

# PROGRESS.

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## WAS THERE A MISTAKE?

THE NAMES OF TWO PLUMBERS MIXED ON A BIG CONTRACT.

Specifications Sent to Thomas Campbell Instead of P. Campbell & Co.—Mr. Doody Stops Work, on Account of the Error it is Said—What Will the Outcome Be.

There has been a flurry over an I. C. R., contract and it concerns those people who are noted for their long bills, the plumbing fraternity.

Eighteen months ago Messrs. Rhodes, Curry & Co of Amherst got the contract under tory regime for the New I. C. R., station at Moncton and they let out the plumbing to a Moncton sub-contractor for something like \$6,500.

But a few months ago there was a change in the arrangement and the firm invited further tenders. As usual in political contracts there was not a general invitation to contractors to make their offer, but the favored only were invited. Messrs. J. H. Doody and P. Campbell & Co., of this city were among those who received the verbal or written hint. The latter firm received both a verbal and a written invitation to send in a tender, the invite being accompanied by the intimation that he and Mr. Doody were the only firms favored in this city.

Mr. Campbell replied and was expecting plans and specifications daily. But the letter that he longed for never came, and the time required for tendering passed by without receiving these necessary documents. Then he made enquiries and found that the answer to his communication to the railway department at Moncton had gone to his brother plumber, Thos. Campbell, and the latter had sent in a tender. It was a strange mistake to make, and how it happened is a mystery. But there is a greater mystery. The plumbing specifications had not been altered greatly from last year, and while the lowest tender had been \$6,000 or \$7,000 Mr. Doody was able to put in the lowest tender it is said, at \$11,000 or 12,000 meaning a good round profit for himself. How it is that no one tendered under that figure is peculiar.

Government tenders and contracts are, like the Heathen Chinese, peculiar and frequently they are tenders in name only, the thing being really arranged beforehand, the rivals to the successful tenderer putting in fancy figures with the expectation of getting their turn and a fancy profit next time.

On account of this mis-carriage of the letter, and the fore-stalling of Peter Campbell by his namesake Thomas, it is said that Mr. Doody has stopped work and the matter may be reopened, though Mr. Doody states that he has not thrown up the contract but will resume work. Mr. Blair, it is said, has the matter in hand to consider the claims of the parties concerned and to decide how the difficulty may be amicably settled.

## A BIG BILL OF COSTS.

The Arbitrators Held Many Meetings but Will Be Well Paid.

After mature deliberation the arbitrators have presented their report on the valuation of the street railway company's property. Mr. Geo. McAvity occupied the position of mediator between Mr. Lockhart, the city's appointee, and Hon. L. J. Tweedie, the railway company's appointee, and it is reported that he succeeded in pulling down the former's figure somewhat but could not pull up the dead low water figure of Mr. Tweedie, which was many thousands beneath Mr. Lockhart's valuation. The result was Mr. Tweedie did not sign the assessment. The figures of the assessment have appeared in the daily papers, but a comparison of the taxes that the company were assessed by the city and by the arbitrators has not appeared. In 1895, before they bought in the gas company, they were assessed \$5,110. The arbitrators assessment was \$4,097, over 1000 less. In 1896 the city assessment was \$9,022.80. The arbitrators assessment is \$8,009.18 again over \$1000 less. The city assessment for 1897 is \$9,782 which the arbitrators had nothing to do with.

The arbitrators held about two dozen morning and afternoon sessions, and they paid themselves \$350 each or about \$15 a session which is average pay as these things go. The total costs are over \$1400, the city and street railway company each paying half. Beside this each corporation pays its counsel fee, Recorder Skinner will

probably have a bill of about \$300 so that a thousand dollar bill will probably pay the expenses of the city.

## HE ENTERTAINED MANY FRIENDS.

Mr. A. W. Myers Plays the Part of Host at Lang's Restaurant.

A dozen or more citizens and press representatives received a cordial invitation from Mr. A. W. Myers Wednesday evening to join him at supper at Lang's restaurant. Everybody responded and for two or three hours enjoyed a splendid repast and listened to the kindly remarks that were made in the varied replies to the several toasts.

Mr. Myers has been in St. John for some time and he hopes to become a permanent resident. He has met a good many citizens who have from time to time extended a cordial welcome to him and as some slight appreciation of this fact the happy idea of a social gathering about the banquet board suggested itself to him.

