

PROGRESS.

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PRICE FIVE CENTS

ALDERMEN ON THE MOVE

THEY HAVE THREE COUNCIL MEETINGS IN A WEEK.

Some Comment on What was Done—The Old Police Question Still Before a Committee—The Reports of Alderman Hamm and His Proposal.

That old saying "a policeman's lot is not a happy one" might well be applied to the aldermen this week. They have had meetings in the morning, meetings in the afternoon and while none have been held in the evening still the last council meeting on Thursday did not adjourn until between six and seven—late enough for even an alderman to be hungry. And yet the business was not completed and the representatives of the city concluded to meet on Monday and finish their monthly work.

The duties of an alderman are becoming so onerous that some of those who chose to be elected again are complaining of the burden imposed upon them. They find that two or three afternoons and sometimes more are taken out of the week to sit for hours at the business of the council. It is quite true that some of them do not worry their heads about the council meetings but of the great majority it may be said that they are regular in their attendance and attentive to the duties of their position. Still it was a strain upon the nerves even of an obliging and dutiful alderman to have three council meetings in one week besides all that pertained to the gatherings of the three boards and the appeals and bills and by law committees.

Consequently if it was ten minutes after three when the council was ready to open, his worship was quite ready to forgive the offence of unpunctuality that he had reminded the aldermen of on a previous occasion.

There was a good deal of business transacted without much fuss, and the discussion was not up to that standard of excitement that the council has manifested in the past. The reports of the several boards and committees gave the aldermen a chance to indulge in a little recreation and think of what was to come before them.

Really the council proceeding are largely a rebash of what goes on at the meetings of the boards and committees. A member has another chance at the council to protest against anything that he is opposed to and it may be that if he has got any new information that will impress his brother alderman that he will succeed in effecting his purpose. But that is rare.

Yet there was one matter that did not come before the full council this week because it was "referred back." That everlasting "referring back" is one of the great drawbacks to the business of the city. Alderman Hamm, as chairman of that special committee, appointed to inquire into police matters, brought in an elaborate report in one or two respects. There was a complete list of all the men on the force, the year they were appointed and their age at that period. It was an easy matter to discover their present age and the number of years they had served on the force. That revealed the fact that while there were many young men on the force there were some whose ages went beyond the three score and ten. Policeman Watson appears to be the oldest man on the force. He has served the city for 44 years and is still watching the street between the station and Prince William street. He is a sergeant and has been one for many years. He owns up to seventy two years of life.

Next to him comes Sergeant Hipwell who is just seventy and yet has been in the service of the city since he was 23 years of age. That means that he has been a policeman for just three years less than half a century. That is a long time for a policeman to be in harness and some of the aldermen must have thought so as they looked over the report. Still no one got up to move that these old servants of the people should have a long summer's vacation or be retired on half pay. Sergeant John Owens has not reached the age of seventy yet. He lacks two years of it, and he is eleven years less in harness than his sturdy companion Sergeant Hipwell, yet if anything he is the feeble one of the trio. He has a chair in the police office where he does such easy work as may be necessary about a court room. The chief, therefore, has three old men upon the force, too old to be active and yet good officers in all respects but that.

Chairman Hamm had other interesting

statistics such as the cost of the service, the number of men, regulars and specials and the number of sergeants. That, of course, has been told the alderman again and again but to see it in plain black and white is another thing and the report was studied again and again as it passed about the safety board. There were no recommendations and then the board began to discuss the report. What they were trying to effect was not very clear. Whether they thought there were too many men on the force or too few, or whether they wished to cut the head off of some sergeant but at any rate the whole subject was talked over as usual but nothing was done; the sub committee was discharged and police matters generally referred to the safety board which is the proper place for them.

Still in the discussion there were some funny suggestions and some that had good common sense in them. Alderman Hamm had an idea that he was expected to propose something and so he did. His proposition was somewhat startling since it suggested the removal of Janitor McDonald from his place of long suffering in the police office, where he makes out city court summonses and shovels coal into the furnaces, to that much discussed chair in the mayor's office. But he was only to get a dollar a day in his new place, according to Alderman Hamm. There was a quiet laugh at this idea and the chairman, Alderman McGoldrick, had a fine chance to get a word in sideways about the alderman's craze for economy manifested a short time ago when the police magistrate appointed Sergeant Caples to the same job. That did not seem to disturb Alderman Hamm much. In fact nothing does. He speaks on impulse and forgets the past and present while the words roll from him.

