boarded the train with her and was carried to the station. Perhaps she had kept too close an eye on him, but, however that may be, he won in the long run, for at Spruce Lake the downward special excursion train was met by the regular coming from St. Stephen. It was a matter of a very few seconds for him to betake himself from one train to the other. He did so and back to town he came while his wife journeyed homeward alone.