When the supper was served the portly form of the host was discovered at the head of the table with Alderman McGoldrick and Mr. Oscar Silverstein upon his right and Mr. D. W. McCormick, proprietor of the Victoria hotel, and Ex-alderman Edward Sears upon his left. The leisurely discussion of the viands that followed did justice to the excellent cookery and the varied menu. Then when toast making was the order of the evening that to the host came duly in order and was responded to happily and appropriately by Mr. Myers, who took the opportunity to thank all his friends for the kind way they had made him and his welcome to this city. Amid much laughter he attempted to disrobe the many and varied forms of taxation an auctioneer stranger had to undergo here but he found no fault with that, as, wherever he had ever been he had had to pay his way and expected to at all times. He made some courteous remarks about civic treatment which finally brought Alderman McGoldrick to his feet, and those present listened to as good a speech as that gentleman ever delivered. He talked of many things and in a happy fashion described his entire into civic life and the trials and tribulations that had pursued him during that career. Incidentally he remarked that it yet had to be said of him though more than fourteen years at the board, that he had ever made a cent from a civic contract or derived any personal benefit from his position. The press came in for kindly notice and in this connection he paid a compliment to that good newspaper man and hospitable fellow, John Boden, now located in New York. The alderman concluded by proposing the health of the press which was responded to by the representatives of the Sun, Telegraph, Globe and Progress present. Then came the mercantile and other interests and an interesting talk on behalf of Mr. McCormick of the Victoria hotel as well as speeches from Messrs. Edward Sears, Oscar Silverstein, William Clark, J. F. Watson, E. C. March, M. A. Harding and P. W. Lantalam, the latter gentleman varying the proceedings with one of his stirring songs. Then Auld Lang Syne and God Save the Queen followed and the party dispersed.

A pleasant feature of the evening was the presentation to Alderman McGoldrick of a gold locket, suitably engraved for his watch chain. The donor, Mr. Myers, in making the presentation said that it was but a small token of his personal esteem for a gentleman who did so much to make it pleasant for every visitor who came to this city and met him. This remark met with a hearty response from all present who knew how literally true it was. The evening was one of rare and varied enjoyment and entertainment. Better singers could not have been had, the speeches were good, the cigars excellent and the best of good fellowship prevailed.

## Mr. Trainor on the War Path.

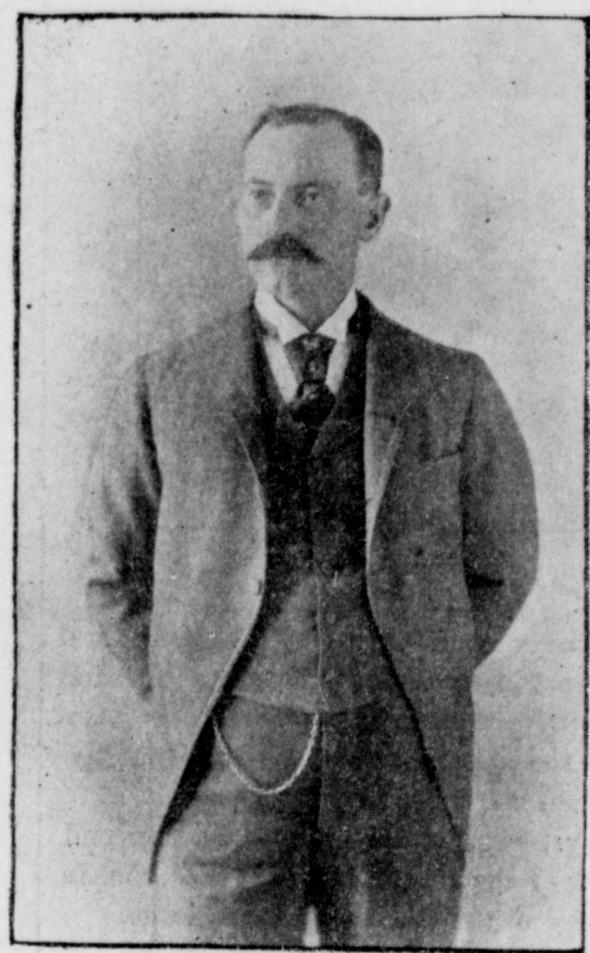
The head and front of the pilots' clamor against the commission is Pilot Trainor, the secretary of the Pilots Association and the orator from Reeds' Point. He has as steady a hand in steering his mates through the mazes of an agitation as a ship through the fogs of Fundy, at the sessions of the investigation this week he was complimented by Mr. Skinner, counsel for the commissioners, and others on his mental and oratorical attainments. Mr. Trainor was not backward in giving his opinions. It is evidently war to the bitter end against the commissioners with him. He charged that the three ship chandlers on the commission, Messrs. Troop, McLaughlan and

Knox wanted to engineer grist to their mills by ordering more equipment for the pilot boats, whether the court or the public will agree with him in this is a question. They do not consider that the men mentioned are of that stamp.

