

No Relation Can Act.

The municipal elections that were held in many counties of the province this week had much interest for politicians and disconcerted not a few countrymen who had not looked into the changes in the act governing the election of councillors.

The importance of the elections will be seen at once when it is understood that the two councillors for each parish, with a chairman appointed by the government, compose the board of revisors and it always means a good deal to have these gentlemen favorable to the party in power when the hour of election arrives. Then again under the new franchise law of Canada the members of the federal parliament are elected from the same lists. The importance therefore of having conservatives or liberals will be seen at once.

This was realized in many parishes and the wire pulling politicians from populous centres made it a point to instruct the candidates they wanted elected in the new twists of the law.

In former days non residents were permitted to vote just the same as a resident no matter whether his taxes were paid or not but it is different now. The taxes of the non resident must not only be paid but received for seven days in advance of the election. This little fact lost many non residents their votes after they had taken the trouble to go to the country to vote. The parish collectors played some sharp tricks in some places. They delivered the bills to non residents and those whom they knew to favor the same candidates as they did they explained when they would have to pay up to be eligible to vote but to the others they did not volunteer any information. This meant a good deal when the day of the election came around for those who had not paid were not able to assist their men at all.

There was another trick that was almost as bad and somewhat more dishonest which PROGRESS learned from a few non-residents who could not understand why they had a chance to vote though their taxes were not paid, while others who went to the booth along with them were not given the same privilege. They soon found out. The collector had handed in his name as "paid" though he had not called upon them simply because he knew that they would vote in favor of his candidate and they would pay their taxes later.

It would seem as though there are plenty of ways to get over the new law and that some amendments might very properly be in order.

In Kings county the principal interest centered in the contests in the parishes of Rothesay, Norton, Hampton and Sussex. St. John was interested in all of them because a great many people doing business in the city reside along the railway and nearly all of them were invited to give their votes one way or the other. In Rothesay this was particularly the case. There four candidates were in the field, one of whom, Thomas Gilliland, sought reelection. The others were A. M. Saunders, H. H. Gilbert and Captain Maynes. The latter was a brother of the councillor retiring and Mr. Gilbert, is a young merchant in Rothesay. The polling booth was about four miles from Rothesay station and two from Quispamsis, at which station most of them who went from the city alighted.

The poll was supposed to open at nine o'clock in the morning but that hour arrived and there was no person there to take the chair and hold the election. The candidates were there and some dozen or so electors but no parish clerk. He arrived a little later and began to make his preparations to hold the elections. When he was ready Mr. Gilbert raised a question as to whether he was a competent returning officer inasmuch as he was the son-in-law of one of the candidates. The point was well taken and when the law was read over Mr. Saunders saw at once that it held the election it could be upset any day. But he wasn't pleased and the candidates, Messrs. Maynes and Saunders and their friends were very determined for a time that if Clerk Saunders could not hold the poll no one else would. This looked serious and might have proved so but for the presence of a lawyer in the crowd.

It is a curious fact that while a countryman will not believe the law his neighbor

lays down—though it may be perfectly correct—he will accept it without hesitation from a lawyer. So it was in this case. Mr. L. P. D. Tilley had gone up to vote and though a smiling onlooker for a time as he listened to the dispute on being appealed to straighten matters out he read the law and advised them how to proceed.

The procedure was simply to elect a chairman to hold the poll. No sooner was this known than a Mr. Maynes nominated the son-in-law of Mr. Saunders and he could not understand why he could not be chosen by the people for that purpose. He became excited, and said: "We are here to run a square election, and we are going to see it done." No person disputed that, but it did not seem possible to get another man for the purpose and for a few moments there was some doubt as to when the poll would open. Non-residents could not act and no resident seemed willing to until Mr. Wetmore stepped into the gap and was sworn in.

