

PROGRESS.

VOL. IX., NO. 463.

ST. JOHN, N. B., SATURDAY, APRIL 3, 1897.

PRICE FIVE CENTS

MEN WHO WANT OFFICES

THE CANDIDATES WHO ARE OUT AFTER CIVIC HONORS.

An Exciting Contest is Being Waged by the Various Seekers After City Offices—Arguments for and Against Some of the Mayoralty Men who are out.

The civic contest is on, there is no doubt about that—the air is full of it, and all sorts, and peculiarities, of canvasses are being made. Sand Point is being called into requisition for and against the present council. Some land the board to the skies for the progress that has been made by the city during the regime of Mayor Robertson and the advisory board—others condemn these men because of their attempt to extend and improve the general facilities of the harbor.

The change in the "Labor act" made some months since by the council, by the help of the local government, is also made to do duty pro and con. Some urge all the laborers of the city to condemn it, and oppose the men who made the change, while merchants and business men generally, and several labor societies say that the amended law has been in their interests, and undoubtedly in the interests of the city. They claim that as the law stood, it was no protection to the laborers because it was practically dead, unworkable; a very large threat that was only a threat and could not be put into execution. So far, there is therefore no apparent union among the workmen of the city to fight this law through the men who made the change.

Then there is the canvass made that the Board of Trade are bringing out men, and that they have an axe of some kind to grind and hence they are solicitous that all their men at the board should be returned. This is disputed by the board emphatically, and they say that never as a board society or association have they brought out a candidate, nor attempted in any way to control the civic legislation of St. John. They desire to see the work of harbor improvement completed and to this end are giving their time and influence—not that their own ends shall be served but that the whole city may be benefited by the work or wages that must flow to this city through the output of Sand Point.

Mayor Robertson, J. H. Hall, Edward Sears and C. McLaughlin are the only candidates in the field for Mayor, though at one time there were rumors of three others at least contesting the office. Dr. Berryman who made a strong showing as a possible candidate is evidently out of it altogether as his friends have stopped canvassing, and have apparently taken up the cudgels for McLaughlin.

This candidate is running strong without question, and will not be at the foot of the poll, if he does not lead. The defeat of last year under the circumstances has added to his supporters this year, because it was thought that he was more or less drawn into the fight though a misunderstanding as to whether Mayor Robertson would run or not. Had he been appraised last year that Mayor Robertson was in the field he would undoubtedly have refrained from running; but before he knew this his card had been issued and he could not but fight. That he did, and made a good showing. For this very reason he is having a strong support. He has also a large following who support him on personal grounds, claiming that he will fill the seat very acceptably.

Then all know the claims of the present Mayor on the city. It is needless to talk about them. He has held the office for three terms and is now asking a fourth. This, in the eyes of many, is the chief reason why he should not be returned, and it is a strong and very difficult canvass to score against. No matter how strong, how capable nor how well a man may have filled an office, in this democratic age, the people strenuously object to the least appearance of certain office being made life leases. This is the line of fight against the Mayor—but this friends claim for him that it would not be rate this year considering the Sand Point improvements to drop him.

Then there is a new man, and yet an old candidate—that is Mr. Edward Sears claims the mayor's seat because of what he considers his ability to fill the position fittingly and well, and because of his conduct in the past as an alderman. There is not the least doubt but that Mr. Sears is running strong—he has active workers for him all over the city and the general impression that he is a good fellow is doing considerable for him in the way of catching

votes. It is claimed also that he is not in pressing need of the salary attached to the office and will therefore guard the city treasury more closely than would a man who had to depend on the civic wages to pay his running expenses.

Then Mr. I. H. Hall is canvassing strong, and it is wonderful how many are falling to his side of the question. While he has no great claims to offer as to why he should defeat the other three, while he does not profess to be an economist, a wharf builder, a wire puller, an anti-labor man, or a general political strategist, he does claim that his services would be beneficial to the city, and if returned he promises to inaugurate an era of reform such as the city has not seen for years. This is a strong canvass yet a weak one. It would be strong if the people would believe it, but the people are slow to believe promises of economy. They have believed them in the past, and now when anyone talks "economy" they invariably turn to the tax sheets, to house rents, to water rates and the economist does not have a leg left to stand upon. Mr. Hall has had a large church following and will be in the ballot box somewhere when the votes are counted.

