

# PROGRESS.

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## SECRET SCHOOL MOVES.

THE BOARD ASK FOR MR. JOHN MARCH'S RESIGNATION.

D. R. Jack Dropped From the Board by the Government and Mr. Baskin may be by the City—No Cause, or Reason Given Mr. March for his Notice.

This has been a week of surprises in school matters. For the past six months affairs scholastic have not been the most pleasant, but the climax was reached this week when a communication from the school board notified Mr. John March that his resignation of the superintendency would be cordially accepted. Mr. March did not view the matter in the same light however and refused to give up the office, asking in reply that the school board explain why they have taken such a step.

Coupled with this demand for resignation was the intelligence that the local government had dropped Mr. Jack from the position of trustee, and readers of the daily papers will recall the reasons which Mr. Jack gave the public why he was dismissed. The statement may have been very convincing and consoling to Mr. Jack but certainly it did not satisfy the citizens, and many who read Mr. Jack's eulogy of himself will consider that the government did very wrong in doing away with the services of such a paragon of virtues as Mr. Jack makes himself out to be.

But it is somewhat peculiar that while the citizens generally deplore the fact that the school board has dismissed Mr. March without cause or without stating a cause, it is yet to be learned that the public are in the least disturbed by Mr. Jack's setback.

Then in the midst of all comes the report from the aldermanic board that Mr. Baskin, who is the city council appointee, on the school board, is to be asked to give place to someone else, possibly a better man. The citizens, many of them, consider that Mr. Baskin has not done as much as he might have done and they are displeased with his actions in many cases. They consider that as he represented the citizens, that he is more culpable than others are for the blunders made and the injustices, calling them by no harsher name, committed by the board. He should have stood out strongly against any further extravagance, he should have fought against the iniquity of vacating the Leinster street school and perhaps forcing on the city an expensive lawsuit and injuring a church which placed itself under a heavy obligation after the great fire that the children of the central part of the city should have a decent and respectable place to go to school. The citizens think that Mr. Baskin could have prevented this had he tried. He could have opposed the plan of placing boys and girls in Victoria school—he could have objected against the extravagance displayed in the Aberdeen school building, and particularly he might have fought against its being located where it is. He was placed on the school board to safeguard the city and if he has been alive to his duty then he assuredly has no influence with the board and should be no longer retained in office; if he has been careless and inattentive then the school board is no place for him. One thing is sure and certain he is not at all satisfactory to a great many citizens and they do not hesitate to say so.

The next meeting of the city council will deal with the matter, and a man will be nominated and elected to the position who will try to introduce some reforms at the board.

Now that a crisis has been reached in school matters it would be wise on the part of the council to enquire into all the circumstances connected with the contracts for the new high school—an audit of the school accounts should also be demanded, and a general overhauling of school matters instituted.

But this cannot be done until the doors of the school board meetings are thrown open to the public through the press. The people now know nothing about the business of the board save what appears in the annual report and the sparse and carefully considered account that is prepared for the press. The objection to the presence of the press is that something may be discussed, such as qualifications of teachers, etc., which should not go to the public. Newspapers are not anxious to fill their space with such matters as that and their representatives are always ready to assent to a suggestion from the chairman when it is advisable to suppress dis-

cussion that may be injurious to anyone.

The March dismissal does not reflect the greatest credit upon the board. Mr. March has been in the service a quarter of a century and it was a most abrupt and unkind way to get rid of him by sending him a notice on Christmas eve requesting his resignation. After such length of service, an employee, and especially so responsible a one, has some rights, and they should have been respected. If the board considered that because bond forms were taken from the office and used for improper purposes while he was secretary some eight or nine years ago that the official was negligent, they should have said so, though now that he is simply superintendent it cannot be understood how such a charge could affect his present position. Perhaps the fact that he is not in sympathy with the present co-education plan which is an expensive pet idea of the present board may account in a measure for the action of that body. But at any rate Mr. March is in the dark, he has not been given a reason why his services are not wanted longer and so far as PROGRESS can learn he has not been given more than a week's notice. This paper has not always agreed with his methods or his management of the schools but of late years but little if any fault has been found with him and the cordial expressions from the daily press testify to his ability and his industry. This recognition of his services is a further reason why he is entitled to the fairest treatment from the school board.

