

PROGRESS.

VOL. X., NO. 509.

ST. JOHN, N. B., SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 1898.

PRICE FIVE CENTS

WILL THEY ADOPT THIS.

THE ADVANTAGES OF THE POLICE TELEGRAPH SIGNAL SYSTEM.

Presented to The Aldermen in Session—The Saving is so Considerable That the Idea Was Looked Upon With Favor—A Committee Will Consider.

One of the chief subjects before the common council at its regular meeting this week was the adoption of the public telegraph signal system and the report of the sub committee appointed to look into the question was listened to with a great deal of interest, especially by those members of the board who did not have the opportunity of hearing it explained and discussed before the department of safety, within whose province it comes.

The report was decidedly in its favor and the figures as presented were certainly a surprise to many members of the council and to those citizens who listened to the brief consideration of the matter.

When the question of a police telegraph system was first mooted, the cost of the installation, amounting to thousands of dollars, was certainly the first thing that impressed the citizens and especially those who pay the largest proportion of taxes. Anything new just at the present time which will cost any considerable amount of money is not likely to be regarded with much favor unless the advantages are very obvious from a monetary point of view.

But associated with this project is the matter of additional police protection, which seems to be demanded and which is no doubt necessary. So the excellent committee that has considered the subject for many months think, and it will not be said that they have come to that conclusion with any undue haste. They have gone into the whole matter of police protection with that thoroughness that is characteristic of the chairman, Alderman Millidge, and have threshed the matter out day after day with and without the assistance of the chief of police.

That official, no doubt, wants to make his force as efficient as possible and his requests for more men are of long standing. The feeling was not in favor of his ideas—that is, to the extent of them, but the committee came to the moderate conclusion that instead of the ten additional men he asked for that four more were necessary to the efficiency and completeness of the force.

Then Alderman Waring broached the idea of a police telegraph system and the consideration of that has been hastened to a great extent by the action of the ladies of the city who disliked the system in vogue of lugging unfortunate drunks through the streets and to obviate which they resolved to present the city with a patrol wagon. Naturally the council listened to their suggestion especially when they presented with it a purse of \$200 toward the desired object. But then the question came up, what is the good of a patrol wagon without some means of calling it and getting it to the scene of action promptly? It differs from the ambulance wagon in this important particular that when it would be most required the means of communication would be limited if not altogether wanting.

Investigation showed that the police telegraph system is a saver of men as well as time. If it was a saver of men it would be, of course, a saver of money and the question of expense has always entered largely into the matter of police protection.

The four additional men would cost the city, according to the present rate, \$2,117 a year and the committee began to think that if they could get along with the present force by using the police telegraph system that the city would save money by the transaction.

Further investigation went farther than this and they found that the lockup at present used in different parts of the city could be done away with if the police telegraph system was in use. These lockups are at present used mainly to confine the prisoners in until the policemen can leave their beats and transfer them to the central station. If the telegraph system was in use all an officer would have to do would be to signal the central station and the patrol wagon would be upon the scene quicker than he could possibly take his captive to any lockup, and he would be taken at once to the central station without any of the publicity now attending the dragging of a man or a woman through the streets.

But these lock ups cost money and again

the question of expense cropped up. It was found that at present it cost, with the services of a janitor, about \$1,100 to sustain these lockups. Adding this to the cost of the additional policemen it looked like a reduction of \$3,217.

The cost of the police telegraph system would be about \$8,000. This is an outside figure. The tender of the Gamewell Company was \$6,800 without the wiring and that can be done for \$700. But assuming that the cost will be \$8,000 the annual interest and sinking fund charge would be \$400 and the cost of maintenance \$100. Add to this the wages of the driver and other incidental expenses and there is still a substantial saving in favor of the system.

This is apart entirely from its efficacy. There is no doubt that with 35 such alarm boxes placed throughout the city that St. John would be one of the finest equipped towns in America from a police standpoint. The signal not only summons a patrol wagon to bring in prisoners but it also calls for assistance which is now difficult to obtain. Not that it is often needed in St. John but it has been needed in the past and will no doubt be needed again. Speaking of the advantages of the system it may be noted that it is also a check upon the force since every policeman is compelled to register at certain times from the boxes on his beat and they show just when and how often he was on that part of his beat.

