

# PROGRESS.

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## Mayor Sears' Insult.

When Mayor Sears, after presiding at the council for three and a half hours, went out for a little while and asked the deputy mayor, Ald. Macrae, to take the chair, he had no idea that there was a piece of Boer stratagem to be carried out during the time he was absent.

While he was in the anti room talking to Ald. McGoldrick and Colwell the council adjourned and nothing was known on the part of these three gentlemen of what had taken place.

Still in that short period the matters touching the Imperial Dock company had been removed from the consideration of the general committee of which the mayor is chairman to the Board of Works over which Ald. Christie presides.

The object of this was not easy to see. The mayor was the chairman of the sub committee that the general committee had appointed to look into the merits of ex-Mayor Robertson's scheme and their labors had so far advanced that the recorder had the draft of his agreement with the company ready to submit when the council thought it necessary to remove the consideration of the matter to another committee. The public works committee and the general committee is the same except that there are two members less on the former than the latter and the main difference in the make-up of the two bodies is the personnel of the chairman.

The motion was really to displace the mayor from the chairmanship and substitute Ald. Christie, who it might be supposed would be more favorable to the plans of the ex-mayor. In fact it was openly stated that the reason the change was made was because Mayor Sears was determined to burk the efforts of Mr. George Robertson, but that could hardly be correct when it was stated at the same time that the report of the recorder was about to be submitted.

The council meeting was held Thursday and the first the mayor knew of the change and the slight to himself was when the fact appeared in the papers Friday. Then he stated his position to the people in a letter to the newspapers. That he made a mistake in doing this was the opinion of many but his indignation at the slight to himself as mayor of the city was so great that he lost no time in letting the people know just what he thought.

There had been an attempt in the earlier part of the council to place the mayor in an unfavorable light. The bill of Stanton Bros for some \$250 for repairing the Sears drinking fountain at the foot of King street was withheld from the treasury report and after the latter was passed, brought up by the chairman, Ald. Robinson, who took occasion to make it appear as though the mayor was in some degree responsible for the cost of the work before he moved that it be paid. His worship was quite sharp in his reply to the remarks but the bill was ordered to be paid.

Then again at the same council meeting the sum of \$10 each was voted to the brave fellows who rescued the crew of the Hazel Dell but instead of the mayor being asked to make the presentation as was usual and proper the chairman of the treasury set him an invitation to be present without asking him to present the testimonial. He said afterward that he had invited the mayor and intended asking him to make the presentation but the somewhat carefully worded speech that he made himself while handing over the address and the money would seem to indicate his doubt that he might not have officiated himself.

Mayor Sears thought the notice short and the committee room not the proper, or usual place for such a ceremony, so he declined to be present. When the pleasant gathering dispersed, there seemed to be an impression that the treasury chairman had, as it were, usurped the duty of the chief magistrate.

The reply of his worship to the invitation of the treasury chairman extended by the common clerk was hastily worded and was not such a document as would adorn the files of that official. But it may be that he did not have the time to prepare it, and this, of course, must be his excuse.

After the presentation business the treasury members, most of whom belong to the Board of Works, resolved themselves into a meeting of that body and began to

lock into the dry dock matter which Ald. Robinson had complained was not going on fast enough under the chairmanship of Mayor Sears. One of the first things in order was a speech from Chairman Christie in which he paid his respects to the mayor not in very courteous terms. He excused the charge in the committee by saying that the council had the right to withdraw any matter from the consideration of one committee and refer it to another committee. He referred to the letter the mayor had published in the press and his remarks were not intended to place the chief magistrate in any favorable light before the people.

Neither was this to be expected. Ever since Mayor Sears has been in the chair, there has been more or less antagonism between him and Ald. Christie. The chairman of the treasury, Ald. Robinson, later joined forces with the chairman of public works, and with the assistance of some others at the board, they have not made the Mayor's seat one of ease. It has become an assured sign that any measure the Mayor opposes at the council will be carried and vice versa.