Perhaps the reason for the action of the board towards Mr. March may be traced to the report that an action is to be brought by the Bank of New Brunswick against the Board for the amount of the interest coupon from the forged bond which the board has refused to pay. It is claimed that the board of trustees was negligent and that the bank has no right to lose under the circumstances.

### HE HAS A NEW LOCALITY.

A Young Fend Insults Several Ladies on the City Road.

With unfailing regularity a suspicious individual, usually characterized as the "ulster man", makes his appearance in different parts of the city. The latest addition to the ranks of these fiends has made his appearance on the city road, and surrounding neighborhood. Several ladies have been insulted by the wretch who from the description given appears to be not more than eighteen or nineteen years of age.

A few evenings ago a young lady residing in that part of the city was returning at a comparatively early hour from a call upon a relative in the same locality when she was accosted by the prowler who used the most vile language. The lady had no weapon with which to defend herself but she managed to fight him off until as they neared her residence he evidently became afraid of being caught for he left her and went back in the direction from which he had come. When the young lady reached home she became violently ill from the fright and nervous shock and a physician was summoned. At latest accounts she was still confined to the house.

A few nights before Christmas another lady in the same vicinity was insulted in a similar manner and only her fleetness of foot saved her from the villain's grasp.

It seems strange that things of this sort should occur two or three times a week without some clue being obtained as to the man's identity. It might be well for the police to have an eye upon the locality mentioned. It is said that another section from which questionable actions are reported is under police surveillance.

### ALDERMAN NEDDY'S RETORT.

He is Canvassing Industiously and Paying Compliments all Around.

HALIFAX, Dec. 31.—The city council meeting on Tuesday afternoon and evening was one of the liveliest for a long time. Ald "Neddy" O'Donnell, candidate for the mayoralty, was one of the chief speakers. One incident will show the style of proceedings. In the afternoon an alderman said "Neddy, you are a nuisance; you are a skunk."

This so took the breath from the ambitious alderman that he vouchsafed no reply. In the evening another alderman returned to the subject and said:

"O'Donnell, you know what you were told regarding yourself in the afternoon."

This time Edward was found on deck and he replied:

"Look to yourself; Hants county is the place for skunks, and you have not yet got clear of the odor."

## WHERE LOVE PREVAILS.

SOME CLERGYMEN WHO WORK IN CHRISTIAN HARMONY.

Halifax a City Where Clergymen Work Together for the Common Good of Humanity—Some of Them Cannot Exchange Pulpits But Can Exchange Other Courtesies.

HALIFAX, Dec. 30.—There is perhaps much of that denominational rivalry in Halifax which does more harm than good to the cause of religion, but there are many instances of a broader spirit.

It does not go so far as to allow a presbyterian or baptist minister to preach in a church of England pulpit, for that has been legislated against by the British Parliament and the statute has never been repealed; while anglican sentiment would hardly favor it anyway yet the broad spirit so far prevails that church of England ministers and those of other denominations do the next thing to exchanging pulpits; last Sunday afternoon Rev. N. I. Perry, assistant rector of St. Paul's, addressed the Sunday school of Fort Massey presbyterian church. He did this in company with two presbyterian clergymen Rev. R. A. Falconer and Rev. Mr. Morton. By the way, the pastor of Fort Massey and the assistant rector of St. Paul's are the closest of personal friends. The four young ministers mentioned in this connection must be choice spirits in the best sense. Long may such happy ecclesiastical and personal relations continue!

The commercial travellers always take the opportunity afforded by the Christmas season to hold some kind of festivity during their home coming, at Halifax. This year it was a smoking concert they held and a more successful "at home" it would be hard to imagine. The travellers and their friends numbered no less than 360 jolly fellows. Music, tobacco, conversation, and some other good things, were used by the company to make the "smoker" just what it should be in point of enjoyment. From 8 o'clock to midnight the "knights of the grip" had a very firm grip on pleasure. There was no fog outside, but within Maronic hall the air was so opaque with fumes of the weed that a St. John man might think he was in London or Halifax in the foggy season and a Halifax man might well dream that he had been transported to New Brunswick's metropolis or to the Strand when lanterns are needed at noonday. The travellers often have to rough it in the course of the long year, but they know how to get compensation out of life, and they showed they knew how to get the most fun and smoke out of the "at home" on Monday night.

