

PROGRESS.

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ABOUT THAT APOLOGY.

WHICH DIRECTOR SMITH WAS ASKED FOR THIS WEEK.

BY Messrs. Peters—The Facts of the Case as Understood by the City—The Contractors Acted With Great Promptness and Refused City Orders.

The war of words and letters over the Peters oat contract is not ended yet and aldermen are talking about it and arguing about it at all times. Perhaps the most extraordinary feature of the case was the demand for an apology from the Director of Public Works, A. Chipman Smith, which was made by the Messrs. Peters and read before the board one day this week. Mr. Smith did not hurry off to the wharf and get on his knees when he heard of this but he said nothing for the good reason that he was in the circuit court room watching the case of Thompson against the city. If he had been present he might have told the Aldermen that the affair occurred something after this fashion.

The Messrs. Peters have the contract for supplying oats to the city and the corporation needs eat about 2500 bushels of oats in a year. So it will be seen that the order is worth getting and figuring closely upon. When the tenders went in oats were lower than they are now the difference being about three cents per bushel. It was about the first of the month that Director Smith instructed Mr. Martin to get 200 bushels of oats for the department on account of Messrs. Peters' contract. The oats were sent up promptly and the first imitation that Mr. Smith had that they were not satisfactory came from the stable men who complained of them. Then they were examined and in the opinion of those who should know they did not come up to the sample furnished with the tender. And so the Messrs. Peters were notified. They were not pleased, naturally, and became so warm over the matter that they sent to the department stables for the grain. In the meantime Alderman Hamm who feeds so many good horses and should be an excellent judge of grain assured the director that the oats were as good as could be got this year as the crop was not up to the usual standard of quality. Then upon the assurance of Alderman Hamm that he would take the responsibility the director telephoned the stable men to take delivery of the oats. But they had been carted away by Messrs. Peters.

As horses cannot get along very well without oats Messrs. Peters were requested to send up 50 bushels but the answer came back with an emphatic "no." Then the recorder was interviewed and he instructed the director to notify the contractors, Messrs. Peters that since they had refused to supply the oats the city would buy the grain at the best market price and charge them with any difference in that and their tender.

Then Mr. Martin was sent again and instructed to buy the oats from Messrs. Peters but they very curtly refused to sell the corporation an oat. And so the matter stands.

AND THE OAT WAS SEIZED.

A Sharp Lawyer Makes Things Unpleasant for a Poor Man.

If the reports which are heard of late in connection with an eviction case on Strait Shore are true, surely the church society which it is claimed has been the oppressor has forfeited no little amount of its good reputation and surrendered to other than charitable inducements despite the fact that they are known as a Christian body and one of charitable calling.

A man who has of late years not only suffered the loss of his wife, but also some five or six children, has been living in a little broken down shanty on Strait Shore eking out a scant living by selling wood. He himself is a cripple and an additional affliction is a blind eye.

A former agent of the property owning church society allowed the widower and his impoverished family their rent free in order that the property and land might be kept in good shape with the hope presumably that some day the whole affair would be sold en bloc. An element of charity is also quite permissible in this act as the agent in question is a gentleman of highly philanthropic ideas, and what's more he practices them.

The agency of the church society's lands and estates changed hands, a well known city barrister prominent in church business affairs assuming the duties of manager. He, one day some time ago, called at the

humble home of the widower and told him the church society had decided that rent must be paid for the use of the dilapidated premises. Rather than suffer for the want of shelter, no matter how scant, the crippled man begged to be allowed to stay but not until he offered to pay \$1.50 per month was his request granted.

One month's rent was paid but six weeks elapsed before the next installment was forthcoming. The man lay ill in his home, the neighbours and a few poor but charitable friends supplying him and his children with their daily food. Finally a relative in St. Martins found out the poor man's case and drove into the city for him. The children and their parent were removed to a more comfortable home in the country and will remain there at least for the winter months.

Before leaving, permission was given a kind neighbour to shelter his calf in the rickety old barn. A few days since Constable Wiley and the ecclesiastical—legal man levied on the poor little animal for rent owed by the widower. Its owner offered to pay the absent man's indebtedness but with a lot of humming and hawing the constable and lawyer dickered.