To speculate upon the reason for this brings up the question of the next mayor. The gentleman who occupies the seat now will, it is believed, offer again. He was an advocate of two terms but it is understood that he says he meant that one year should be unopposed. The vigorous opposition given to his worship last year gives him the right he thinks to be a candidate next year without being open to the charge of inconsistency.

That he will have opposition there is no doubt. Ald. Robinson last year announced himself a candidate one day and withdrew the next because he said his business would not permit him to take the office. To those who are acquainted with the routine of city hall the duties of the chairman of the treasury appear almost as onerous as those of mayor and certainly there is no comparison between the remuneration and the honor.

The names of Dr. Daniel. Ald. White and Deputy Mayor Macrae are already among the "probables" while ardent north enders speak of Christie and Robinson. Let all of them come. The more the merrier.

### THAT COURT REPORTER & SHIP.

Dr. Quigley is After it and His Supporters Claim the Position for a Catholic.

There is going to be an interesting contest over the supreme court reportership about to be vacant, it is said, by the resignation of Mr. John L. Carleton. Mr. Quigley is after the office and he and his friends made a hurried trip to Fredericton this week with the idea of supporting his claims. And the quid pro quo they offer is the support of the Catholic voters for Mr. H. A. McKeown, who may come forward at an opportune time as the new solicitor general. This is a most tempting bait because it is not thought that without such support Mr. McKeown can secure his election. Ald. McGoldrick and Mr. W. K. Reynolds were two of the gentlemen who laid the matter before the government and they could, no doubt, be very persuasive with such an influence behind them. But there is another name associated with the office, that of W. H. Trueman, a young lawyer who has been very earnest in his support of the minister of railways, who, by the way, is still supposed to have some influence in the council at Fredericton. Mr. Trueman was promised a position as legal adviser to the Intercolonial but that went to Mr. Ruel and it was proposed to make the former reporter of the Supreme as well as the Equity court, as a further reward for his political services.

Now Mr. Quigley comes into the field. He has not been suspected of being an ardent supporter of the local government or of Mr. Blair. The general opinion has prevailed that he was rather conservative than liberal in politics, and if that is true his claim, except on the ground of his being a catholic, would not be a strong one. It is not easy to understand why the idea should be put forward, that the office should go to a catholic. A. I. Trueman, the present judge of probates, held it for many years before Mr. Carleton, and if PROGRESS is not mistaken Mr. Pugsley,

W. B. Chandler and Mr. Hannay, were among those who held it in earlier years.

### Dr. MacFarlane's Death.

To the many who knew Dr. Foster MacFarlane professionally or in private life, the news of his sudden death came with a distinct shock. On every side were heard expressions of sincere regret, not only for the sad death of an able physician, but as well for the loss of a kindly, generous man, whose sympathetic and cheerful nature had endeared him to all with whom he was brought in contact. Dr. MacFarlane was in the enjoyment of his usual health up to within a few hours of his death which occurred on Thursday night, and on that day paid his daily visit to his patients, neither he nor they dreaming for a moment that it was their last meeting. On Thursday afternoon Dr. MacFarlane complained of slight illness, and, becoming worse, Drs. Walker, Holden and Melville were called but their efforts were unavailing and the patient died at eleven o'clock the same evening. Besides a widow Dr. MacFarlane leaves five children by a former marriage Mrs. Barbour of Fredericton, and Mrs. W. S. Rainie of this city, two unmarried daughters and Mr. W. G. MacFarlane at present a student in Columbus college, all of whom will have much sympathy in their sad bereavement.

### He Was Little, But Oh My!

Good stories are always bound to get out after a time and that in which a well known livery man, who does a good deal of work for theatrical people figured, seems to have caused a lot of rumors that were not well founded. There has been a change in the stage employes at the opera house and one reason assigned for their departure was that it had been demanded by the man who holds the mortgage over the building. That is not true, the men were dismissed for good and sufficient reasons but the incident that gave rise to such a rumor, shows that even a big, muscular man cannot always afford to be insolent to such a nervy stage man as accompanied the Lewis Morrison show when it was here. Morrison had a lot of scenery and it was being moved as quickly as possible, but not fast enough for the man who was doing the hauling. They had some words, and the lively man threatened to break the little man's face, when almost before he knew it, the little man had landed, and he measured his inches on the stage floor. After that the work went on smoothly.