This is undoubtedly one of the most interesting and valuable features of the service. The chief and captains need not worry their brains any more over the fact that a policeman may be off his beat, because the automatic report can be seen every morning in the central station. Every policeman has a number, and the boxes of the police telegraph have numbers corresponding. When the time comes for the officer to register he simply unlocks the box and "presses his button" and in an instant the fact that he is on duty is registered at the central office on a roll of paper that unwinds automatically as the number and hour is marked upon it. No attention is needed at this wonderful indicator, but in the morning when the long slip of paper is cut from the roll the chief has a report that cannot lie and he will know whether his men have been on duty or not.

In presenting the report of the committee, the chairman of safety, Alderman McGoldrick, referred to it briefly in the most favorable terms and asked Alderman Waring, who had given the matter much attention, and was moreover chairman of the sub committee, to give the council such information as he could. This gentleman went into the matter very fully and gave many facts and figures. In addition to those presented above he mentioned the fact that there would probably be some revenue from those vacant lockups that belong to the city and from banks who were willing to have a private box and pay for it. Moreover it was pointed out that private keys could be had by those citizens who were in localities where police service was frequently needed and this would add much to the vigilance of the department.

There was some discussion, none of it unfavorable, but all looking for more information. The mayor joined in it and asked some questions which were answered readily. But those who had looked into the system thoroughly and signed the report in favor of it were quite ready to agree to refer the question to a committee of the whole where all the information available and much of which was not at the council could be had.

PROGRESS learned from the officials of the Safety Department that the correspondence with other towns had been considerable and the replies they received from cities corresponding in size and population to St. John were of the most satisfactory character. The recommendations of the officials in all of these cities were of the highest character and to give an idea of what they think of the system the following are given from a few of the cities who have expressed their appreciation to the company.

The chief of police at Brookline Mass says that "An average of 125 signals are sent into the station every twenty-four hours from the street boxes, by the sergeants and patrolmen on street duty. Officers on patrol duty are required to signal from the boxes on their routes every hour, and on some routes oftener, the record being kept at the chief's office averaging 3,800 per month. By this system the of-

CONTINUED ON FOURTH PAGE.

JOHN SMITH AND HIS PAY.

The Aldermen Discuss the Size of His Family and Refuse His Application.

When Policeman John J. Smith was laid up for nineteen days he had no idea that his application for full pay which he proposed to put in, in due course of time, would create so much discussion in the council and bring forth so much oratory.

Alderman Purdy had his case in hand and he evidently made it out to the satisfaction of the majority of the safety board for they sent in a report recommending full pay for nineteen days. And the ground they took was that Smith had an aged father and mother and seven children—they did not seem quite sure whether there were seven or nine—and that he should get full pay because of that fact.

Then Alderman Robinson wanted some information. He started the ball in an easy way and the first man to "catch" was Alderman Hamm who discussed the subject in a style that would have suited an old time prayer meeting. In a truly touching way he spoke of what a beautiful thing it was to see a policeman looking after his father and mother and the mayor nodded approvingly and afterwards emphasized it by a "that is so, Alderman Hamm"—and the alderman sat down.

Then that flinty hearted Alderman Christie arose, and in his quiet way proposed that rather than make a precedent he would give Policeman Smith \$5 out of his own pocket to help him along. He grew quite earnest when he spoke of the laboring men who eke out a "miserable existence" in the employ of the city, and some of whom did not get many days work during the winter. "In the name of Heaven" said he, "if you are going to establish the precedent of full pay when a man is ill, pay these poor men a dollar a day the year round."

"But they are not on the permanent force" suggested the mayor.

"Permanent force! Good Heavens, they are citizens of St. John and have a right to a living," said the alderman.

Then Alderman Purdy put on his most sympathetic vein and said the poor old father and mother of Smith would have to go to the almshouse unless the city paid him his full pay. For that was what Smith told him.

Alderman Millidge must have left his heart at home or in his office for he got up and began to talk about "precedent" and again the mayor interposed, "Might it not be a good precedent?"

If policeman were ward politicians and turned the tide of elections there could not have been more talk than there was. Alderman Macrae proposed to put a stop to such talk in the future by moving a resolution at the next meeting to place every permanent official—no matter what his salary, \$1,600 or \$600—on half pay while ill from ordinary causes. Alderman Tufts held that the city would lose nothing by giving Smith full pay and Alderman Daniel approved of his argument and supplemented it by saying that a policeman who got cold from exposure had rights approaching those that came from accident.

