

ST. JOHN, N. B., SATURDAY, JANUARY 30, 1897.

WORTHY ROYAL HONORS.

SOME MEN WHO ARE DESERVING OF JUBILEE DISTINCTION.

They may Perhaps be Knighted Next Spring When the Diamond Jubilee is Being Celebrated—Names of Those who Would Wear a Title with Dignity.

HALIFAX, Jan. 28.—Next summer is to be a glorious one in the way of celebrations in the British empire, but in no part of it will there be demonstrations, in proportion to population, greater than in Halifax. Here in this military town we will have a double celebration during the Queen's diamond jubilee and the middle of next June will see much out of the usual. Plans are already being matured for the celebration of the queen's diamond jubilee, and in addition to that arrangements are being made for a celebration of the 400th anniversary of the discovery of the mainland of America by Cabot. The Royal society of Canada will meet in Halifax on June 22nd and 23rd, and on those dates the memorable landing of Cabot, on Nova Scotia soil, will be commemorated. One feature of this celebration will be the laying of a suitable commemorative table in the province building. By the way, how many are there who know that in the year 1811, where it was completed our province building was the handsomest and most imposing public edifice on the continent of America.

It will be round the celebration of the Queen's diamond jubilee that most interest will centre. The people of Halifax are loyal, they love display and they know how to make such a success. In connection with this coming celebration there is one very interesting personal consideration to be looked at. It is the possibility of the conferring of imperial honors on the men to be most prominent in the celebration and on other public men. There were but few knightships at New Year's but there will likely be many next June when the diamond jubilee of Queen Victoria's long reign and the Cabot celebration will engage the attention of Her Majesty's subjects.

It is believed that the mayors of the principal cities will be knighted, and if so, what mayor more likely to receive the honor than his worship of Halifax, remembering the fact of the double importance of the celebration here on account of Cabot's discovery. There is little doubt that Mayor McPherson will be re-elected for another term, notwithstanding the candidature and canvassing of Alderman O'Donnell. In that event Mr. McPherson would of necessity take a very prominent part in whatever was going on next summer and his name would be in every one's mouth. What more natural then, than that the queen should hear of David McPherson, and that her majesty should say "Henceforth thou art Sir David McPherson!" The chances are that ere the days shall have reached their longest next summer that our worthy mayor will be "Sir David McPherson," the second of the name, though there was no relationship between the late Toronto Knight and the present chief magistrate of Halifax.

The premiers of provinces may also have a chance for a similar honor. In that case it would be, "Sir George Murray" at the head of affairs in Nova Scotia. Good-hearted, honest George Murray would wear the title with credit to himself and to his native Cape Breton, where Cabot first landed.

Of course some of our lieutenant governors will be knighted, and most certainly one most likely to receive the honor is Malachi Bowes Daly, lieutenant governor of this province. His father was a governor and Governor Daly is now serving his second term at government house. Sir Malachi Daly would sound well, and there is no man in Canada who would wear the title with greater dignity, and none whose knighting would please more of his fellow-subjects.

Hon. A. G. Jones, a tried and true liberal warhorse, in Nova Scotia and an ex-minister of the crown, is spoken of as likely to be made Sir Alfred Jones. Besides his former services to the country there is another immediate reason why Hon. Mr. Jones should be knighted, and this is his recent work as a member of the Pacific cable conference in London.

The other Canadian member of the cable conference was Dr. Sandford Fleming, who is already a C. M. G. and he stands a good chance of becoming Sir Sandford Fleming. Halifax and Ottawa would between them share the honor of

this knighthood for Dr. Fleming who keeps up an establishment at the federal capital in the winter lives in summer at Blenheim Lodge, on the shores of the Northwest arm.