## A SATURDAY AFTERNOON AFFAIR.

Laying the Corner Stone of the North End's New Fire Station.

The event of the year in fire department circles was the laying the corner stone of the new station house in the north end last Saturday afternoon. The gentleman who has been chiefly instrumental in promoting the erection of the new building was the chairman of the safety board, Alderman McGoldrick, and he took the leading part in the ceremony of Saturday. With his associates on the safety board he welcomed many invited guests and opened the proceedings by introducing the mayor to the citizens. Then that gentleman made a speech and read the



ALDERMAN MCGOLDRICK, Chairman of the Safety Board.

official record. Reading an official record is a monotonous affair especially the repetition of the word "Esquire." Mayor Robertson can pronounce that particular word to the "Queen's taste" and whatever portion of the document his hearers missed they could not fail to be impressed every time with the word "Esquire." Then the corner stone was "well and truly laid." A mason who was standing near had a poor idea of the mayor's knowledge on the subject for making such an assertion, when there were small sticks under each corner of the stone. Architect Dunn heard his criticism and winked in a very significant manner. It was hard to tell what he meant by that drill expression of countenance but probably he and the critical master mason understood each other. The band played God Save the Queen, and with hats off and tremendous voices the people thundered forth the anthem. Some said Alderman McArthur's voice could be heard above Alderman McGoldrick's but as both live in the North End the people are better acquainted with their voices and so detected them. There were cheers for the Queen, for the mayor, for McGoldrick, for the firemen and for the architect. Then Chief Kerr marshalled his men and they marched away and the citizens followed.

## ST. JOHN'S SHARE IN THE WORK.

This City has Nobly Assisted Windsor's in Her Dire Distress.

St. John will be able to congratulate itself upon having done its share for the ancient town of Windsor. When all the contributions are in and totalled up it will be found to amount to nearly \$5000 and the best of it is that it is all in voluntary contributions. Corporations are said to have no conscience and therefore a civic grant would have had no sentimental significance. Besides this three or four carloads of goods were sent there and several ladies went over to assist in the relief work. Some cavaliers think they were not needed, but from the stories that come from there it is evident that they were. Poverty Point, the chief poor district of Windsor, located about the cotton mill, was not burnt out so some of the people from the outlying districts kindly acted as the substitutes of the dwellers there in appealing for help. Considerable systematic watchfulness was therefore necessary to prevent help going to the undeserving and impostors and it appears that the vultures who try to grow fat on calamity met with little success in this case.

## DIXIE WAS IN THE SWIM.

SHE ASSISTED IN WELCOMING VICE ROYALTY TO AMHERST.

Though not Exactly One of the Smart Set She Occupied a Prominent Place in the Procession, and was Recognized by the Vice Regal Party.

Some of the most interesting episodes in connection with the tour now being made by their excellencies the Governor General, and the Countess of Aberdeen have not yet been officially noted, or appeared in print; and it is quite safe to assume that neither Lord nor Lady Aberdeen have been made acquainted with them. One of the most thrilling of these little incidents occurred during the very enthusiastic reception which was given to their excellencies by the loyal citizens of Amherst who vied with each other in honoring the representatives of their sovereign, and giving them a right royal welcome. Amongst those who were foremost in showing their loyalty was a lady bearing the euphonious title of "Dixie" Noiles, who, while very popular in the special circle of which she is an acknowledged ornament, is not exactly on terms of intimacy with the most exclusive members of Amherst society. She is quite a celebrated character however, and probably quite as well known in her own way, as if she was a belle of the upper ten.

No one denies for a moment that the gentle "Dixie" had a perfect right to take an interest in the distinguished visitors and even avail herself of the opportunity to see them, if she felt so disposed; but it is the whole-hearted and very conspicuous manner in which she evinced her approval of the Vice Regal party, and the totally unlooked for method she adopted of taking them publicly under her protection, and generally countenancing the demonstrations in their honor, which brought the erratic "Dixie" into unusual prominence, and caused an electric disturbance of the atmosphere during the ceremonies, patent to all but the guests of honor themselves. Madame Noiles is usually accompanied on occasions of state, and during her more formal receptions, by her invalid mother who resides with her, filling the double position of companion, and chaperon to her popular daughter; and on the eventful day of the Governor General's visit the fair "Dixie" secured a barouche drawn by a pair of spirited horses, and driven by a coachman out of livery. Thus equipped and arrayed in her most fetching garments and with her white haired mother on the seat by her side, Madame Noiles made a most attractive picture when she sallied forth to welcome their Excellencies.

