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## TIRED OF CIVIC LIFE.

THREE ALDERMEN WILL GIVE WAY TO OTHER MEN.

John A. Chesley, Walter Edgata and Dr. Smith in the field—Will the City be Divided into six Wards and the Present System of Election Done Away With.

The hum of local politics has not died away yet. The house meets on the 23rd instant and there is a good deal of speculation as to what will happen before that time. Another event perhaps of equal political significance will be the banquet to Hon. John Costigan which is scheduled to take place in the Dufferin soon after Lent.

The scramble for rewards has begun and the positions that are not filled must be soon. The applicants and their friends will not be put off and the lives of the members of the government must be made miserable by the importunities of those who say they supported them.

The monotony of a week after election has been varied by the story that an attempt had been made to get Mr. Purdy to resign and to put Mr. Reynolds up as a candidate in his stead. Publication was given to the rumor and the names of Mr. McDade, the president of the Young Liberals Association, and Mr. John Connor were associated with an interview with Mr. Emmerson upon the subject. Mr. McDade says that the premier was not interviewed and then the Globe came out with a long article and gave what purported to be the history of the rise, progress and fall of the scheme to relegate Mr. Purdy to private life and to replace him with a representative of the Catholic section of the party.

All this of course, supposed that Mr. McKeown would get the solicitor generalship. That gentleman has been so ill since the election that he has not been able to take any active part in the negotiations and persuasions that are being made but his friends have not been inactive. What his ideas are upon the matter of Mr. Reynolds keeping him in company in his next appeal to the electors have not been learned but he might have the same apprehension as some of his supporters, namely, that if the claims of Mr. Reynolds were not recognized his friends might forget to go to the polls and vote for McKeown. A prominent Catholic and party man intimated as much to Progress this week but such threats are usually made in indignation and repented of afterwards.

Meantime the government is in session and the house is summoned for the 23rd of this month. When it does meet several important bills will come before it from the city of St. John and one of them at least will have an especial interest for the people of St. John. The house will be asked to amend the act relating to the appointment of the chief of police and either give the council the power to appoint and dismiss or to agree to act upon their representations when made. As it is now the council has no power over the chief. The latter is paid by the city but appointed by the province. He can go and come as he pleases. He is supposed, as a matter of fact to ask permission of the chairman of the Safety board but he fails to do so three times out of four. Secure in his position the aldermen say he ignores the suggestions of the council and does as he pleases. His last difficulty with the representatives of the people is a good illustration of this. The facts are still fresh in the minds of the people as to what happened after the "resignations" of two officers. This seemed to be the last straw and the aldermen resolved that they would make an attempt to have the law changed.

But it is said that the government are not so much in favor of changing the law as they are in favor of changing the officer and that they are willing to make this change if the council asks for it. They are tired of bearing the burden of the sins and omissions of one of their officials and now that St. John has turned around and given them a handsome support they are willing to listen to the demands of their supporters.

This report has spread pretty generally during the week and the result is that there are plenty of applicants for the office of chief of police. It is not an easy office to fill and yet there are lots of men who think they could do so as well as the present chief. They may not have the same magnificent presence but they have brains and executive ability is what is needed. Of course some of those who think they should have it are on the force, but the name of one officer at least—perhaps of all

of them—has been used without warrant. He does not want the office but is looking after something else which will relieve him of his present position and give him one more congenial to his mind.

Some people connected with the city business are also mentioned as looking for the job but they deny that this is so. Government officials well known and capable in their own sphere are also in the field.

Talking with Progress a day or two ago an alderman said that he was confident there was to be a change of some sort but in what direction it would be he could not tell. The chief he said was to blame for any action that the council has felt it necessary to take. He would not consult them and though he had promised to do so again and again always pursued his own course in the end. "More than that" said he "we have had complaints from the officers on the force that they can get no satisfaction from him regarding the police fund. I think as Progress said they are afraid to broach the subject but the chief must surely know that while the council cannot interfere in this matter very well still the absence of an explanation does not make him appear in a very good light. I do not think myself that such a turf should be in the hands of the chief for the very reason that the men might not like to ask for the explanation to which they have a perfect right."

It is also said that there will be one or two liquor commissioners in the field. What the reasons for this are is best known to the people who have advised the change. The liquor people themselves have not been well satisfied with the methods of a portion of the commission and they would not be ill pleased if the change was made. It seems that they contributed quite a large sum toward election expenses and perhaps on this account they feel that greater consideration should be given to their views.

In addition to the above after election rumors (which may be all they will come to) there is talk of another kind about the people who found it expedient or who conscientiously changed from one side to the other. This was especially true of a lot of conservative who were elected to represent the wards at the convention. Some of them even attended the conservative conventions and then went into the government camp. The active spirits in the opposition camp are beginning to make a list of them, no doubt for future reference. One of them in particular was chairman of a ward and has been for years, and yet for the sake of a promise he went into another county and assisted the government candidate. An Ex-alderman who is always on the alert during election days—a man of influence and an ardent worker—did not turn his hand over this time. No doubt there are changes at all elections and the government can make the same claim as the opposition. In fact one strong man, Capt. Keast, openly owned up to his change of front. After all, the rank and file cannot be blamed for what their leaders did.