The one apparent fact in the report was the great disproportion of officers to men. When eight sergeants, two captains, a detective and a chief are taken out of the small force of police allotted to St. John there is not an effective force remaining. This too was dwelt upon briefly and there was not any answer to make to it. The fact was pointed out however that the chief was sending the sergeants on their holidays and at the present time nothing had better be done. Sergeant Campbell hadn't his letter before the safety board on that day but it was read before the council and will come before the board at its next meeting. Then the chief wants to be heard as well. Campbell contends that as long as he was appointed sergeant while there was a vacancy that he should get a sergeant's pay. Many people will take this view of it. The council has no right to try and reduce the pay of a man because his promotion, was, as it were, accidental. Campbell did no wrong. He was promoted because his chief thought he was a good officer and it hardly seems fair now to "refer" him back to the position of a patrolman on account of the mistake of another.

There was a much sharper discussion over the duties of Detective Ring and the fact that he was a provincial constable was also before the board in an unofficial way. Some of the aldermen expressed themselves strongly on this point. Why the government had any right to call one of their men from his work to do something for them was beyond their ken, and they grew quite indignant as they thought over the matter. "What you want to do to remedy this state of affairs," said Chairman McGoldrick "is to petition the government to permit you to appoint your own chief of police and then you can regulate all these matters." He did not appear to be sarcastic but there was a twinkle about his eye as he made the proposition that seemed to argue that way. That of course, is what every alderman dreams of that some day they may be able to appoint recorder, chief of police and police magistrate, but 'tis only a dream. The explanation was made however that whenever Detective Ring was absent from his duty in the interest of the government he was not paid by the city. Yet on the principle that no man can serve two masters, the aldermen discussed the question of his departure from his duties at any time quite seriously.

Nothing was done however and the whole police business is in just about the same state as it was when Alderman Millidge undertook to sift the matter about a year ago. The direct outcome of that at the time was the proposal to install the police telegraph system. Alderman Waring was the father of that idea but he saw

it die almost as soon as it was born. And yet his arguments at the time were good and people listened to them with much attention. He was glad of the chance to say a word about this pet scheme when the committee failed to make any recommendation and he said it was the solution of the whole business. The mayor was sitting alongside of him but he did not say anything. He had pronounced against the new system in his inaugural and he thought that quite enough. But Alderman McMullin did not keep quiet and he raised his voice in protest against the idea.

When all this useless discussion was done the chief of the fire department had a chance and there was some brief comment upon the "referring back" of the recommendations of the board to appoint George Scott to the vacancy in No 5. It appears that the friends of Mr. Rubins had gathered in force and wanted him appointed. The chief was in a pleasant mood and he had nothing but praise for the two firemen. But Scott's longer service gained him the preference but it was stated that Rubins stood next in line for promotion. An interesting feature of the discussion were the records produced by the chief who stated the number of times each man had been absent from fires. If all the firemen have as good records as these two men the city has a very vigilant department.

There were more important matters before the board of works all the week. The chairman, Dr. Christie, was ill—too ill to be around and yet the work went on, though his experience and industry are valuable at all times. A lot of work came within their province which did not appear when the council met. That recent vexatious question of Protection street and elevator is not settled yet though the railway people are going along with their building preparations. The suits for damages will come later and then the fun will begin. The people now enjoy a wide street—90 feet in fact—and they object to its being narrowed down to the width of Princess which is only 50 feet wide. Then they claim that their chimneys won't draw well with a high building so near them and on this account and on general principles they want damages. The plea about the high building is enough to make one smile. It is the right of any one to erect a building as high as the law will allow without danger of damages but perhaps it is no harm to make the claim. A more serious question is the blocking up of the right of way and that is what the city is puzzling over. According to the plan of the C. P. R. their new power house will be over a hundred feet away from the elevator. Where the steam conduits will be was not quite clear to the mayor and city engineer but great deal depended upon that fact. The right of way is a most important thing especially when it is proposed to block it as in this instance.