Those who shut out any of the four candidates as having no possible chance are deceiving themselves. Favorites are often left, and this may be the case at the coming election. Of the four men it is difficult to pick a winner, because of the many peculiar canvasses made, and the total lack of any very strong and all absorbing issue. It is a personal contest largely, and this makes it very difficult to judge.

Then comes the minor but none the less severely contested aldermanic fight. With the exception of Alderman Ruel and Wilson all the old board are in the fight, and such new men as J. Vanwart, A. W. Macrae, J. K. Dunlop, N. W. Brennan, Isaiah Holder, J. B. M. Baxter, W. D. Baskin are in the field and have their cards issued to the electors. There are others. It may be that R. C. Elkin will yet come out against Alderman McMullin, though the latter appears to be so strongly entrenched in the breasts of the people that no man can assail him and win. Mr. Elkin is a good man and has many friends, and against any others would make an extra fight. Some one is trying to work up a fight against Dr. Christie, but so far has only succeeded in forming a rumor. The rumor has not taken to itself bodily shape as yet, and doubtless will not, for the doctor is a fighter, and has a firm grasp on the seat—is a popular man in the city, makes a very satisfactory alderman, and has other attributes that make him a very hard man to butt against—to use a phrase more expressive than elegant.

Someone is also trying to get a man to fight Ald. Hamm. This looks like a forlorn hope also, and though several names are mentioned as of men ready to sacrifice themselves to get up a contest, yet no one believes that there will be any decided contest.

For aldermen at large McArthur, Purdy, and Harris Allan are the contestants, with the assurance that one must be beaten. The old men do not appear to be the least nervous or uneasy, and Mr. Allan does not say he is a sure winner. The impression appears to prevail that the old men will be returned, but appearances are deceptive, and it may be as in other cases that Mr. Allan may take his seat at the board.

The fight all along the line is in full swing, and it is believed that no other candidates than those mentioned will eventuate. The city is assured of a satisfactory board no matter how the fight goes.

KNEW ALL ABOUT SCIENCE.

Though He Was a Little Bit Rusty on Some Other Subjects.

A considerable amount of talk has been heard about the city during the last few days as to the way in which a certain school teacher, who has been slated for promotion by the school board, obtained his grammar school license. The teacher in question has had charge of one of the leading schools in the city for several years, and, yet strange to say, was not the holder of a grammar school license. The school trustees decided a few weeks ago to place him at the head of another school—a position that would naturally be supposed to require a teacher of more than the average scholastic attainments holding the best license attainable.

Mr. Blank was qualified to fill the bill as far as some branches of study were concerned, but in others he was rather

rusty. In order to secure a grammar school license it is necessary that the applicant pass in classics, science, and advanced mathematics. This gentleman did not care to do this, for while he is an exceptionally clever scholar in the second branch mentioned, and would probably pass with honors, he was not nearly so sure as to how he would stand in the others. He asked that a grammar school license be presented to him without the formality of passing an examination, but this could not be done.

He had however considerable political influence so arrangements were made with the Board of Education by which the teacher was to pass an examination in science and the other subjects were allowed to stand over. This arrangement was carried out and the teacher got his license even if there was no small amount of talk about it.

WHERE WILL THE LIBRARY BE?

A Number of Sites are Suggested by Those Interested.

St. John is to have a new public library which from all indications promises to be a credit both to the city and to its citizens. When the question of how best to commemorate the sixtieth anniversary of Her Majesty's reign in a manner that would at once be substantial, and would give future generations some tangible proof of the loyalty of St. John's citizens, was first taken up, various ideas were submitted. Some persons favored the erection of a library while others thought a cottage hospital would be about the proper thing. The supporters of the library idea were however in the majority and it was decided to celebrate the festive occasion by the erection of a new public library. After it was decided that a library should be built the next question that came up for discussion was where should it be built.

Several sites were proposed including the Sears property on the corner of German and Princess streets but as Mr. Sears wanted a \$10,000 consideration before he would hand his lots over to the city the idea was scouted as impossible. Finally Mr. J. R. Ruel, Mr. James Manchester and others came to the front and volunteered to give the Crookshank property on Chipman's hill to the city. The property is a good one and was purchased by the donors for \$3,600 who propose to spend \$1,500 more in fixing it up and ornamenting it in suitable manner. The lot is 161 by 200 feet and gives ample room for a fine building besides affording facilities for good light which is a most important requisite for a library. A meeting of the jubilee committee was held a few days ago when the offer was considered and discussed in a lively manner.