This article is intended to show the jubilee and Cabot honors likely to come to Halifax and it would appear that a goodly number are claimed. Yet there is one more, and a loftier eminence than any other is anticipated for him. Sir Charles Tupper, Bart; it is believed "on the highest authority," will be raised to the peerage and made "Lord Tantram," from the famous marshes in his native Cumberland. It would be an enphonic name, and Sir Charles Tupper would wear the title with marked dignity. He has the wealth to sustain the honor and he has attained the position of an imperial statesman. Halifax would enjoy the honor to Sir Charles for every one knows that he began his public career by occupying the position of city medical officer, an office now held by Dr. Thomas Trenaman.

This ends the list of PROGRESS' predictions for imperial honors to Nova Scotians next summer. This paper does not insist on them, but thinks no mistake would be committed were each to be conferred.

HISTORY OF THE VIOLIN.

Its Form has Remained the Same Through Many Centuries.

The violin consists of three parts, the neck, the table and the sounding board. The strings are tuned in fifths, the compass of the instrument exceeding three octaves. The violin assumed its present shape in the beginning of the seventeenth century. Many attempts have been made to improve upon the original idea, but it is significant that the oldest violins are ever regarded as the best. The instruments manufactured by the Arnati, Stradivari and Guarnerius families, of Cremona, are especially celebrated.

Stradivari, or more properly, Antonio Stradivari, the great violin maker, was born in 1644 and died in 1737. Almost the whole of his life was passed in Cremona, Italy, where, in his gloomy workshop, he spent his days and most of his nights. He was in early life a workman in the violin factory of Amati, also a famous violin maker, and there learned his trade. Evidence of his workmanship is thought to appear in many of the Amati violins, which become the more valuable from that circumstance. The violins made by Stradivari in his prime differ in many particulars from those of previous makers. Though the differences, in themselves, seem trifling, the sum was sufficient to bring the violins of this celebrated maker into the highest repute, even in his own time, and no subsequent maker has been able to effect any improvement in the manufacture of this delicate instrument. The secret of the superior excellence of a genuine Stradivari violin is believed to be partly in the wood employed, partly in the outlines and partly in the varnish, said to be a secret composition. The greatest improvements he effected were in the bridge, which, before his time, was made almost at haphazard, and in fixing the exact shape of the sound holes and their position in the instrument. His violins, in his own time, were sold for four louis d'or, in England for £4. Nearly a thousand violins from his factory are known to exist, and he made a great many kits, lyres, mandolins, theorbes, lutes and guitars. His instruments are very unequal, some being too weak to bear the pressure of the bow in playing, but a genuine Stradivari, of good quality, has been known to change hands at from \$2,000 to \$4,000.

The name of Amati was borne by a large family of violinmakers at Cremona, in Italy, during the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. Cremona was at that time the heart of a rich agricultural district and had many wealthy churches and monasteries. It was, therefore, a great musical and artistic center, and for two centuries enjoyed almost a monopoly of the manufacture, not only of violins, but of violas, violoncellos, basses, mandolins, guitars and other stringed instruments. The Amatis were the founders of violin making in Cremona, and one of the most famous of the family was Nicola or Nicolo, Cremona continued to be famous for its violins till about 1760, the names of Stradivari, Guarneri, Landolfi and Sarafin being almost as famous as that of Amati. The value of the violin depends altogether on its qualities and in no degree on the name of the maker, nor on the ornamentation. There is a common superstition that every

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violin bearing the name of one of the great Cremona makers is a treasure from that circumstance alone, but the fact is that the violins of Cremona are very unequal, and while some are practically priceless, others are worthless save as curios; not a few, even of those made by Amati and Stradivari, being too weak to bear strain incident on the high pitch of the present day. Instances have been known of the violins of Amati and Stradivari changing hands at a price of several thousands of dollars, but such prices are dictated more by fancy than by the real merits of the violins.