### HE LOST HIS MAGIC LANTERN.

How a Halifax Clergyman was Rewarded for a Charitable Deed.

HALIFAX, Dec. 31.—Ministers generally are kind-hearted men and it is not always that they lose by their generosity. Rev. A. Hockin, methodist minister of this city is one of those kind-hearted men and today he is a considerable loser thereby. Some days ago a poor man, with whom Rev. Mr. Hockin had slim acquaintance, went to him with a tale of woe. He had no money and no work but thought that Mr. Hockin could set him on his feet. The way he proposed this should be done was for Mr. Hockin to lend him his \$80 stereopticon lantern, and he would go into the country, give shows and make money. The minister demurred about acceding to the request, but at length the poor man's pleadings were so pathetic that he acquiesced and loaned the lantern. Then a Mr. Hubley, in whose debt the poor man was, heard of this deal and determined on a bold line of action. He sent a bailiff and seized the lantern for the debt. Rev. Mr. Hall, who is Mr. Hubley's minister, went, it is said, to the creditor and explained the circumstances others did the same thing, but it was of no avail. Mr. Hubley sold the lantern and the minister was left almost as poor as his quondam suppliant.

Such an action as this is not a premium on the performance of a good deed but rather the opposite.

### A GRINDING MONOPOLY.

Which Controls Nearly Everything in Which the People are Interested.

HALIFAX, Dec. 31.—When C. C. Black, adar and George E. Boak were on the directorate of the old gas company they were charged with being members of a grinding monopoly. That company has become extinct but they are again directors in a monopoly greater and more grinding.

They are on the board of the people's heat and light company, or corporation which swallowed up the old concern. The same men control it who control the Dominion Coal Company and the Halifax Electric Tramway Company. These men own our coal, our city transportation, our gas and our electric light works, and they are seeking to conquer other, and perhaps get more important interests; in this connection the city council are taking steps to establish their own lighting plant.

### NOT A WARM CHRISTMAS.

Trinity Church Goes Found out How Cold the Day Was.

There have been freeze outs in various places but these have been in many cases figurative, but Trinity church, in this city, on Sabbath morning last had a freeze out that was the genuine article.

Archdeacon Brigstocke assisted by the Rev. Mr. Handford and Rev. Mr. Estough did their best to conduct the services in a manner consistent with the place and time but slowly and surely the mercury in the thermometer on the wall worked down lower and lower till the 55 point was reached.

Here the old people began to quietly work their feet into overshoes and rubbers for a cold damp breath like that said to presage Death came along the floor.

Slowly but more surely than before the mercury dropped till 45 was touched. Here there was a general hitching up of coat collars, coats were placed around necks again, hands were thrust deep into muff or pocket but still the mercury descended.

The preacher with a look on his face that said he was all unconscious of the difficulty continued his sermon, now gazing to the right then the left as though seeking the cause of so much frigidity.

But the eloquence of the sermon did not affect the thermometer in the least and it had now reached the 40 mark.

Here several put on their coats. Some bald-headed men rubbed the places 'where the hair ought to grow' and stared at each other as if awaiting a signal to put on their hats.

Thirty-eight degrees read the thermometer and flesh and blood could not stand it. A prominent hardware merchant of King street descended to the basement and attacked the furnace. No one knew whether the sexton had fallen into the fire or not, perhaps they were so cold they did not care—they were cold, there was a church full up stairs shivering and they concluded whether the sexton was dead or alive, to fire up.

But the merchant did not understand the combination and sent for his servant man, and now the mercury showed 34. Here a money broker descended to the cellar but do as they would the mercury held its own till the service was over.

### A KINDLY CHRISTMAS GREETING.

Miss Lawlor's Friends Remember Her During Her Illness.