But there was no ballot box because Mr. Saunders, who was unfortunate enough to be related to Saunders the candidate, would not permit his to be used. When a fish box had been found and a hole cut in the top the old box was forthcoming and he took his seat alongside of the new returning officers and began to represent his namesake in very vigorous fashion.

The first move on the part of the Gilliland-Gilbert party was to produce an order from the county court judge ordering thirty names to be added to the list. This was a poser for the Maynes-Saunders faction—something they had not expected and they objected strenuously to the addition. For the most part the new names were those of stockholders in limited companies which had their headquarters in Rothesay. Several ships are owned in this way and quite a number of corporations now have their head offices at Rothesay. Of course the taxes of these new residents were paid by the companies and as they had made affidavit that they owned the property described the judge ordered their names placed on the list. It was a sharp piece of work and yet as far as can be learned perfectly fair. Quite a number of the added names were voted and the majority of Gilliland and Gilbert was no doubt increased slightly thereby, but not to any great extent. The vote stood 118 for the former and 99 for Gilbert while Maynes and Saunders received 71 each.

There was speech making after the votes were counted, the senior councillor thanking the people for returning him again. The events of the day made a somewhat bitter feeling which was not lessened by the result. One fact was very plain; the electors were not acquainted with the new law. It is not an easy matter for a countryman to make himself acquainted with the amendments even to those laws that affect him most and in which he is interested. He does not get the statutes and it costs money to see a lawyer and get the points. In Maine the laws made by the legislature are printed in cheap form and sent everywhere and then no one can complain that he has not had a chance to acquaint himself with them. This might be done in New Brunswick with those laws affecting the people generally.

Personation is not known much about in the country. It is safe to say that up to half past two o'clock there was none at all at Rothesay. After that there were some attempts—none of them very successful and the result rather of good natured banter on the part of a few who wanted to see some fun than any wish to advance the chances of any particular candidate. One amusing instance was the attempt to vote the name of an owner in the Steamer Matinee. He had not caught the name just right for when he applied he gave the name, say, "John Brown, steamer Manhattan."

"What steamer did you say," inquired the returning officer.

"Steamer Matinee," said the would-be voter.

"I challenge that vote," said a representative, "why he can't even pronounce the name of the vessel."

And the laugh that followed was good enough to hear.

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A BAD BEGINNING.

Boys and Girls Who Make a Practice of Stealing From Drug-stores.

A drug store usually offers many inducements to those who are inclined to petty pilfering, and that there is considerable of it indulged in St. John is pretty readily acknowledged by those in the business. One day this week PROGRESS happened into a place just as the proprietor was in the act of making two boys discharge some gum which they had taken from a box on the glass show case.

"These things are daily becoming more common" said the clerk, "and the culprits do not come from the lowest class either." One of those boys I have just been after is the son of a prominent citizen. He and the other boy having been coming in here for weeks and we have been wondering why the gum disappeared so rapidly. I did not suspect them and only that I caught them in the very act, might have blamed innocent parties. These youthful thieves usually travel in pairs, and while one asks for some particular kind of candy in another part of the store, and keeps one a few moments finding out just what he or she wants. While attention is thus diverted the other gets in his work. The boys I just caught red handed came in a moment or two ago and one asked for a few cents worth of a particular kind of candy in the window. He stepped over with me to point out what he wanted and the other stayed down near the centre of the case. I turned my head quickly, prompted by some little suspicion perhaps, and found the boy pocketing several bars of gum. I made him give it up and let them go with a pretty stiff lecture; their parents are friends of mine, and good patrons. Boys are not the only culprits either. You would be surprised if you knew some of the girls in a school near here who are up to the same tricks. A drink of water is usually their excuse, and while we are getting it they manage to pick up enough gum, jujubes, sagos or something of that sort to last the day. They are not very small girls either, but now that we have our eyes opened, no doubt they will make some other place the scene of their operations."

OFF FOR THE BOOMING TOWN.