"We are not here to dispense charity" were the brief words of Alderman Robinson who also held that he was just as liable to get cold as a policeman. Perhaps if he had been tramping the streets one of those nights when the mercury was falling out of sight he would have changed his mind and probably wanted to warm his hands but he either didn't think of that or was of the opinion that any body who sat in that cold and draughty council chamber for hours was inviting his death warrant. Nearly all of the Aldermen spoke and Chairman McGoldrick of the Safety Department placed himself on record as in favor of the precedent of full pay upon presentation of the proper medical certificate but not in this case as much information was lacking.

"If it was a big official" who was ill wound up Alderman Purdy "there wouldn't be a word of this." He would get his full pay but the poor policeman is docked to half allowance." But in spite of this true and biting remark the majority voted to allow John Smith only half his pay for those 19 days and the city is in to the extent of \$13.78. But Smith need not despair, he should call on Alderman Christie for that V he promised in his speech and not forget the Deputy Mayor Robinson who would rather dip into his own pocket than vote to establish such a precedent.

ROMANCE OF A WALLET.

A FAIRVILLE GENTLEMAN LOSES HIS PURSE.

And Regains it again in a Curious Way—The Incidents of the Advertising and the Finding and Distribution of the Reward. All Well Satisfied.

Mr. Robert Armstrong, the well known contractor and builder, and a resident of Fairville, was in the city on business a few days ago. When ready to start for home, he had \$75 in \$5 bills in a wallet in the breast pocket of his overcoat. Just before leaving he had occasion to make some purchases, and took one bill from the roll, replacing the wallet with the \$70 in it and putting the change in another pocket. Immediately on leaving the store on Prince William street where he had at last used his wallet, he started to drive to Fairville in company with J. C. Hatheway of Manawagonish.

Mr. Armstrong arrived home in due season and turned his attention to the many affairs usually awaiting a busy man; and it was not until the following day that it occurred to him to look after his money. It was gone. Neither purse nor money was to be found, but a close examination revealed a rip in the lining of the coat which might easily have been mistaken for the pocket; so Mr. Armstrong at once concluded that on returning the wallet, as he supposed, to his pocket, it had gone instead inside the lining, and had probably worked its way to the ground just before he stepped into the sleigh. In fact, he recalled that he had heard something fall at that time, but had paid no attention to it. He was so disgusted with his own carelessness that it was with difficulty he could be persuaded to take any steps towards trying to recover his lost money, but finally he consented to make some effort and inserted the following advertisement in the Record.

\$20 REWARD—Lost on Prince Wm. St. Monday about noon, a sum of money of five dollar bills, in a leather pocket book. Finder will receive twenty dollars reward for the return of the same, if applying at this office.

Mr. John Avery, a brother-in-law, also of Fairville, not satisfied with the wording of this notice, and naturally very much interested in the affair, carried out his ideas in the matter by inserting the second notice on his own account in the Sun.

LOST—On Tuesday, Feb. 8th, between Chubb's Corner and Fairville, on way of Main street and Douglas Avenue, a pocket book containing a sum of money. A reward of \$20 will be paid to the finder on returning to the Sun office.

To the ordinary reader the most striking feature of these advertisements probably was the large reward offered, showing that the sum lost must have been no mean amount. The story of the loss and recovery of this money, together with the division of the reward, is of a most amusing, and finally satisfactory character.

Along about this time a large dog belonging to Rev. W. LeB McKiel of Fairville amused himself by lugging about and worrying, after the manner of dogs, an old weather-beaten leather wallet. He played with it so much that finally Mr. McKiel's attention was attracted to it, and he examined it to see if it contained anything of value, or worth returning to the owner if discovered. He found nothing but an address—town, street and number of one of the Western States, but no name.

On the Friday evening following, two young ladies from the vicinity of Randolph, daughters of Mr. Engalls, and Mr. Thos. Rogers were on their way to choir practice at the church of the Good Shepherd. Between the rectory and the church they picked up something lying in the snow which turned out to be \$65 in \$5 bills. They said nothing about it outside their homes but concluded to await developments, naturally thinking the owner would make known his loss in some way. Next day a son of Rev. Mr. McKiel found a \$5 bill blowing about on the snow in the same vicinity. All these people had read the first notice which appeared, but as that said so positively "lost on Prince William Street" not one of them thought of connecting it with the money found in Fairville. By this time Mr. Avery's version had become generally known, also the finding of the two sums of money and the empty purse. The various people interested compared notes and put this and that together, so it was not long until Mr. Armstrong was in possession of his property. The young ladies felt amply rewarded with \$5 each; Mr. McKiel's son was awarded the \$5 he had found, and Mr. Armstrong rounded out the offered reward of \$20 by presenting the parson's dog with \$5.