Miss Lawlor has for some years been the leading soprano singer in the Cathedral choir. That she has admirably succeeded in securing for herself the good graces of the people was well proved on Christmas day. She was presented in appreciation of her services with a "Christmas Greeting" beautifully written on parchment, bound in rich green morocco and prettily finished with gilt. In addition to this was a more substantial token of esteem consisting of a purse well filled with gold. The following is a copy of the address:

DEAR MISS LAWLOR: It has long been in the minds and hearts of the many admirers of your happy talent and fidelity in singing the divine praises in the Cathedral to give you a testimonial of the esteem and admiration in which you are held. A difficulty arose as to the form the testimonial should take. The matter pending thus, one Sunday we missed the melody with which you so abundantly regaled us, and soon we learned with thrice saddened hearts that you were stricken down by a protracted illness, that your beautiful voice must for some time be stilled, that we will for a while miss you so much from the choir. Then difficulties vanished; kind hearts and willing hands set to work, and the testimonial spontaneously assumes the form of a Golden Xmas Greeting for 1896. Let every dollar be to you a token of admiration. Their number is limited indeed not by your merit, but by our means. We would they were ten times more, but we know you will accept our good will in your regard. We thank God that you have so wonderfully and quite completely recovered from your late illness, and pray that you may be long spared to your many friends and admirers. We wish you the compliments of this festive season in all their fullness, and its happy return fifty times and more.

Signed on behalf of the committee: B. A. STANTON, ANNIE McGUIRE, AUGUSTA COLL, ANNIE DILLON, ALICE REARDON, H. A. McGRATH, K. MCCARTHY, ANNIE SHARKEY, LIZZIE MCCARTHY. St. John, N. B., Dec. 24th, 1896.

## THOSE BYE LAWS LOST.

THERE WAS NO CERTIFIED COPY OF THE MARKET LAWS.

The Government and City Have Agreed Upon Amendments Which Will Satisfy Some and be Unsatisfactory to Others—Messrs. Dunn Bros. Still Sell.

Just how the affairs of the country market are managed is a question upon which the citizens in general would like to receive some information. At present the board of public safety which has to do with market matters is in the midst of a new amendment to the present bye law which provides that no firm shall employ an agent to sell their goods in the market. This section precluded firms such as Slipp & Flewelling, and others from doing any business whatever in the market. Dunn Bros. however continued to sell their wares through the medium of an agent thus causing no little amount of contention among the butchers and regular commission men who claimed that Dunn Bros. were acting in contravention to the law in this respect. The matter went further and finally it was decided to amend the law so as to allow Dunn Bros. to carry on their business. The new amendment was discussed by a committee of the city council and the provincial government. Several aldermen were appointed to represent the council and a meeting was arranged with the government. It was just here that some of the council authorities who wished to rush the bill through as quietly and as quickly as possible made a break which to say the least of it gave the whole affair a rather suspicious appearance. Among the aldermen who were to meet the government on the question was Ald. McPherson who it was known was strongly opposed to any change being made. In his opinion the market should only be used by countrymen, and legitimate commission dealers. His opinions on this matter were known to the other aldermen who desired the change made and they counted on opposition from him. At any rate he claims he was not notified when the committee met the government representatives and discussed market matters; as he had several important questions to bring up he was naturally highly indignant that he had been ignored and it is altogether probable he will not hesitate to speak his mind freely at the next council meeting.

One market matter brings up another and perhaps it would be just as well to inform St. John citizens why Messrs. Dunn Bros. have conducted a lucrative business in the market for some time without interference. Some months ago the firm was reported by the clerk of the market for violating the bye law. Day after day passed and there was no trial of their case which finally died a natural death. Just why they were not prosecuted furnished material for considerable speculation on the part of the general public. Many theories were advanced but none were clearly proven to be correct. It is known however that one of the reasons why the case was not pressed can be found in the fact that since the death of B. Lester Peters there has been no certified copy of the market byelaws. It appears that when a byelaw in reference to the market government is passed the regular copy must be returned to the common clerk of the city who must be in a position to swear that it is the identical certified copy. At present there is no certified copy and consequently all prosecutions that are made are illegal. This will probably come as a surprise to St. John citizens generally and particularly persons in the market who have from time to time been fined for minor offences and who if they were sufficiently posted could make things very interesting for the city in the way of a lawsuit. Meanwhile the business of the market goes regularly on, Dunn Bros. are still on top while the citizens are waiting eagerly for the next move in the case.

It must be borne in mind though that such market men as Dunn Bros. pay a large sum in fees toward the market revenue and that any change barring them from the market privileges would result in loss in that direction.

But PROGRESS understands since the above was written that no such move is likely but that the bye law will permit one firm to be represented in the market by a city agent, but that such an agent must not sell for more than one firm—in other words he cannot be a commission merchant.