Measures were brought to bear and they had to surrender the live veal, when the rent was paid.

AN AUTHORESS PUBLISHED.

Mrs. Marter—nee Miss May Leonard to the Front Again.

In the good old days of this city it was not an unusual thing to see domestic infelicity advertised through the medium of the newspapers. When some unfortunate spouse found that his wife was unfaithful and had proved untrue to her solemn promise at the altar of obedience and devotion it was customary for him to advise the public that they had separated and that he was no longer responsible for her debts. Thus though he might not for sometime be able to heal his wounded pride and dignity or restore the scattered feathers to his cheerless hearth he might at least protect and cherish his purse. And thus too in order to protect the aforesaid purse he seemed disposed to submit to the laceration which the increased publicity of his domestic irritation inflicted.

Very recently this custom of a generation or two ago was revived under very peculiar circumstances and the people who read the papers have seen a notice in them to this effect:

My wife May Leonard Marter, having left my home and refusing to return and live with me, I hereby give notice to all persons not to give her goods, board or supplies on my credit, as I will not be responsible for same.

Dated at St. John, N. B., 8th December, A. D. 1897.

W. B. MARTER.

Mr. Marter is well known in this city; being clerk with Mr. C. A. Belyea, barrister and attorney of this city, and also as the owner of considerable real estate. Mrs. Marter is also well known as a young lady of a sufficiently romantic turn of mind to write two touching romances—"Trixie's Inheritance" and "Zoe; or Some Day," copies of which she sent to the Queen clothed in rich morocco. Her own romance commenced when Mr. Marter assumed the role of knight errant and sued for her hand. He was successful; they were married and lived in mutual felicity.

Now comes the culmination of the romance. Last summer Mr. Marter was taken down with typhoid fever and was ill for a long time. Mrs. Marter appears to have taken fright and abandoned her post of duty at her husband's side. She went down to Pagan Place, her aforesaid residence, to live with her aunt and contented herself with passing notes under the door to her husband. She remained away all through some months and the sick man was cared for by his mother.

Mr. Marter now contemplates assuaging his grief by dissipating in the champagne air and amber sunsets of southern climes hoping to be thereby restored to his wonted good spirits.

The Jews in Fredericton.

Some foreigners have lately opened up a large ready-made clothing and general dry-goods store in the celestial city, which they advertise as the "Klondyke." The prices at which they are offering their goods are said to be so low that the people are amazed, and in consequence the new comers are having a continual rush. Their receipts for one day last week it is understood, were in the vicinity of six hundred dollars. But it appears that Fredericton people don't want their goods at low prices, nor do they want outsiders to

come in; for the papers say, that at the last meeting of the civic board a motion was made to tax all persons coming into Fredericton to do a commercial business, \$50 a week. This, it is understood is aimed at the new concern, but the fact that, (although a few local merchants may have to mark their goods down) the working class are able to buy their goods at less than half price, does not appear to be considered by the city fathers.

THE BOYS ARE IN CLOVER.

The New High School and Its Advantages for Pupils.

A new era has been ushered in in the history of school education in St. John by the public opening of the new High School yesterday. The city now has a high school equal to if not better than any public school in the Maritime Provinces. It is certainly better housed and its efficiency, when thoroughly organized, will be at least equal to that of the best Nova Scotia county academies at Pictou, Halifax, Truro, Amherst and Yarmouth.

The new school is all the more a matter of congratulation for the citizens of St. John when it is compared with previous high school conditions. The Victoria school was efficient certainly but the grammar school was handicapped by its location and was inefficient with respect to discipline, and in other ways.

The new building presents a handsome appearance with its magnificent facade, composite roof, expansive entrance adorned with ornate pillars and terraced front. It is now one of the handsomest public buildings in St. John and its interior arrangements are in keeping with its exterior attractiveness.

Spacious corridors traverse the length of the building and, like the rooms, are sheathed with light wood on walls and ceiling. The rooms afford every facility to teachers and students for good work being large and airy and ventilated according to the most modern system. The ventilation is by forced draught, fresh air being driven into the rooms by a mammoth fan in the cellar the whole time and in whatever proportions of hot and cold air are required. Thus at the closing of the school there is no trace of the school room smell and the air is as pure as when school opened.