Monday night's train for Sydney carried Mr. Willis, his wife and daughter and fifteen people to assist him in his new hotel in Cape Breton's booming town. Mr. Willis has great faith in the new city and says that only those who have been there, inspected the works and talked with the officials of the company, have any idea of the work that is going on. The Dufferin is now in charge of Mr. McCafferty who has a former popular clerk, Arthur Abinette with him as assistant. The former assistant clerk, Edward Macdonald, accompanied Mr. Willis to Sydney as also did William Fitzpatrick, the assistant wine clerk. They were kindly remembered by their associates in the Dufferin before leaving.

IGNORED HIS RECOMMENDATIONS.

Lieut. Col. Vidal recommended Capt. Dunning, Messerean and Good to officer the New Brunswick and P. E. Island unit, so it is understood, but when the appointments were made he found that not one of his recommendations had been carried out. When Col. McLean went to Ottawa Capt. Dunning was almost sure of his appointment but instead Master McLean got the coveted position. The impression is very general that older officers, men with greater experience should have been chosen instead of Lieut. McLean. But what good is a political pull unless use is made of it.

A Raffle For a Cow.

Raffles for ducks, geese, and chickens are of common occurrence at this season of the year but a cow is something novel in this direction. Yet that was the principal prize raffled for on Tuesday evening, at the residence of Mrs. Powers on the Loch Lomond road. The winner belonged to the city and it was said of him that he was so confident of success that he carried a rope along with him to lead the bovine back to town.

POSTPONED THE INVESTIGATION.

Mr. McKelvey and Chief Clark will have more time to collect their evidence for that investigation than they expected because Chairman McGoldrick was called to Halifax on Tuesday and expected to be away all the week. He will call the safety board together early next week.

A Minister's Check.

That there are tricks in all trades is a generally accepted theory, and it is to be presumed that the professions are not exempt. But there is one of these where one would hardly expect to find any shuffling it is in that of the ministerial profession; yet sad to say circumstances occasionally crop up which would contradict this theory, and which sometimes leave gentlemen of the cloth open to the severest censure.

An instance of this kind occurred recently and is one which is likely to bring the most unpleasant notoriety to the gentleman concerned.

The clergyman in question came here from a provincial centre some time ago and assumed charge of a West Side church. It appears that when he left his previous charge he was quite heavily in debt and to pay off these liabilities a portion of his salary has been set aside by some one having authority to do so.

It is more than likely therefore that the clergymen found himself in the most straitened circumstances and it is only charitable to suppose that any little emergency of which he may have availed himself was the result of necessity. He is a close student too, with all the improvident ways of many bookworms and his love of literature is responsible for his present predicament.

Some months ago an East side grocer decided to pay a visit to his old home in England and when the clergyman learned of this he paid the grocer a visit. It appears the latter's home is in the same part of the old country and his visitor wished him, while there, to get him a book he had long been trying to obtain. The grocer gladly consented to oblige his friend, and made a special effort to do so, even paying an advanced price for the volume which was difficult to get.

When he returned he notified the West side minister and the latter promptly presented himself, overwhelmed with gratitude, and profuse in his thanks for the favor. He apologized for not having the necessary amount of cash in his pocket but promised to call in a few days, meanwhile he would also take two baskets of grapes, and pay this bill at the same time.

It was several months before the gentleman presented himself at the store and then it was only in response to an urgent request to settle the bill. His excuse was that he had been very busy and unable to call before. Even then he had not the ready money with him but in an off-hand way said that if the grocer had a loose check for a certain bank lying around he would make one out on that bank. The check was given him and he filled it in for fifteen dollars, whereas the amount of the bill was only six dollars. Said he, "You can give me the difference as I have several little things I wish to square this afternoon and it will greatly oblige me." The goodhearted and wholly unsuspecting grocer handed over nine dollars. Now he's sorry that he did, for when he presented the check for payment, he was informed that the individual whose name was attached to it had never had an account at that bank. Inquiries were brought to bear which prevented an expose at the time, but the matter has since been placed in legal hands and unless some settlement is effected it is expected to come up in court in a few days.