Why, it may be asked, was the violin called a fiddle? The violin is said to be the modern form of the viola da braccio, a small viol supported on the arm. It differed from the true viol in having the back as well as the front arched in the number of strings and various technical points. Earlier than the viol were the troubadours' instruments, small bowed instruments known variously as geiges, crowds, rebecks and fiddles. They were rested on the shoulder and played with deeply curved bows and were much smaller than the modern violin. Originally they were so small that they produced only shrill notes, fit to accompany boys' voices; to get deeper tones for men's voices, larger instruments were used, and from them came the viols, and from the viols the violin was refined. The name fiddle, though now used almost always contemptuously or humorously, is the proper English name for the violin. The word comes from the middle Latin *vitula*, a fiddle, and it is found also in the Teutonic languages in various forms.

It is of interest to note that Thomas Jefferson, president of the United States, was a devoted fiddler. It is chronicled that he practiced the violin assiduously from boyhood, and became an excellent performer. Jefferson was present at many parties with his violin and participated in many informal musicales.

Paganini was the most remarkable genius with the violin that the world ever knew. His technique was something wonderful, but mere technique would never have accomplished the results he obtained, nor would it have thrown the musical world into spasms of admiration as he did. The accounts of his playing seem almost incredible. With the first note the audience was spellbound and remained so to the last. From the violin he drew tones which were unsuspected to exist and invented and played passages believed to be impossible. Moore said: "Paganini can play divinely, and does so for a minute or two, then come his tricks and surprises, his bow in convulsions, his enharmonics like the mewling of an expiring cat." The main technical features of Paganini's playing were his un-failing intonations his wonderful rapidity, and a command never equalled of harmonics and double harmonics. He was wonderfully tricky, however, and often accomplished effects not understood even by experts, by tuning his violin in a different manner from that usually employed. A certain trick passage running up two octaves while holding B flat, seems to be impossible to the ordinary violinist, but, it is said, by tuning a semitone higher the passage presents no unusual difficulty. He never allowed anyone to hear him tune his violin, and when professional people attempt to solve the problem of his playing by requesting him to play in private, he invariably contrived, in some way or other, to disappoint their expectations. The secret of his execution died with him, and he has never been equaled as a violinist.

FOUNTAIN SPRING—2 quart, in wood box, with 4 pipes (including vaginal irrigator) \$1.00. Postpaid to any part of Canada \$1.10. C. K. Snow, Druggist, St. John, N. B.

TO GIVE THE FISHES AIR.

The Various Methods Employed to Effect This End in Aquariums.

Fishes, like other animals, need air for their existence, and they find it in the waters they inhabit. All living waters contain more or less air; and when waters become stagnant and dead the fishes in it die. Water becomes aerated in various ways. A mountain stream, breaking over rocks and tumbling down in waterfalls, gathers air in its foam and spray. Rivers and lakes absorb air with its breaking waves.

In aquariums the water in the tanks is kept sweet by a constant inflow of new water, the surplus running off by an overflow pipe. There are some tanks in which the water is not removed except to supply that lost by evaporation, aeration in these tanks being produced by the introduction of just the right amount of plant life; but the greater number of tanks including usually all the larger tanks, are circulating tanks; they are kept sweet by the circulation of the water in them. It is customary to filter the water used in aquariums; that process, however, is no longer necessary with the salt water used in the aquarium in this city. The aquarium is in a building which stands at the edge of the bay, upon filled-in ground, and its salt water supply is obtained from a well sunk upon the premises; it is drawn through what is in effect a great natural filter.

It is a common practice in all large aquariums so to arrange the main supply pipes over the supply tanks that the water from the pipes shall fall through the air for a number of feet before reaching the surface of the water in the supply tanks. This is a simple and effective method of aeration: the water falling through the air carries more or less air with it into the body of water in the storage tank. Under ordinary weather conditions the natural aeration of the water, supplemented by that produced by the fall from the supply pipes into the supply tanks is sufficient for the wants of the fishes. Under some weather conditions, however, it is not sufficient, and then an added supply is desirable.