The accepted theory is that the wallet did not drop from between the lining and outside of the coat until Mr. Armstrong stepped from the sleigh at his own door, which is just across the street from the church and rectory, that the dog found it there, and in his play shook all the money out where it lay until found as described. The address in the wallet was that of a near relative of Mr. Armstrong's and served to identify it had anything been necessary.

Mr. Avery scores one on his clever advertising, the young ladies and Mr. McKiel and the dog each score one on their sharpness of sight. Mr. Armstrong no doubt scores himself.

"BROWN'S LIBRARY" TWISTER.

Here is a Problem That Will Keep Thinkers Awake Nights.

In presenting the following "twister" for solution, PROGRESS wishes to say that it has been solved and that the solution is in the hands of the gentleman who gave it to this paper for publication. He was of the opinion that it had been published before, but that will not alter its interest for PROGRESS readers. It may be noted further that the problem is the work of a mathematical genius in this province.

A Brown's library is 25 ft. long, 18 ft. wide and 12 ft. high. His books are placed on 6 shelves of equal length, each shelf holding books of uniform size and price. The lowest shelf, A, holds volumes 1 ft. long, 8 in. wide and the number of volumes on the shelf is $\frac{1}{2}$ the number on the highest shelf, F. On the 2nd. shelf B, each book is 10 in. long, 7 in. wide, and the number on the shelf is $\frac{1}{3}$ the number on the 5th. shelf E, which holds as many books as shelves H and F together. On the 3rd shelf, C, each book is 8 in. long, $4\frac{1}{2}$ in. wide, and the number on the shelf is twice that on 4th. shelf D, or just as many as on shelves H, B and F together. Each book on shelf D is $7\frac{1}{4}$ in. long, 4 in. wide; Each book on shelf E is $5\frac{1}{2}$ in. long, $3\frac{1}{2}$ in. wide and on shelf F, each is 5 in. long, 3 in. wide and $2\frac{1}{2}$ in. thick. Each book on each of the lower shelves costs one and a half times as much as each on the next higher, and on the top shelf F, the cost of each book is as many cents as there are books on that shelf.

Brown desires to sell and receives the following proposals:—Jones tells him he will give him for the volumes as much of a city lot, worth \$12 a square foot, as said volumes being closed can completely cover. Smith offers a cent a piece for the first 50 volumes, 2 cents a piece for the 2nd, fifty, and so on, doubling the price per book in each successive fifty. Black offers to buy the books at 75 cents a pound, allowing $1\frac{1}{4}$ oz. avoirdupois for every solid inch of book. Green says he will give Brown for the books as much marsh land, worth \$300 an acre, as can be enclosed by a rope equal to the longest continuous line that can be formed with the books, they being closed, and will add a dollar bill for every inch in the longest straight line that can be drawn in Brown's library.

Whilst calculating the relative advantages of the different proposals Brown dies of "twisted brain" and his widow immediately accepts Smith's offer. She forwards the books to the latter snugly packed in 6 cases of equal size each case being of 2 inch deal, and being just as high and as wide as it is long. Mrs. Brown discovers that were the dimensions of a case 12 inches each way, she could, by removing the shelves from the library, place in that department three times as many cases as there are inches in the combined lengths of the shelves; and Smith discovers that it has become expensive for him to assign to his creditors. He does so, and of the amount due her, Mrs. Brown receives only 15 cents on the dollar. With the proceeds, she erects to Brown's memory a monument, seven times as high as one of the 6 packing cases, paying for it a sum equal to $\frac{1}{2}$ the cash equivalent of Jones's offer, plus $\frac{1}{4}$ the cash equivalent of Black's, plus $\frac{1}{8}$ the cash equivalent of Green's.

Required:— 1st height of monument; 2nd cost of monument; 3rd original costs of books; 4th surplus (if any) still left Mrs. Brown from proceeds of sale.

An Article Reprinted.

The demand for PROGRESS last week was so very great that it was impossible to supply it, and from every part of the provinces have come requests that the Tucker-Crovan story be republished. It will be found on the second page of this issue of PROGRESS.