Some members of the committee thought a much better site would be found in some other portion of the city and offered a number of objections to the idea of accepting Mr. Ruel's generous offer. The Oddfellow's hall has since been mentioned as an ideal site for the library and it may be interesting to note that one of the most earnest promoters of this idea is a man who while a member of the city council is also interested in the Odd fellow's hall property. It is a well-known fact that of late years the renting of the rooms occupied by the grammar school, has been the chief source of income of the directors of the Oddfellow's hall property and as it is proposed to remove the grammar school into the new high school building after the summer holidays, it will be seen that the Oddfellows will lose a good tenant in the city schools, which it is known pay handsomely for the accommodation they receive. What a fine thing then it would be if the Oddfellows could sell their building to the city for use as a library just at the time when they would be most in need of the money! The rooms in the Oddfellow's hall are not very well suited to any other use than that to which they have been put and when the grammar school vacates, the property will be somewhat of a white elephant on the hands of the I. O. O. F.

It is quite natural then, that with visions of a depleted treasury staring them in the face, the directors of the company should exert every effort to effect a little deal with the city in which they would be gainers. The scheme has not as yet met with much favor however, and it is altogether probable that Mr. Ruel's offer will be thankfully accepted and that in the near future a handsome new library building will grace the old Crookshank lot. The lot has long been an eyesore to St. John people situated as it is in the very heart of the city and in its present condition is really out of keeping with its business-like surroundings.

SEEKING FOR REVENGE.

AN ANGRY NORTH END LOVER AND HIS UNGALLANT TACTICS.

Because His Lady Love Gave Him the Marble Heart he Tries to Injure Her Father by Having Him Dismissed From the Church of which he is in Charge.

When a young man quarrels with his best girl, and she throws him over in consequence, he does not as a general thing look for revenge or seek to injure other members of her family. Such was not the case however with a young North End man who a few months ago was engaged to be married to the daughter of an F. C. Baptist clergyman, also resident in the north end. The young gentleman had been keeping company with the clergyman's daughter for two years and they had reached that blissful stage when congratulations were in order, and the many friends of both parties expected to soon receive notice of their wedding. This state of things continued until last August when the young lady paid a visit to some of her lover's relatives who lived on the Long Reach. The young man, who for convenience sake will be called Frank, and who was attending a commercial school in Boston, also found it convenient to visit the Reach at the same time and for a few days he and his fair companion enjoyed many pleasant walks along the river banks and visited many charming spots.

It would naturally be supposed that under such favorable circumstances the young man's love affair would thrive, but this time general supposition was entirely different from the actual facts. The first few days of the visit passed pleasantly enough for both parties, but a change was at hand. Whether the young lady imagined that her Romeo was growing weary of her or whether she fancied he had been smitten with the charms of some rustic damsel is not known, but at any rate the young people had a serious quarrel, and the engagement was broken at once. The young lady returned to her father, and a few days later "Frank" followed her and spent the remainder of his vacation in the city. Time and again he visited his last love and endeavored to make explanation, but all in vain—she refused to be pacified, and he returned to Boston with his love affair in a tangle. When the Xmas vacation came round he again came to St. John and tried to straighten matters out, but with the same result.

His term at college expired a few weeks ago and on March 26th he came home.

Once more he visited his lady friend, only to find that her mind remained unchanged.

Then it was that he began to look for revenge. He knew of no way of accomplishing it, so he endeavored to injure her through her father. It appears that her father's tenure of office in the pastorate of his church expires in a few weeks so he waited upon the deacons of the church over which the rev. gentleman presides, and attempted to influence them against engaging their pastor for another term. Whether he succeeded or not remains as yet a mystery as the yearly business meeting of the church has not yet been held. Some of the deacons mentioned the matter however to their friends and as a natural consequence the pastor heard of it. He feels sorely grieved over the matter but rests secure in the belief that his fellow church workers will remain as faithful to him as they have been in the past and that little credence will be placed in the young man's story.