### A Good Piece of Work.

There was a good deal of complaint about the Suspension bridge some time ago and fears were expressed that there would not be time this fall to lay the new floor. But the tender of Councillor Gilliland of Nauwigewauk was accepted and he set to work at once to show how quick he could do the job. Two floors had to be laid, one of soft wood and the other of birch plank. The bridge is nearly 600 feet long and nineteen wide and in just eight days it was completed. About 25000 feet of birch plank were used in flooring the bridge. The job is one of which the contractor may be proud and the government well satisfied. The pretty girls of Fairville have often danced on a rougher floor than the present covering to the suspension bridge. Five years is the time given the new floor to last. The planks are laid at an angle of about 45 degrees and this of course made the job much more tedious.

### Quite Seriously Injured.

When the news of the accident to Mr. Alfred C. Blair reached St. John, the impression prevailed that he had escaped almost unhurt, but a Butte correspondent says that he was quite seriously injured. Mr. Blair is not a robust man and the shock must have been a very severe one. His numerous friends here, while regretting such a sad termination to his western trip, hope to see him return in good health at an early date.

### Holiday Millinery.

Chas. K. Cameron & Co. call attention to their special holiday sale of millinery in hats, toques, bonnets and sailors trimmed and untrimmed. Mr. Cameron makes a speciality of seasonable and stylish millinery at prices that suit all classes. A visit to his establishment on King street will be found both profitable and pleasant.

Umbrellas Made, Re-covered, Repaired. Duval 17 Waterloo.

## Gloomy War News.

This has been a week of anxiety for those who have friends and relatives among the Canadian volunteers. The news that came from South Africa gave the impression that the Canadians were not far behind the command of Gen. Methuen and it was known that the hardest fighting was going to take place between Modder river and Kimberly. When the large list of British losses in the first fight was published the nervousness increased and the bulletins were eagerly scanned to see if the Canadians had moved to the front.

Then came the tidings of the disaster to Gatacre and while it was known that the Canadians could not figure in that, still the respect for that strategy and prowess of the Boers increased and there was no longer any doubt that the Canadian contingent would be forced to the front very quickly.

Fortunately for them the second battle at Modder river and the repulse of Methuen followed before they could get there, though when the news came there was doubt whether "our boys" were not in the midst of it.

The talk about the war was of a gloomy character then. While no one had any doubt of the ultimate success of the British the tremendous losses had a disheartening effect and it was feared that the Canadians would suffer heavily. Perhaps before this reaches PROGRESS readers this will be proved too true but the bad news of Thursday morning was apparently offset by the noon of that day when the bulletin was posted that Ladysmith had been relieved and a large number of Boer prisoners taken.

The number was stated at 10,000, then 4,000 and the latter number was accepted as nearer the mark and the rejoicing was universal. Small groups at first crowded around the bulletins but as the news spread they grew larger until there was a constant strain of people to the newspaper and telegraph offices to learn the latest. Men became elated and business was almost forgotten in the enthusiasm of the hour. The first edition of the evening papers was eagerly secured and when, later, the good news was confirmed from seemingly undoubted sources men shook hands with each other and showed by their faces and actions that the news was as welcome in Canada as in the mother country. During the evening an unusual crowd was on the streets and everyone was inquiring if anything later had been received.

The writer during the afternoon, saw a veteran street laborer approach a newspaper bulletin board and when he saw the good news, he took off his hat flung it in to the air and shouted his glad burrah.

So it was with all. Military men wore a smile that had been absent for days and the relatives of the volunteers showed how rejoiced they were at the prospect of relief for the hard pressed force that was trying to reach Kimberly.

In Fredericton the official news was greeted with much excitement. The government was in session and flags and bunting were thrown to the breeze announcing an event of some glad importance before the news of Ladysmith's relief could be known to many people.