Sometimes it is necessary to shut off the circulation from the tanks in which the fishes are, and if the circulation is suspended for any considerable time it is necessary to use great care to preserve the life of the fishes. How long fishes would live in a circulating tank without any circulation would depend of course upon the size of the tank and the number of fishes in it. In tanks of ordinary size and containing an average number of fishes, the fishes, if uncared for, would exhaust the oxygen in two or three hours, or less. They would come nearer the surface and take air there, or try to, but they don't like air taken in that way, and they cannot live upon it; sooner or later they would turn over on their sides and die. When the supply is turned on again in a tank from which the circulation has been cut off the fishes gather around the intake pipe to bathe their gills in the life-sustaining new water.

There are various methods of aerating the water in the tanks during a suspension of circulation, or when the amount of air from ordinary sources in the water of tanks in circulation is insufficient for the welfare of the fishes. The artificial aeration of tanks out of circulation is, however, only a temporary expedient to carry the fishes more comfortably than would otherwise be possible through the period of temporary suspension; the vitality of the water and

the life of the fishes could not by these means alone be greatly prolonged.

Sometimes in the transportation of fishes in cans, when a fresh supply of water is not available, the waters in the cans is aerated by the very simple means of pumping from one can to the other with a pump designed for that purpose, or dipping it up and letting it fall back. One way of aerating water in aquarium tanks is by means of a bellows the nozzle of which is inserted in the water. By this method air may be forced to the bottom of a tank, but it is driven from the bellows in compact puffs, of which the water retains but little; it mostly comes out at the surface again in bubbles. By another system air is carried into the water in the tank through the water-supply pipe by means of an additional pipe. A little opening is made in the supply pipe, and in that opening is set a small glass tube. The water passing down the supply pipe into the tank draws air through the inset glass tube and carries it along into the water.

There are other methods of aeration in which compressed air is used. In one of these methods a pipette is drawn out to a fine point, which is fixed just above the surface of the water, half an inch or perhaps an inch from it. The column of air liberated through the small pipe penetrates the water to a considerable distance, and more or less of it is absorbed by the water. By the best method, which has been adopted by the Aquarium—a contract for the necessary fittings and appliances has just been made—compressed air is forced through supply pipes and allowed to escape through smaller pipes into the several tanks. By this system the air is usually delivered through short flexible rubber tubes having attached hard rubber ends with very fine openings to comminute the air; or the end of the soft rubber tube is plugged with some porous material, like basswood. Through this under pressure, the air is delivered so finely divided that it makes a beautiful light cloud of vapor in the water. The flow of air can be regulated at each separate tank, and it can be used, of course, in case of a suspension of circulation or to make up any deficiency in the current supply.—N. Y. Sun.

AERIAL NAVIGATION SOLVED.

German Scientist Claims He has Overcome Previous Difficulties.

Dr. Wolfert, the well-known German aeronaut, who for years has been trying to solve the problem of aerial navigation, now claims to have solved it with his new airship *Deutschland*, and to those who have seen him speed through the air in the *Deutschland* his claim seems to be well founded. The great difficulty hitherto has been to manufacture airships that could be steered in any direction; this difficult feat Dr. Wolfert claims to have accomplished. The question now is, can he also succeed in steering his airship through a storm and at any height from the ground? As five days and nights were occupied in filling the balloon (at the doctor's factory in Lehnberg this task could have been accomplished in an hour), much of the power was lost, and the vessel, which itself weighs 700 kilogrammes, was not in condition to carry Dr. Wolfert, who weighs 100 kilogrammes, the result being that G. Wirsum of Canstatt ascended in his stead and made the experiments. The airship is twenty-eight meters in length and eight and a half meters in diameter in the middle, and it is propelled by means of a ship's paddle, with two blades, which has a diameter of two and one-half meters. There is a second paddle under the gondola, which is used alike for the purpose of ascending and descending. These paddles make about 500 revolutions to the minute. The gondola, which is four meters long and made of bamboo, is firmly fastened to the balloon. How it is fastened is a secret which Dr. Wolfert keeps carefully to himself. He intends to make another ascent in the near future, and he hopes to be able to prove the practical utility of his new airship.