

# PROGRESS.

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## HAMPTON'S SENSATION.

AN INFANT FOUND DEAD IN A HOT WATER TANK.

Two Inquests Have Been Held and Nothing Brought to Light up to Yesterday—Some Incidents That Have Been Connected With a Somewhat Remarkable Case.

A week ago yesterday afternoon, James Lindsay, a resident of Norton, Kings county, and one of the foremen in the well known mills of Messrs. G. & G. Flewelling of Hampton, saw something in the tank outside of one of the buildings of the concern. He knew it was something that should not be there and called others from the building to investigate the matter. Then he and his assistants hooked out a dead child and stood aghast at the sight.

And well they might, for the infant was perfectly developed and yet was dead and partially decomposed. Their first duty was, of course, to notify the authorities and in the meantime the body lay there in a biscuit box alongside of the tank awaiting their arrival and being gazed at by all the curious people of the community who had been attracted by the report.

Many of them however ceased to be curious when they had seen the body of the dead child and became indignant, instead, that any deed of so dastardly a nature should have been committed in their midst. What made it worse in their eyes was the place of concealment chosen for the body—a tank open at all times and in sight of everyone who passed that way—a reservoir, almost, of tepid water which was used for various purposes by the neighbors near at hand.

When Dr. Smith arrived, he had the remains taken charge of and proceeded, as a coroner, to hold an inquest. Now Dr. Smith is not used to holding inquests and he did not know whether a jury of three, four, five or seven was necessary. He thought three would be enough but to make all sure he had four good and true men of Hampton chosen to decide how the unfortunate infant met its death. They met and heard some evidence, including that of the men who found the body and the doctor who examined it and decided that the child had died from natural causes. This was in spite of the fact that Dr. Warnford, who examined the infant, had said that it was alive when born, but in his opinion was dead before being thrown in the tank.

Up to this time there had not been much sensation about the affair, but the rumor of foul play was started and soon spread. The people of Hampton became somewhat exercised over the matter and the procedure of the inquest was questioned. What was the result? Another coroner, Mr. Hatfield, of Norton was called in and a further investigation began. More evidence was taken and was being taken yesterday when PROGRESS was being printed.

The rapidly decomposing body of the child was exhumed and viewed by a second jury and proof was adduced to show that it was the same child that had been found in the tank at the mill and buried after the first inquest.

Perhaps it may be said that at the first sitting of the second inquiry nothing of greater importance was elicited that had been learned at the first. The doctors gave evidence again and something may be said in reference to this.

They made a post mortem examination of the body and found that the infant had been born alive and apparently in a healthy condition. In fact it seemed to be a more than ordinarily large child and was so mature, well formed and plump that no woman who takes an interest in new born babes could resist the temptation to call it a "fine boy". The doctors agreed that it had been born alive, that it had not lived long before being thrown into the tank and that in their opinion was dead before it had been thrown into the water. But they also said that the child had died from asphyxiation which is of course capable of a good many interpretations and gave rise to many conjectures. But there was no violence—no signs of ill usage, other than neglect. The poor child had never been dressed and was wrapped in one or two cloths and an old waist. This waist was made of dark print and when it was viewed there were several people who said they had seen it before. But that is always the case. Those who hang around the doors of an inquest always know more than the jurors who hear the evidence. So far as PROGRESS could learn the waist

was of a very ordinary pattern such as any woman might wear.

Hampton is a small place and of course there are many rumors associated with the finding of the body of the child. When PROGRESS representative arrived there Thursday the air was full of rumors which pointed at nobody in particular but yet aimed at so many people as knowing something of the affair that there was no doubt an injustice was being done several persons. The place where the body was found is not cheerful. Imagine a number of mill buildings with a tank alongside of one of them and piles of lumber here and there within the radius of fifty yards. The Kennebecasis river flows by within the same distance and as the newspaper man viewed the scene in the twilight it was a weird one.

not giving credit to idle rumors but are sitting such as may appear of any value. Few of them have up to the time of writing this, but a clue that will lead to the discovery of the guilty parties may be found at any time. There are not many who indulge in the sensational theory of murder.

The consensus of opinion inclines to the conclusion that the mother of the child concealed its birth to hide her shame and that in doing so, by reason of no medical attendance and her inability to take proper care of the infant caused its death.

But concealment of the birth of a child is an offense in the eyes of the law and if nothing else is gained it may be learned who transgressed in this particular.

the very first opportunity the people elected him—to stay at home. But the worthy alderman for King's has concluded that "discretion is the better part of valor" and he has concluded to "mind his own business" this time and let somebody else look after this department of the public service.