WAR TALK ON THE STREETS.

How the News of the Reverse at Ladysmith Was Received.

The people are not thinking of much besides war news just now. The papers are eagerly looked for and the head lines are glanced at as the purchasers go along the street. There is much annoyance felt at times at the unfair nature of the report, but that will always be the case so long as foreign news comes to Canada through American sources. The despatches are prepared to suit the newspapers of the Republic and Canada has to take what is sent to her press.

The news of the capture at Ladysmith was greatly magnified at first and the feeling of consternation was general. The first news came in the morning between nine and ten o'clock and it spread with inconceivable rapidity. Even at this great distance there is keen appreciation of the danger in which the garrisons at Lad-

smith, Kimberly and Mafeking are in but the hope has been that they would be able to withstand any attacks until the arrival of reinforcements. The Boers are assisted by the best military talent of Europe and the fight will not be a brief one. This was the opinion expressed by an officer who is not in the active militia at present but who has been a close military student. He fears that White may not be able to hold out until the arrival of reinforcements and the loss of such a position as Ladysmith, with stores and ammunition would be a serious check for the British arms. The capture of such a splendid body of troops as the Dublin Fusiliers and the Gloucestershires was a serious loss to White's forces and what was, in his opinion, worse still a great encouragement to the thousands of wavering Dutch in Natal. "Of course" he continued "we may be mistaken in our estimate of the feeling among the Dutch in all of South Africa but what we have read would indicate that there is great clannishness among them. If that is true and they all flock around the standard of Kruger, Great Britain may have a tedious war before her and the loyalty of her colonies may be shown again and again. As we all know Europe is an armed camp, and some of the great powers will not be slow to take advantage of the South African trouble to make claims that England may find it impossible to grant. France has the Newfoundland question and Germany the Samoa difficulty to negotiate about and they may be sure to bring these matters now."

"I see there is talk of a second contingent from Canada and that many of the men in the upper provinces favor it, among them our old friend, George R. Parkin. There would be no difficulty about raising another regiment, but it seems to me that it would be more prudent to keep the volunteers in reserve and send the seasoned troops."

Speaking of the political aspect of the contingent and the effort to make political capital out of the government's action he spoke against the attempt to raise such an issue. "There will always be differences of opinion in the country regarding war or any other question but while a conflict is going on the party in power should surely be exempt from severe criticism."

In this connection two Montreal newspapers the Star and the Herald are doing considerable campaigning. Three interviews from this city give opinions as to how the contingent was despatched. Here they are:

Major Sturdee, of the 62nd Fusiliers, said the rapidity with which the New Brunswick contingent was enrolled and left for Quebec reflects most favorably on the readiness and military spirit of the Canadian militia, while the fact that the regiment was organized and left for South Africa two days after the last company reached Quebec shows that the Militia department generally, and the stores department in particular, is ready for any emergency.

Lieut. Col. Blaine, many years in command of the 62nd Fusiliers, says the organization and equipment of the contingent was to his mind, a highly creditable performance. The work was carried on without a hitch of any kind, and the large body of men brought together from all over Canada were uniformed and got away in a manner that would have done credit to any country, and that could not be equalled by any other county, considering that the corps was a purely volunteer one.

Major W. W. White, of the third Canadian Artillery, said: "I consider the contingent for South Africa was mobilized with rapidity, considering the total absence in the militia of Canada of any special troops for that purpose."

THE TELEGRAPH OWNERSHIP.

Although the gentlemen who bought the Telegraph were to take possession on the first day of the month there has not been any change in the appearance of the paper or the personnel of the staff as yet. It is understood that the local board of directors are looking for a business manager and that an offer of \$2,500 was the inducement. The typ-setting machines have been set up and are about ready for use. The company proposed to occupy the present building for a time at least.