That dredging business was to the front again and brought out some sharp discussion. The fact the city had some \$14,000 of west side improvement money on hand did not warrant the dredging committee, Ald. Macrae thought, in going ahead and spending it. That is a new name for that select body known in past days as the "advisory board." To be termed a dredging committee now is surely a come down. And yet Mayor Sears as chairman did not relish the proposal to take the dredging business from them and transfer it to the board of works. That was a sort of a want of confidence motion and yet Alderman Robinson did not intend it that way. So the motion was amended to refer to the general committee.

By the time that the council got through with the communications and other matters it was between six and seven o'clock so an adjournment was made until Monday. It was worthy of note that the office of caretaker of the council chamber was awarded to Thomas McPherson who stood a chance of losing his job as constable because he ventured to run as alderman at large. He did not run and now he is in a position where he can see and hear all that goes on within the sacred walls of the council chamber.

The Designer of the Yacht Thetis

Yacht racing has received quite an impetus this year. There are many new members and two new yachts at least, the Thetis and Canada. Both are swift. The owner of the former, H. R. McLellan thinks she can best the Canada but the owners of the latter do not agree with him. The Thetis was designed and built by Joseph Carle who met a sad death by drowning before he saw the success of his creation and handiwork.

HOW CHILDREN GET LOST

VARIOUS WAYS IN WHICH LITTLE ONES LOSE THEMSELVES.

The Care of the Little Walsh Boy, and His Coolness When Found—Bennie Myers and His Trip to New York Comes to a Sudden End—Other Incidents.

When a child strays away from its home there is usually four or five times as much excitement as when a grown up person gets lost or strayed. The little Walsh boy of three years who this week wandered away from his mother during a visit to the park was the object of more tender solitude and enquiries on the part of all classes and grades of citizens than would have been the case with half a dozen men women or even half grown children, and heartfelt expressions of gladness were heard on every hand when at last the little wanderer turned up twenty seven hours after he was missed, not much the worse for his night's camping out in the woods. When found the little chap was lying on a bed of ferns, and was greatly delighted when a lad by the name of Martin one of a party of Grammar school boys who were out on a search for him invaded his sylvan retreat.

When Martin came upon the baby, he was lying with his eyes closed, and the former fearing he might be dead, called loudly to his companions; the child turned wondering eyes upon him and young Martin was so rejoiced to find his fears ungrounded that he sprang eagerly towards the little one saying "Don't you want to go to mamma?" "Oh, yes," was the cool response "but wait till I get my hat." The hat was found a few feet away and when it was placed on its head the little chap seemed perfectly happy. Martin took him to a house near by, and it was there that Detective Ring and the other searchers found him and carried him home in triumph.

Another little fellow, Bennie Myers the four-year-old son of Mr. B. Myers of Main street, conceived the idea of going to New York this week and with that city as an objective point and one cent as capital with which to begin life, he boarded a car at the Union depot on Tuesday afternoon. When the conductor questioned the tiny traveller he was greatly amused to learn of his intentions and the state of his finances. He told the little fellow he was taking a rather round about way to reach the great American metropolis, and so he made arrangements to have him sent back from Rothesay. Greatly to the joy of his parents he arrived in the city about eight o'clock in the evening in charge of Mr. John Lawlor. The would-be American citizen was highly delighted with his ride to Rothesay but deeply grieved over the loss of the cent he had when he started.

These incidents recall a very funny little event which happened in a provincial town not very long ago. Two prominent young people had embarked on the sea of matrimony and their native place on the day of the wedding was agog with excitement. Friends flocked to the depot, and before the train started the local band of which the groom was a member, serenaded the happy couple.