Probably the most surprised man on the result of the election was Alderman—now Ex Alderman MacPherson. Mr. MacPherson was one of the oldest—it not the oldest, civic representative and his defeat was therefore the more surprising; and more especially so when it is considered that the alderman has been carrying along his share of the Department of State with much greater dignity and attention during the past year than he ever had before.

## NO SUNDAY SHAVES NOW

THAT IS WHAT THE GOOD BARBERS ARE AFTER.

But Those Who Are Sabbath Breakers Do Not Agree with Them and There may be "Open" House Sunday For All The Barbers in the City.

The barbers are up in arms, at least those of them who have not been shaving on Sunday. They held a meeting this week and discussed ways and means as to how best to put a stop to Sunday work. The committee was to report last night but as PROGRESS was printed earlier in the day the result of their interview with the Sabbath toilers cannot be given here.

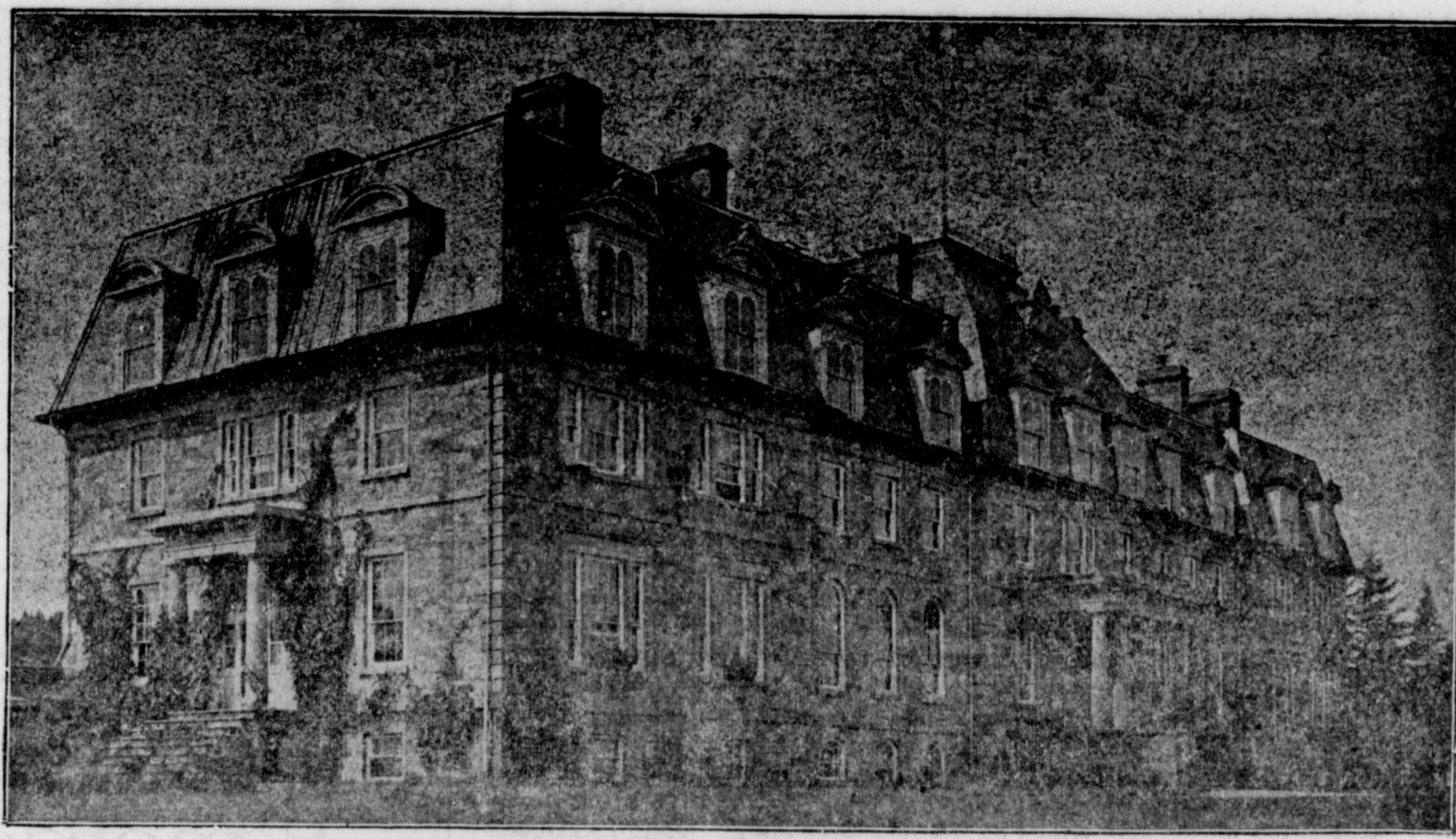
Sunday shaving is not a new thing for St. John. The time was when it was not thought out of place to get a shave or a hair cut on Sunday, but when the tide of Sabbath observance flowed over the town men were brought to see that it was as easy perhaps to go to the barber shops on Saturday night as it was to turn out on Sunday. Besides, they made it easier for the barbers who had no wish to work from nine until one o'clock on the Sabbath day. Judge Peters was the police magistrate of that day and he helped along the efforts of the Sabbath observance people by imposing a fine of \$8 upon a barber convicted of shaving on Sunday. Then there was a lull of Sunday work and the shops were closed hard and fast. But that did not guarantee that there was no violation of the law. Some business men who thought it was not possible for them to risk losing an hour or so on Saturday night waiting for a shave, made arrangements with their barbers to call at their house on Sunday morning and relieve them of their surplus beard. Then there were tonsorial artists who were ready to make quarters at the hotels, and of those guests who had arrived by the late train Saturday evening or had neglected to improve the appearance of their face on Saturday. The fact that they had no barber's chair with them made no difference. In emergencies like those a man could not be particular and the barber was prepared to give faces a run over whether their owners were in or out of bed.