On the top flat is the spacious assembly room where the dedicatory exercises were held yesterday. It is provided with a large platform and will seat several hundred persons. Here every Monday morning after the holidays, as is done in the schools of Boston and other centres of education, the pupils will assemble to open the week's work with prayers and school singing.

The staff of the high school is most efficient and the discipline is such that there is perfect order and the fullest attention to work. A kindly but firm rule is the order there and the pupils become interested in their work. It may be expected that in future there will be more ambition among the young men and young ladies to pursue their studies at the high schools of learning and the high school should become a valuable feeder to the university of New Brunswick and other institutions. In the past St. John has not sent as many students to the colleges as she should but this may now be remedied.

The work of organization of the school is not quite complete and Dr. Bridges intends to introduce innovations and improvements as occasion demands and the time ripens. There is no XIth grade this year but it is expected to have a fairly good sized class in this grade next year drawn from the half a hundred students in the XIth grade and graduates of the XIIth will be admitted to the sophomore year at the colleges.

It is a delight to go to such a school as the High school, where the quarters are so comfortable and where there is every inducement to study and the old boys of the grammar school will regret that they were born so soon and did not enjoy the present day advantages. The school is now so popular that there are 480 pupils enrolled and in the high school grades there are about 325, which is certainly much greater than the Grammar school and high school grades of the Victoria school had.

"Progress" in Demand.

PROGRESS took a big jump last Saturday—several hundred extras being required to supply the demand. This goes to prove that original and spicy articles are what the people want; and these, PROGRESS will aim to give them.

CHANCE TO MAKE MONEY

FINANCIERS CAN BUY OUT MONCTON'S STREET RAILWAY.

If all That is Said is True—It is Hibernating for a Few Months—The Advantages and Disadvantages of Such an Unusual Movement—An Obituary Notice.

MONCTON, Dec 15—After a troubled existence of something like fifteen months, during which it has maintained a gallant though unequal struggle for existence, the Moncton Electric Street Railway passed quietly away last Saturday evening at its usual hour for retiring. The end was peaceful in the extreme, as the constitution of the moribund had become so weakened from inanition, as to be incapable of further resistance to the inevitable. The event was not by any means unexpected, the deceased having been in failing health for some months, and though its guardians the directors and shareholders have announced that it is merely a case of hibernation, the railway having only retired for a long winter sleep, the majority of the people seem convinced that the worst has happened and it would be idle to inscribe the touching word "Resurgam" over the door of the silent power house. To quote the obituary poet—

Dear railway we have lost thee
No more thy cars we'll see,
And the motorman who bossed thee
Has gone alas, from we.
No more his merry prattle,
Will charm our longing ears,
He has given up the battle,
And the mote no longer steers!
But in the brighter city
Of his own dear Boston Mass.,
He doubtless guides a street car
With the aisles too full to pass.

There is some talk of interring the deceased in the rural cemetery, but the date of the funeral has not yet been decided upon.

The above paragraph tells its own sad tale! The street railway is already a thing of the past, and people who like to take their time in crossing the street need no longer feel nervous as to the time the last car passed or the next one is due, while the canine citizen can take his daily strolls and settle affairs of honor with other gentlemen of the canine persuasion, in the middle of the street, without being in danger of having his career brought to a sudden close. Once more the horny handed son of toil who resides either in the impenetrable fastnesses of the Lutes Mountains, or on the arid plains of Irish-town, can bring his spanking team into the city with a load of potatoes, or a half cord of wood, without taking his life in his hands, through the irresistible impulse to either steeple chase across country, or else lean back and sit down on him, which seized the said team every time a street car came whizzing by. The cats who reside in the suburban districts will be able to begin their concerts on the back fence some hours earlier than formerly, since the proceedings will no longer be interrupted periodically by the motorman's gong and the people who refused to invest any money in the enterprise and have never patronized it to the extent of a dollar since it has opened, will be able to say "I told you how it would be." These, will no doubt rejoice exceedingly, but to the more public spirited and enterprising citizens the closing down of the street railway is a most regrettable circumstance, proclaiming, as it does to the world at large that we are not sufficiently advanced to support an institution which smaller cities have found a necessity; or possessed of enough municipal pride to make one effort to retain it when the fact became apparent some months ago that the stockholders were losing money and would be compelled to close down, unless the business outlook improved. It is not exactly fair, however, to place all the blame on the citizens, as the real fault seems to be the very circumscribed area which the street railway embraces. The circuit is far too small to pay at all well, and it has been the experience of other street railway companies that a belt line, consisting merely of a city circuit, never really pays; it fails to reach a sufficiently large number of people. For example, to the resident of Weldon street, who is in a hurry to reach the post-office, the street car is a great boon, since he can catch it at his door, and reach his destination in a few minutes. The lady who resides on King street, and is in a hurry to reach the railway station, also finds the railway a great convenience and uses it frequently, but to the great majority of citizens living on the residential streets the cars are prac-

