

PROGRESS.

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ALD. CHRISTIE IS WARM.

HE DOES NOT AGREE WITH CITY ENGINEER PETERS.

A Discussion in Wharf Building by the Aldermen—The Engineer's Plans Thrown out and New Ones Called for—Alderman Robinson's Pertinent Inquiry Charms Them.

The meeting of the harbor improvement committee is something so remarkably jolly, companionable and humorous that the only wonder is that all the rate payers of the city do not take occasion to crowd to the doors every meeting of the committee.

Mayor Robertson, as his right, occupies the head of the table with clerk Wardrop on his left, the members of the committee occupying various positions all round the room. While the positions occupied are various, the men are various also, various in costume, complexion, style, speech, energy and ability.

There is the short broad form of Ald. McArthur and the tall, giant spare form of Ald. Stackhouse, while Ald. McGoldrick is a medium weight, and Ald. Wilson represents the bantams. Whiskers of all shades and cuts are seen and perhaps no committee that ever represented the city presented so many peculiar types of visage as the harbor committee of 1897.

What were they doing? They were discussing wharf building—that is they were telling Engineer Peters how the wharves at Sand Point should be built. Every man juked of these was a wharf builder and discussed cribs, batters, counterports, shelves, till the air had a salty taste, and even the clerks blotter had been turned into a miniature wharf.

It would be supposed that the engineer should decide what plan would be the best for the purpose of Sand Point, but no—his plan was laid on the table, all very neatly drawn in black and red—a plan that he said he would stake his reputation on—a wharf built after it would be fully capable of standing all strains that might come upon it.

Did the committee accept it? Oh, no. Each man had his own views, not one of them agreeing with Engineer Peters. That gentleman seeing how the tide was running quietly drew himself up into as small a compass as possible and henceforth took no part in the discussion.

The engineer's plan was for a wharf 43 ft. 6 inches wide at the base with counterports. All the committee, of the council denounced the counterports, and wanted something else. Dr. Christie wanted a wharf without counterports fifty feet wide on the base and the engineer was asked if he would assume responsibility for a wharf of that kind.

He refused to do so, but said it might stand all night, but he was not prepared to guarantee it.

This set matters going somewhat lively. There was a sound of revelry in the air—war was inevitable and Dr. Christie fired the first shot, by moving that the fifty foot wharf be accepted.

It passed unconsciously. Then the engineer was asked how soon he could make new plans according to Dr. Christie's motion, and said in about a fortnight.

This raised the doctor's ire. "You can make them in four days if you like," he said I can get them done in three days if necessary," said the alderman-physician, picking up his cap and gloves and stalking to the door and passing out into the street.

A hush fell upon the committee, a hush as of calamity—so long and intense that it was evident the council saw already in imagination the collapse of another wharf. The hush continued unbroken, till the voice of Engineer Peters broke the awful quiet by saying: "That's the way he always acts—that's the way he has treated me for a long time."

Then Ald. Waring arose to propose his plan of wharf building—that instead of three long wharves two of five hundred feet each should be built.

This alarmed the mayor for he saw at once that this was an innovation and would do complete destruction with all their former plans, including Dr. Christie's motion. Here was a dilemma but happily Ald. Waring, though determined that his plan of wharf building was superior to that of any other member, did not put it to a vote, and the city was saved.

Then Ald. Robinson asked a very pertinent question, that caused the aldermen to scratch their heads, elevate their eyebrows and look startled. Was the like ever heard of? When Engineer Peters

drew his plans they had been drawn to suit the timber ordered by the council sometime since. Would they suit the new wharf proposed by Dr. Christie? All hung on the words of Ald. Robinson when he enquired in accents that appeared unusually severe. "Will the timber suit the new wharf or will it be condemned, and be a loss to the city?"

When the full force of the question was noted, each alderman and his worship instinctively reached for his hat. They all knew that any further loss especially at this time when the election is so near would be fatal to them, and if the engineer's reply was in the affirmative they would get out of the room and not stay to further such a result. This was the way it appeared.

Luckily however the engineer replied: "Why the cribs will be the same size in the fifty foot wharf as in the 43 foot, and the lumber will do."