Her carriage was foremost amongst the equipages assembled at the station to meet the Vice Regal party, and when the procession formed to escort them to their destination Madame Noiles' coachman drove quietly into line taking up a position directly behind the leading carriage. Observing the prominent position occupied by the two ladies, and naturally concluding that they were very distinguished people, Lord Aberdeen favored the occupants of the carriage with a particularly gracious bow, in passing, and the Countess followed suit, receiving in return a graceful salutation, accompanied by a charming smile, from the younger of the two.

Thus the procession threaded its way through the streets of Amherst, and if the people passed en route stared rather more than usual, and showed an unseemly inclination to giggle occasionally, their conduct excited little comment, being probably ascribed to natural curiosity, coupled with a slightly hysterical tendency caused by the excitement of seeing the Queen's representatives for the first time.

As the procession made a sort of triumphal march through the busy little town of Amherst there were only two people taking part in it, outside of the Vice Regal party, who were completely at ease, and those two were "Dixie" and her mother. The former was wreathed in smiles enjoying herself as she had never done before and it is unlikely she will ever do again, while the latter appeared stolidly indifferent to her surroundings and quite unconscious that anything unusual was taking place. As for the Mayor, the town council, the school trustees and the other prominent people occupying adjacent carriages their frame of mind can be more readily imagined than described! The playful "Dixie" had them completely at a disadvantage, and there was no way of extricating themselves from their uncomfortable posi-

tion. It would hardly have done to create a scene by requesting the unwelcome element to retire, and there is every reason to suppose that she would have declined doing anything of the sort; while to attempt to turn her out of the procession would have been equally out of the question. So there was nothing for it but to make the best of a very unpleasant situation, and look as pleasant as possible under the circumstances while hoping devoutly that the distinguished guests would not notice anything unusual.

Fortune favored the brave however, and nothing of an alarming nature occurred, but the good citizens of Amherst are still occupied in wondering how it all happened, where the fascinating Dixie obtained her carriage, how she managed everything so quietly and so well, and above all what, or perhaps who, suggested the idea to her in the first place, and enabled her to carry it out so successfully, in the second.

## HE WAS A GOOD SUBJECT.

A Case in Which a Local Hypnotist was the But of a Good Joke.

In this city and among leading citizens and men prominent in many lines, there are found occasionally not a few who merely as an accomplishment and for entertainment are expert with cards, indulge in slight of hand tricks that are most amazing and mystifying. Some think they are hypnotists and apropos of this science a good story is told of the cleverness of a local amateur hypnotizer, in a case he dealt with within the past ten days. This amateur is well up in all the passes, finger-snapping and gesticulations generally, that pertain to the work of the professional.

The hypnotist practices his art on certain occasions—one of which was very recently. He dropped into a well known stable on Princess street, feeling kindly disposed towards all mankind. There were several others present including a young man—stranger. The conversation soon turned to hypnotism and the amateur was induced to try his skill upon the stranger, who, after some thought, agreed to undergo the test. The hypnotizer got squarely in front of his subject and began to use all the regulation passes and mesmeric movements. Soon the hypnotist was master of the situation the subject had yielded, he was under control, of the operator. He followed every movement of the operator through the stable. The hypnotist was triumphant; no one seemed to have further doubt of his skill. The subject still followed him about, although attempts were made to break this spell, but in vain. Wherever went the hypnotist, there too went the subject. Applied electricity was used. It came in the shape of a telephone message to the hypnotist that a friend was waiting for him on Prince William Street. The hypnotist said he must go and moved towards the door, the subject followed him and then renewed efforts to break the spell were made. The operator began to get frightened. His efforts were fruitless the subject clung to him still. The operator at last fled to keep his appointment with his friend, and still his subject followed close by him. Finally some stimulant, restored the stranger to his normal condition. He had been posted.

## A Distinguished Career.

One of the first to respond to Windsor's call for help was Sir Arthur Haliburton K. C. B. son of the celebrated Sam Slick. Sir Arthur has just retired from the Imperial service after 40 years connection. His career is a unique one for he was the first colonist who has risen to be the permanent head of a department. He entered in 1855 and was successively clerk in the commissariat department, director of supplies and transportation, assistant under-secretary of state for war and in 1895 under-secretary of state for war. He was director of transportation and supplies during a brisk war time and was publicly commended for the admirable organization and remarkable efficiency of his department by Lord Wolseley then campaigning in Egypt and by Mr. Gladstone.

## To Play Frederickton.

The Miles Ideal Stock Company which played two very successful engagements here during the summer will open the Frederickton opera house, which building has been undergoing a thorough change. The Miles Company will play there for a week beginning November 13th, and the people of the capital have a rich dramatic treat in store. It is one of the best companies that has visited here for a long time and St. John will always be ready to welcome it back. The company is now playing to splendid business in Maine.