tically useless, and it takes really less time to walk to their destination, than to wait for a car, and then be only able to go part of the way to their destination. It does not seem worth while to take the trouble of stopping a car, getting on and off, and paying five cents for the sake of riding a few blocks, especially when one has got as much into the habit of walking as we have; and as for taking the cars for pleasure, who would care to travel around in such a small circle that they were in danger of growing dizzy, just for fun? To the comparatively few people who have used the railway frequently, and grown to regard it as a necessity, its closing will be a great inconvenience, and it will seem a great hardship that those who have always patronized it generously should have to suffer for those who have proved themselves so indifferent to its success. But they need not be without comfort, for it is understood that the company intend resuming business in the spring, and building sufficient extensions to place the road on a solid paying basis. Branches running to the rural cemetery, Sunnybrae, Lewisville and Humphrey's are contemplated, provided the company receive sufficient encouragement from the citizens to warrant the expenditure, and it is hoped that with such improvements the stockholders will no longer have reason to repent of their confidence in the Moncton public. But meanwhile the streets seem very silent without the clang of the electric gong, and very much deserted since the gay little cars have ceased to bustle and whizz along the streets, while the late patrons of the road are emulating Ananias in their efforts to give plausible excuses to inquiring strangers for the absence of the much boasted electric car from the streets of the railway metropolis.

P. S. It is understood that the admirers of the big Yankee motorman, who has already become one of our local celebrities have petitioned the company to put him on board wages in order to retain his services when the spring comes.

HE ONLY THING A KISS.

A High School Lad and his Fracture of the Skull.

A kiss, not the real genuine article but simply an ordinary thrown speculation has cost a High School pupil what most people would call a pronounced dishonor but what seems generally termed among the rising generation nowadays as a "snap"; i.e.—suspension from school for a certain period. It was this way.

A tall, bright-faced lad not overly diligent in his studies but fully up to what is constantly going on around him was attracted one day last week by the sound of gentle rapping at the school room door. His other mates heard the summons also and raising their heads from their work watched their teacher open the portal.

A well-known city young lady wished to speak to her brother and while the teacher was acquainting the curly-headed lad of this fact, our hero gallant ventured to hurl a kiss at the pretty Miss in the hall. The deed was not done unwittingly. A school master's regulation ire and righteous indignation was kindled. Summary dealings followed, in dizzy succession and a desk-top court was held.

Poor boy! he was sentenced to dismissal until after the Christmas holidays and he now roams the streets "sorrowfully" taking in all the pleasant sights attendant upon this joyous season of the year.

A Hat That Was In It.

A story is told of a fishing party of three who, went for as much game and fun as was to be had in the shoot time at their disposal. Two of the trio wore the oldest and most disreputable hats in their possession, but the third unluckily did not take this precaution. In some way after the luncheon was over the hat's became mixed and the owner of an old "drier" unconsciously sported the good Oxford of his friend. In the exchange of compliments that followed the owner of the good hat kept out of the males and watched the others have some fun with the hat they wore. The expression of his face when he discovered that his own good head covering was reduced to pulp is said to have been worth \$3. But the joke was so good that he had to laugh and enjoy it.

Notice to Correspondents.

As Christmas Day this year falls on Saturday PROGRESS will be published a day earlier, and correspondents will please read their letters a day earlier than usual.