The little three old boy of a local physician was playing around his fathers residence all the morning, and though he began the day spick and span he had promptly endeavored to remove all trace of cleanliness by a course of mud pies and other pastimes in which all properly regulated youngsters indulge. His mother busy with her household duties, forgot the child for a few moments and when she began a search for him he was nowhere to be seen. It was thought that attracted by the music of the band he might have strayed to the depot a mile away but as no one had seen the boy there that hope was abandoned and a systematic search organized. His parents were grief stricken, and as the child was a great favorite there was much sorrow over his disappearance. Late in the evening came a telegram to the town asking if a child had been missed, and stating that one was on the train which had left at noon for which no owners could be found and was in the care of the train officials. A satisfactory reply was sent back, and the happy father of the truant boarded an early morning train for a town about 120 miles distant. In describing the affair afterwards he said, "When I arrived the young scamp was in charge of the station master and was having a high old time; he had followed the bridal party on board the train, but as

they were in the pullman they knew nothing of his escapade. What a sight he was; the dirtiest child I think I ever saw; his hair which was long and curly, was all matted up with candy and all sorts of stuff. He wouldn't let any one change his pinafore, wash his face, or in fact touch him while he was awake, and they didn't like to disturb him when he fell asleep. His enquiry the moment he saw me was whether I had found two nails he had left lying on the back door step. I had made up my mind to punish him for disobedience in leaving the yard, when I got hold of him, but in the face of that artless query, what could a man do. I decided to leave that part of the programme to his mother, but I don't think that particular number was ever carried out."

WHERE HE FOUND THE FIVE.

A Countryman who Sold His old Vest Seeks It Again.

The finding of a bank note in an unlooked for place the other day and the relation of the fact drew forth a story from a gentleman in the junk business who knew something of politics in the days gone by. An election was being held in a neighboring county and one of the voters was an fellow who had a local reputation of being particularly close and, though honest, was not above being paid for the trouble it gave him to leave his farm, lose his day and drive to the poll.

It was a Dominion election and votes were worth, as the saying is, from \$5 upwards. Of course the old man did not get the money before he voted but he got the promise of it and that part of the bargain was faithfully carried out. He was handed a five dollar bill and the agent remembered how carefully he folded and tucked it away into a small pocket in an old vest he had on. Time passed on and one day months afterward the "agent" was in his office in this city when he was surprised by a call from the old gentleman of the rural district where he had stood upon election day. He wasn't long stating his business. He wanted that promise of the \$5 bill carried out. "But I gave you the \$5, said the agent and you put it in a side pocket of your vest.

The old man thought a minute then scratching his head, he said "I sold that old vest to a feller working for a junk store somewhere about here."

Partly out of curiosity the agent accompanied his country caller to the junk store and permission was obtained for him to rummage among the heap of rags. Sure enough the vest was there and the \$5 bill was in the vest pocket. Then as the old man tucked it away in a healthy wallet he slowly remarked "Sure enough, you did keep your promise."

IN DEFENCE OF THE IRISH

A Citizen Takes up the Cudgels and Resents an Offensive Remark.

The report book in the police station had an unexpected report upon it this week. Nothing else than the police being called in to the Royal hotel on account of a disturbance. There is where the surprise came in because the Royal has the just reputation of being a quiet, well conducted house.

It appears that a commercial man of large proportions and a friend of his, who claims to be a slugger, were in the Royal bar between 8 and 9 o'clock in the evening and at the time two St. John men, who are good peaceable citizens, were enjoying what was probably a "night cap." The discussion that ensued was doubtless about the war and such innocent topics. From the war the conversation would naturally drift to nationalities and here was where the huge gentleman of 300 or more got into trouble. The quietest appearing Irishman is sometimes the quickest to resent any reflection on his land or its people. Therefore when the stranger made some uncomplimentary remark about the Irish he was no doubt surprised to receive a straight left hander from the medium sized citizen. The witness did not tell PROGRESS the number of rounds or the blows but there must have been some propelling force behind them for the stranger began shouting lustily for "Chief Marshall." He wanted the police and he got them, for in a short time Officer Earle walked in followed soon after by Capt. Jenkins. Before their arrival however the pugilistic friend of the big stranger wanted to interfere but the other citizen who had been quiet up to this time took the part of his friend and threatened to hit the slugger on the nose. This was prevented however by friends and when the police did come there was no person to arrest and all was quiet.