The transition from this kind of violation of the law to more open defiance of it was easy. Soon peculiar raps upon the doors or windows of some barber shops procured entrance for the customer and he gladly gave his quarter for the accommodation. In this way a few of the barber shops made from two to five dollars on Sunday morning.

That was before the hotels added such conveniences to their hostleries. One after another the three leading hotels put in first class barber shops, and, presumably, for the benefit of their guests they were open for some hours Sunday morning. Had the price of 25 cents for a shave remained uncut probably the barbers outside of the hotels would have had no occasion to make much objection because the difference between a quarter of a dollar and ten cents made it an inducement for many men to get shaved Saturday. But the price dropped to 15 cents and regular Saturday customers put off the shave until Sunday and paid the additional five cents with pleasure. Perhaps also it they were well satisfied with the work they might be induced to transfer their custom. At any rate the boss barbers have noted the falling off of Saturday's trade and attribute it to the reasonable Sunday shaving. Hence their action and if nothing comes of it all the barber shops in the city will probably be as wide open on Sunday morning as on other days of the week. Then the Sabbath observance promoters and the law would have a chance.

Captain Ferris for the West.

Amid a tumult of cheers, farewell, torpedoes and good wishes Captain John Ferris boarded the train Wednesday afternoon en route for the Klondike. He is not going on his own account but as the captain of a steamer on the big rivers in that rich country. He has a good salary and a chance to get gold on the side. But he did not like to leave St. John where he has hosts of friends all of whom wish him the greatest success but regret to lose sight of his kindly face. No man knew this harbor and coast better than John Ferris. He was a favorite with steamboat captains who always sought his services.



THE MUCH TALKED ABOUT PROVINCIAL UNIVERSITY.

One would have thought almost that the tank selected to conceal a human body would have been of considerable size. Instead of that the "tank" is simply the bottom of an old iron boiler perhaps four or five feet in diameter and only about two feet nine inches in depth, and the water was about eighteen inches deep. No doubt for the sake of safety, for fear that some of the children near might fall in, a few boards were thrown over about two thirds of the tank and a small opening was left through which the neighbors living near used to get warm water for household purposes. It was through this opening that the infant was thrown—into the warm water and in plain view of the scores of people who must have passed the spot every day.

This tank served another purpose too. The pump which supplied the mill hands with water for drinking and other purposes was located at another side of the building and frequently when it was necessary to pump water from it "priming" was in order. And the water which served for this operation came from the tank in which the dead child was. When the mill operators heard this there was an unpleasant sensation about their stomachs and water from the tank will not meet with the same appreciation after this.