There was a very audible sigh of relief when this was heard and his worship asked Ald. Robinson "if that was satisfactory?"

"Very satisfactory, indeed," was the reply—a reply re-echoed by everyone in the room.

"Now" said his worship, "let us get down to work."

"That's what we've been trying to do," was a reply from someone. "That's so" was the general response.

Then the aldermen began to discuss the plans laid on the table by Engineer Peters. He had gone out for other plans but the office was locked and he could not get them, but brought others that gave a general idea of the work.

The word "counterports" was a great stumbling block to all the committee—some called it counterports, some counterports—some used the very expressive but not so classical word "jogs" and much time was lost in getting fully read up on the technical terms used by the engineer.

The meeting opened at three and it was now five o'clock, so the dial on the post office indicated, and a motion to adjourn was made and carried.

The meeting was over—and the members of it dispersed wondering what business had been done in the two hours thus spent and how much further the building of the wharf at Sand Point had to be pushed. They are wondering yet, and the question comes to the front how many meetings like this will be necessary before the wharves are completed.

DIFFICULTY OVER PAPERS.

The Constables Claim That They Can't get Them Signed.

It is not at all likely that their will be any more trouble with constables and papers in the city court. For some time citizens have complained to Magistrate Ritchie that constables, when they are given executions to serve do not take particular trouble to see that they are correctly served on the persons for whom they are intended. In many cases when a constable has a paper for a man his first step is in the direction of the man's house where he at once proceeds to serve it. If the man happens obligingly to be in at the particular moment when the constable calls the paper is served on him personally, but if by any means he should be away from home his wife is generally the recipient.

One of the conditions of the City Court is that in order to ensure that a case will be placed on the docket for Thursday the summonses have to be served and the returns made on the previous Tuesday. Where this rule is not complied with the case must stand over and be entered on the next week's docket.

The citizens claim that when a constable serves a paper on a man's wife she very often neglects to notify him until the time for his appearance has passed. Then again constables very often fail to make their returns in time and this also causes a delay. It very often happens that creditors who are prepared to contest their claims go to the city court on Thursday only to find after waiting some time that their cases will not come up for another week. They object, but it makes very little difference and so they are obliged to lose several hours every Thursday.

It was this state of things that led to the complaints that have been filed with the magistrate by angry creditors who are thoroughly disgusted with the methods of business employed by the constables.

His Honor considered the case carefully and brought the matter up on Thursday last when the court room was well filled

with interested persons including many constables. He severely censured the constables from the bench for their negligence and inattention to business and ordered them to be more prompt in their dealings in future. The constables took his honor's reproof with an apparent good grace but now they are wondering just where his authority to roast them comes in. They also charge him with negligence and say that he is to blame for a good deal of the delay on the grounds that they cannot get their papers signed in time. One constable in particular claims that he has visited the police court on Saturday afternoons to get papers signed only to be delayed until Monday morning by the magistrate's absence. This claim is not given much credence however as all who have had any business with the magistrate say he is ever ready to attend to his duties. At any rate it is sincerely hoped that his lecture of Thursday will have the desired effect as those who have to employ constables are very much dissatisfied and think that some solution should be found to the difficulty.

IT WILL BE A SUCCESS.

The Exhibition Commission are at Work on Plans.

HALIFAX, March 18.—The Nova Scotia provincial exhibition for 1897 is now a certainty, so far as determinations to hold it, and success of arrangements up to date, are concerned, the week beginning September 27 and ending October 2 will see the first exhibition held by the commission made up jointly of men appointed by the Farmers association, the city council and the local government. The prize list amounting to \$18,000 has been adopted. Any money prizes open to the competition of the world. The commission will try all it can to obtain many of the various side show attractions which have proved so strong a factor in fairs in other places.

The commission has had a tremendous fight to secure a site. Not so much to secure "a site," as to obtain control of the site on which they had set their hearts. This was the location which, good in other respects, was pre-eminently fitted for a race track, and a race track the commission made up their minds they would have. The legislative council made a sort of ambiguous amendment to the expropriation bill which throws some doubt on the legality of holding horse races during the fair while clearly prohibiting this except when the exhibition is on. The spectacle may therefore be introduced at the exhibition, not of horse races, but of events which may be described in some such way as this: "Horses which are said to be able to trot a mile in 2 30 will be tested at a certain hour. More than one horse will be tested at the same time. The public will be admitted to the test at 50 cents each." This may be something the way the commission will have to advertise their horse races on account of "the old ladies" in the upper chamber of the provincial legislature. As an illustration—the commission call that horse racing enthusiast, Ald. McFaldridge their speed judge.