The loyalty of the people and their eagerness to hear good news was shown on every side. If there had been any call for volunteers Thursday afternoon thousands would have answered it and shown in a practical way what they were willing to do for the empire.

Those who have expressed any sympathy for the Boers had been regarded with some compassion up to that time but it would have been dangerous for any such expressions of opinion when the people were so worked up. Two or three, who were rather prominent in some circles, had less to say, it was noted, than they have for some time past.

But few of the people learned Thursday evening what a hoax had been played upon them. Those who had been conservative and said the news was too good to be true were laughed at and even they began to believe against their own judgment. The morning told a different tale and the despatches denied all that had been said and left the situation the same as before.

When early patrons of the street cars settled down to read the morning papers their startled exclamations and disappointed expressions told how much they had

counted upon the authority of the report of the previous day. The morning was a raw and chilly one and the news from the front such that men passed along with hurried steps and gloomy air that was not in keeping with the season. There will be but few "Merry Christmas" wishes if the news from the front is not of a different character.

The death of another Canadian and a New Brunswicker was heard with much regret. He died not of wounds but the despatches say, of tonsillitis, on his way to the front. The same honor will be given to private Chappelle as though he had fallen from a Boer bullet. He was doing his duty so far as he had been called upon.

Chappelle was a young man, only 22 years of age, and his eagerness to join the contingent was such that he was one of the first to volunteer. He was a member of the 74th battalion and was known as a good shot and a fearless active young fellow. He left no mother to mourn his early death but he had one brother, Malakoff, in Fredericton and his father, George B. Chappelle lives in Baie Verte.

The rumor that another Canadian contingent would be permitted to go to the front was gladly received and believed by many. Perhaps the additional men will not be needed but there will be plenty of applicants should a call be made.

### WHY "CAMPERDOWN" LEFT TOWN

The Scott Act Air of Moncton was not Good for his Health.

"Camperdown" is in town. He looks well and seems to have had an easy and prosperous time in Moncton. While there he officiated behind the bar of a leading hotel and was in daily fear of a visit from a Scott act inspector. Still "Camperdown" did not lose much, if any flesh, and his position gave him no uneasiness until he learned that he was wanted as a witness in thirteen cases. Some of the informations may have been against himself, but John did not wait to find out but made a bee-line for the first train.

Now the officers in Moncton suspected that John was not as innocent as he looked and they did not forget to keep a watch upon outgoing trains. In spite of this John got in the car but to his horror he saw one named Belyea looking in from the platform. He had not seen him so John got on all fours and began to crawl through the car when he met the conductor whom he knew very well. The conductor amazed at John or "Camperdown's" position gazed down upon him in astonishment when he heard the agonized entreaty "Look up, look up, don't look down or the fellow outside will see me." The conductor was puzzled and John had to repeat his instructions several times before he "caught on" and passed along convulsed with laughter leaving John to pursue his way down the aisle on all fours.

He got to St. John where the whys and wherefores of his visit were soon known, and the telegrams that began to pour in upon "Camperdown" telling him to "lay low," kept him upon the rack of anxiety. Then the would telephone his boss in Moncton and ask what all their warnings meant. A hotel clerk capped the climax when he reported to John that "Mrs. So and So," also interested in the hotel business in Moncton, had left word with him that if he saw John to tell him to "lay low." In his mind John saw the Scott act man with his hand upon him so he rushed to the telephone and rang up Moncton.

"Hello, is that the hotel?"  
"Yes."

"Well Mag W—was down here today and left word for me to lay low. What does she mean?"

"You're wrong. Mrs. W—was talking to me a few minutes ago. She hasn't been in St. John."

"But I tell you she has" began John.  
"Oh don't let those St. John fellows 'string' you'—and then the telephone rang off."

But John is still around town, though the air of Moncton is clearer than it was when he left.

Knows Her Daughter is Blameless.  
Mrs. Connell called at PROGRESS office this week to deny all the stories in circulation about her daughter in relation to gas lighting in the St. John rubber store and giving her version of the mysterious happenings in the Hillyard house spoken of in PROGRESS last week. She says she knows her daughter is blameless.