Such incidents as these have all been talked over at the "village" and "station" in Hampton. The action of the coroner has been criticized for holding an inquest that was not an inquest—even the hearing of the physicians at the post mortem has been before the bar of Hampton opinion, but the people have not arrived at any conclusion that points to any particular woman as guilty of child murder. Truly there were surmises and hints thrown out but investigation quickly brought to light the fact that proof was wanting. There were many who think the child was born some time ago and only thrown in the tank recently, when warm weather compelled its removal. But why any man or woman would throw the body in the tank when the river was only a few yards distant, and open in many places where they have been cutting ice, is a mystery that would puzzle anyone.

Everyone seem to be agreed that no woman could do the deed alone. She must have had assistance provided the infant was born but a day or two before it was placed in the tank. Who assisted her and who she was are the facts the people of Hampton are trying to discover and they are earnest about it too. They are

## MR. REID STAYS AT HOME.

How the Recent Fredericton Civil Elections Turned Out.

FREDERICTON, Mar. 17.—The Fredericton majority and aldermanic elections have taken place and the people have made their choice for the ensuing year. As was of course expected, the veteran horseman John Hamilton Reid was defeated. But what a surprise his 355 votes was to every body! Who would have thought when Mr. Reid first announced his intention of being a candidate, that he really had the slightest idea of being serious in the matter? How many people laughed at the idea and how many were disposed to wager that Mr. Reid would not get fifty votes! The result of last Monday's election proves one of two things; either that Mr. Reid was a much stronger and more popular candidate than people supposed—or his opponent was weak and unpopular, and in consequence of this the indomitable John Hamilton rolled up a thoroughly creditable vote—more especially so when it is considered that only a month or two before election, he recovered a suit-in-law against the city for something like four thousand dollars; all of which goes to show that pluck, perseverance and bull dog tenacity will accomplish much and that the people do like such things, even if they have to pay dearly for them. But on the other hand the defeat of Alderman Thomas, chairman of the City hall committee would lead one to believe that public enterprise is not appreciated in the capital. For months chairman Thomas has devoted time, which means money, as well as the people's money, to vast improvements upon the interior decorations and accoutrements of the City Hall which have greatly added to its attractiveness and accommodations; but it appears the people wanted none of this, and thus the enterprising Alderman for St Ann's ward has been relegated to the more comfortable and less arduous duties of his "own fire-side." In delivering his farewell speech to the voters on election day, Mr. Thomas very ably in effect said. "It is not often that a man erects a monument to himself previous to his burial—but in this case the Fredericton opera house will be my monument, and pride for future generations to look upon." Ex-Alderman Rosborough again becomes a member of the board and the prefix to his title will be henceforth dropped. During the alderman's former incumbency he occupied the distinguished position of Chairman of Administration of Justice and so thoroughly did he fulfil his duties that at

But in civic matters nothing seems to count and a representative who may be at the top round of the ladder today may be on the ground tomorrow. The Ex-Alderman calls the new council the "limping" Board. And on the opening meeting it has been suggested that the ceremonies shall begin with a grand cake-walk with Alderman Anderson in the centre supported on the one side by the newly elected representative from St. Ann's Ward, Dr. Henry, and on the other by Alderman C. F. McKendrick from King's. Alderman Golding would no doubt be prepared to "press the button" to start the ball-rolling whilst Alderman Vanwart would be fanning himself with "a cake of ice." Alderman Limerick would see to it that no "extras" were allowed, and in the event of such an occurrence Alderman Risteen would be on hand with "shot and shell" to make a "short-hand" despatch of the culprits. In the event of serious injury Alderman Rosborough could apply the "plaster" and should the occurrence terminate fatally Alderman Farrell could do the shovelling over their icy remains. Alderman Moore would at once get an order in council to erect a suitable "monument" to the memory of the departed, and the burial lot could be closed in with ex-Alderman Thomas' "brass hand-rails." The Mayor would do well to perch himself on a pair of stilts and thus watch the proceedings out of harm's way.

## Progress Prize Competition.

PROGRESS calls attention to the interesting prize competition which begins in this week's issue. The competition is open to everybody and every person has the same chance of capturing the money prize which is offered. The competition is sure to create a great deal of interest and PROGRESS will take pleasure in announcing the successful winners on April 6th. All answers must be handed in not later than noon of April 6th.

## News From the Klondykers.

The first news from the Fredericton Klondyke expedition was received this week from Vancouver, stating that all had arrived there in the best of health and spirits and that already four of the party whose destination was Vancouver had struck a good job in that city. Three of the Klondyke expedition have gone forward to Fort Wrangle in charge of the horses and the other three expected to sail on the 17th March.