With the exception of this race track amendment the commission came out of the site fight completely victorious. The old expropriation proceedings were found faulty by the supreme court and the commission was almost bowled out, when Attorney General Longley introduced a new act which specially expropriated the land required, the passage of the act being rendered more easy by the quiet little secret mission of Alderman Redden and Engineer Doane to Montreal to see President Gault of the Dominion Cotton mills company. Lawyer Harrington made a good fight for himself and his clients, but these have to go before the omnipotence of the provincial parliament and the influence of the exhibition commission.

They Deny all Rumors.

HALIFAX, March, 18.—The rumor of defalcations in one or two societies in this city by a certain member or members and ex-officers thereof have been the talk of the town this week. St. Mary's young men's society members deny that any such sum as \$2,000 has been taken or indeed that anything is gone, but many of them say that no one knows how the matter really stands. In the Charitable Irish society it is understood a promise has been made to return the couple of hundred dollars in question, while in the case of the estate talked about it is a matter for the parties themselves to settle as best they can. It is pleasing to know that St. Vincent de Paul Society has lost nothing. It is hoped that the statements made that everything will come out right in the other societies shall prove true, both for the sake of the accused and for the societies themselves. Let the best be looked for.

MR BURTON'S RETURN.

HE LEFT HERE LAST YEAR BUT DECIDED TO COME BACK.

When Detective Ring Impressed Upon Him the Necessity of Doing so—He was Very Popular With the Boys and Spent Money Freely in Different Ways.

Horace G. Burton a former resident of this city who found it convenient to leave for other fields in September last, is again with us. He returned on Wednesday last; not of his own accord 'tis true, but as a result of the great persuasive powers of Detective John Ring, which are very effective—especially when backed up by a warrant for arrest, as in this case.

Burton, who is in the vicinity of 35 years of age, came to this city a few years ago from Toronto Ont. and entered the employ of Messrs P. F. Collier & Co. the great New York publishing house as their confidential St. John agent. He was rather an attractive man, possessed of a very genial disposition, and as he was not afraid to spend a few dollars he soon became popular with the "boys." In addition to being popular he was a first class salesman and under his direction Messrs Collier's New Brunswick trade increased wonderfully. As he was paid a commission on all business done at this branch, besides his fixed salary, it will at once be seen that the increase of business also served to increase Mr. Burton's private purse to an appreciable extent. For a time all went well; business kept good and Collier & Co. were delighted with their clever clerk. The business was too quiet to suit Burton's tastes, however; he wanted excitement and he started in to get it as best he could.

After awhile one of the book-keepers in the head office of the company, in some manner discovered that sales to the amount of \$1800 which had been made in the St. John districts had not been accounted for. This aroused suspicion and an auditor was called in to examine Burton's accounts. As a result of the examination it was shown that in addition to the \$1800 Burton had taken \$340 sent to him from New York with which to pay the salaries of agents etc. and had appropriated it to his own use. The method of Burton's peculations was in itself peculiar. At first he embezzled small sums, not more than a few dollars at a time but as his needs became greater his appropriations proportionately increased. This was the existing condition of affairs on September 11th 1896. On that day Burton received a large cheque from the head office to be used in paying salaries; of this amount he pocketed \$529 49 which was sufficient to keep him going for a short time longer; one week later, came another cheque and this time the erring clerk had \$107 88.