The development of the case is being awaited with interest not only by the members of the church but by others who have heard the story and who are unanimous in condemning the young man's action.

WHO WAS THE PATIENT.

His Friends Think It was not an Elderly Male Friend.

The friends of a prominent young medical man are having a little mild fun at his expense this week. It appears that the medico in question spends a good many of his evenings in a manner that has seemed rather mysterious to other members of his family. Last Sunday evening at the close of service in the church he attends his sister, approached him with a request to accompany her home as she had invited a number of young folks in for a little "sing." Several of the said young people were standing near and heard the young man's regrets expressed. He had, so he said, promised to call upon an elderly patient of

his who was recovering from an attack of grippe and whom he should have seen during the afternoon. With many promises to return home as soon as he could get away from his suffering friend he departed. The young lady's guests repaired to her residence and the evening passed so pleasantly and quickly, that the young doctor's long absence was unnoticed.

At a little after ten a move was made to adjourn, but as the party, eight or ten in number, reached the hall the "overworked" physician entered the front door, bright and smiling. He paused a moment to offer an apology for his unavoidable detention, and as he removed his hat a very broad smile, that soon deepened into a laugh, went round the group. The young man stammered in his speech, as the hilarity grew louder and he was about to retreat in high dudgeon when his sister called out "You've got the side combs in crooked."

A wild clutch for his hair revealed two pretty little silver topped combs nestling in his curly locks. The young man did not explain how they got there—it was sufficient to know that he had forgotten to remove them—and his friends think his elderly grip patient was in a very playful mood on that particular Sunday evening.

THE SOCIETY WAS ENRICHED.

By the Presence of Two Candidates on the Hunt for Votes.

The approaching civic election furnishes among other things many good stories which are already in circulation at the expense of one, or others of the various candidates. An especially good story is told of one of the candidates for civic honors who attended a meeting of a certain polymorphian club a few evenings ago with the intention of getting solid with some of the members. Arrived at the meeting place he was surprised and chagrined to find among the visitors a rival candidate whom he had vowed to defeat. However it was not good policy for him to show any ill feeling towards his opponent so the pair shook hands pleasantly and engaged in general conversation. The meeting opened and after the transaction of an amount of regular routine business the president of the organization called upon Ald. Blank for a speech. The alderman was only too ready to comply and delivered a telling address in the course of which he said he had always had the deepest regard for the association, and entertained the kindest feelings for every member present, etc. In conclusion he said he felt he must give them some tangible proof of his friendship and drawing a fat roll of bank notes from his pocket he handed the treasurer a crisp \$5 note telling him to place it to the society's credit. Then he took his seat confident in the belief that the \$5 had secured for him at least half a hundred votes among the men present. Then the meeting proceeded and several other gentlemen made speeches. After a while the president called upon Mr. Blank who was to oppose the alderman at election time. Ald. Blank's opponent took the platform, and for half an hour spoke with great eloquence. Nor did he stop at that for following the example of his predecessor he also enriched the organizations funds by a \$10 bill and after a triumphant glare at his opponent, took his seat. The event caused no small amount of talk among those present who had a hearty laugh at the alderman whose purse was evidently not as long as his rivals. The story was too good to keep and now when it is mentioned, to the victim he generally sets 'em up all round. He feels rather disappointed over the failure of his little stratagem, but declares he will get even before election day.

Wanted a Reformation.

HALIFAX, April 1.—Preston is a favorite resort on some Sundays in summer when young men who have no desire to attend church services in the city drive out to the darkey settlement to see a baptizing. The service in the city would need to be rather attractive in the city church to reach them, yet they go in great numbers to the poor colored brothers' baptizing. The colored man generally has an exciting time of it on account of these visits. There was a disturbance in a prayer meeting at Lake Loon, Preston, on a recent occasion, but it was not a son of Belial from the city who caused the trouble. It was one Joseph Grant, from those classic regions. Grant broke in during a prayer by the leader of the meeting with the strong assertion that that the leader was not fit to pray and that he had better purify his soul if not his body before attempting to lead another meeting. Magistrate Griffin fined Grant \$5 with \$3.75 costs for his temerity, even though he swore that he could bring gospel proof that the leader was not fit to pray or take charge in any way of a meeting.