On Sept. 25th another check was received and again was Burton's exchequer enriched by \$180.72. As soon as his latest speculations became known Burton left the city. Messrs Collier & Co. were indemnified for their loss by the American Guarantee Company which supplied the necessary security for Burton. It was decided however that the embezzler should be made an example of, and acting together the Guarantee company and Messrs Collier & Co., hired detectives and put them on his track. From this city he was traced to Montreal but managed to elude the police of Canada's metropolis and crossed the border to the United States, bringing up at Cleveland Ohio. Ere long he discovered that he had been tracked to Cleveland, Ohio, and left there going to Sandusky. His stay in that city was shortened much against his will, and he was obliged to seek a new field of labor. He then returned to Toronto where he for a time conducted an Employment Bureau. The police however were on the lookout for him and captured him. News of his arrest was wired to this city and Detective Ring was sent to bring him back. The detective and his prisoner left Montreal on Tuesday morning and arrived here the following day. Burton did not appear at all uneasy and is confident he can prove his innocence of all the charges lodged against him.

A Popular Clergyman.

HALIFAX, March 18.—The list of popular ministers in Halifax has changed within the past couple of months. A new star has come among us, and now the quartette is Rev. D. Hague, Rev. A. Gardier, Rev. F. H. Wright and Rev. Wm. Dobson. The last named is the star. He has not asked for any advertisement of this kind,

and perhaps would not like it, while perhaps he would. Anyway he is getting it, for when a man comes to one of the largest churches which under its former pastor, was never more than half filled, and in a couple of months makes such a reputation that it is every Sunday evening crowded to overflowing then he should have the benefit of the outside public knowing it. Such is what Rev. Mr. Dobson has done in Grafton street Methodist church, and he of right becomes one of "the big ministerial four" of Halifax.

THEIR CIVIC DIFFICULTIES.

Way Alderman Neddy O'Donnell Voted for the License.

HALIFAX, March 18.—According to the standard set up by Alderman Hubley there is only one "temperance" man in the city council, and that is himself. He is the only man who did not vote for some liquor license or other. Even Alderman Creighton was found voting for licenses once in a while at Monday's meeting, and what was equally strange—Alderman O'Donnell voted for two licenses in succession. By the way, an interesting feature of Ald. O'Donnell's vote for Major's and Crockett's licenses is said to be the reason it was given. The story goes that it was made conditional for the support of those men for one of the candidates in a coming aldermanic contest that the alderman should vote for the granting of these licenses. This being the case the city fathers who were posted in the little transaction took a lot of delight in putting Alderman O'Donnell clearly on record, when "names" were called for.

Ald. Hubley and O'Donnell generally manage to vote together but there were signs of disruption on Monday, for the two colleagues fell readily apart on one occasion, and on another also. Foster and Hubley failed very materially to see eye to eye.

The practical result of the meeting of the council was that licenses never before were so easily granted. The temperance people became tired after two sessions of the council and stayed away. The liquor men were not so readily played out and were there in force. Consequently it was as easy as rolling off a log to get a license. Aldermen who voted the orthodox temperance way at a former meeting, under the eye of temperance workers, when that gaze was removed, yielded to their filibustering tendencies and voted the licenses through without even winking. Ald. Hamilton, it seems, was quite right when he talked as he did on this peculiarity of some of the city fathers at the recent "temperance conference."

HOW THEY GOT THE LIQUOR.

McIntyre and Townshend Tell How the Officers got a Bottle of Ale.

Editor PROGRESS:—With your permission we desire to explain through your columns the dismissal of police officers Thorne and McConnell, at least to explain how it was that they secured liquor at our wholesale licensed premises on Nelson street last Saturday night.

On Saturday night last one of our employees, as usual, went to the warehouse to attend to fires for the night. The police officers seeing a light in the warehouse tried the door and finding it open walked in and, when they were in there they were handed a bottle of ale. In giving ale to the police officers our employee violated his instructions; as time and again he had been told that all the provisions of our wholesale license were to be carefully observed and that the Law was to be violated in no particular whatever.

Under the provisions of the Liquor License Act the action of our employee as described above made us violators of the Act and when a charge was made against us at the police court there was nothing for us to do but to plead guilty and pay the fine imposed, although as a matter of fact we were in no way responsible or to blame for the action of an employee who contrary to our positive instructions had committed the act which made us violators of the law. Our object has always been to observe the regulations in every particular and we greatly regret this unfortunate occurrence for which we are not responsible except as principal of the agent who did the illegal act.

McINTYRE & TOWNSEND.

ST. JOHN MARCH 17, 1897.

Officers Re-seated, Guns, Spint, Perforated Dural, 17 Waterloo.