The friends of Mr. Purdy are not pleased at the attempt that has been made to get him to resign, and even if he has said nothing they do not hesitate to talk in plain language. It appears that there was some deficit—about \$150—when the Liberal picnic accounts were settled last summer and in this connection they are asking who was one of two or three to make good this amount. They think Mr. Purdy the last man who should be asked to resign. If, as it is claimed, the school trustee election defeated Mr. Reynolds they say that Mr. Purdy had nothing to do with it. He could not be expected to spend some hours at a council meeting when his election might have depended upon the personal canvas he was making.

## OFFICER CAPLES DIDN'T FIND IT.

But he got the Credit of doing so From the Chief of Police.

Police officer Caples, as everybody knows enjoyed the distinction last week of filling Detective Ring's place for four days, while the latter was permitted to rest for that space of time.

Of course it was natural for officer Caples to wish to do something that would bring credit to himself and his temporary position and he naturally looked around closely. There is an old saying that some men achieve greatness while

others have it thrust upon them, but officer Caples seems to have enjoyed both these advantages.

The daily papers recorded the fact that Caples, detective pro tem, had made a valuable find of jewellery, and that the police were looking for the rightful owner as well as the thief.

As a matter of fact Mr. Caples didn't find the jewellery at all. There is a well founded story to the effect that it was handed over to the officer by the persons who found it while sweeping the corridors of the Opera house, where it had evidently been dropped by some one who had attended a performance there. It is said that the jewellery was not very valuable, and might have been the property of some one of the many peddlers around town.

## THE GOOD THINGS OF LIFE.

And How They Were Appreciated by a Smart Young Halifax Man.

HALIFAX Mar. 2.—When the Boston boat left Halifax last Tuesday week, among its passengers was a certain young man, who has left behind him in Halifax a reputation in a certain line not to be envied.

Previous to his departure he seemed to be a quiet, easy going individual, and in fact one of those "good young men." He was a member of a temperance organization, and also of a prominent city band. His residence was in the North End. Every one whom he met regarded him as a paragon of sanctity.

Being never known to work and always looking neat and presentable for the street, many were the queries as to how he existed without the least exertion on his part in the way of either manual or mental labor. But now all these queries have been solved.

It appears he had been giving his valuable time and attention to a certain young woman residing in the South end of the city. He evidently very skilfully concealed his "attentions," as most of his friends never knew him to have a weakness for the opposite sex or in fact to have any partiality for them whatever. Still appearances are deceptive, as the fact has come to light that this party had been paying his attentions to the young lady referred to for the past two years.

Their courtship however, was kept secret through the circumstances attending their meetings. It was just simply this. The young lady was a cook in one of the families in the South End. Whenever her beau called she would receive him in the kitchen. Thus her receptions held within the sacred precincts of the kitchen were free from intrusion, and still further the espionage of the public.

These meetings were made more frequent and more "palatable" through the agency of the cook's culinary ability, and her lover was regularly treated to sumptuous lunches of cold turkey, ham and to many other little delicacies. These were very acceptable to him and seemed to be better, since they were prepared by such hands as they were.

The air was frequently rent with the solemn vows taken, binding their fidelity to one another. These were made sacred by the incense ascending from the steaming kettle.

Our domestic friend was evidently very much in love with her "young man." Not content with emphasizing her regard for him by a liberal provision of her mistress's cold meat, etc., she frequently furnished him with an extensive stock of collars, neckties and other necessities. Pocket money was also in order, and she seemed to emphasize her attendance to his needs in this respect.

However the crash came last week, when the young lady intimated to her idol that he should marry her, and after taking the circumstances into consideration he consented. Securing a license and accompanied by another party he met his culinary friend and a sister cook at an appointed place, whence the quartet started out for one of the city rectories. There the nuptial knot was tied.

Knowing full well that if he remained in the city, where he was well known, his life would be made miserable, hasty preparations were made for the couple's departure for the hub.

How the city is minus one of its most highly valued citizens; a city band one of its most efficient members, and a certain family in the South End a valuable cook.

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

## NOW WHO'LL GET JOBS?

SOME AFTER THAT OF THE CHIEF OF POLICE.

The Talk in Alderman Cires's About the Cause—the Purdy-Reynolds Matter—Will There be a Vacant Commissionership? That Liberal Picnic Deficit.

Alderman Hamm of Kings Ward has announced his retirement from civic politics.

Alderman-at-Large Douglas McArthur says he will attend to his private business and let some other man take his place.

Alderman-at-Large Purdy will, some of his friends say—not bother with civic business now that he is a member of the legislature.

Dr. J. M. Smith who ran against Ald. Christie last year is out again and will try and see what he can do.

There is nothing new so far as candidates for mayor are concerned. The present chief magistrate seems to be undisturbed and tranquil and the opposition which was talked of last week still remains "talk" as yet.

Still there are men who seem to long to re-enter the civic arena again and the chief one mentioned just now is Mr. John A. Chesley, who, his friends say would make a good alderman at large. Progress understands that he is being boomed for the nomination and that the train has been laid for some time to bring about the result. There is no doubt that he would get considerable support in the North end but the South and West sections might not be so hearty in their acceptance of him.

The friends of Capt. Keast have suggested him for a candidate for alderman at large, and he may be induced to accept. He ran well last year and will no doubt be heard from again.

There is no mention of any one for Kings Ward yet. Some of the friends of Dr. G. A. B. Addy enjoyed a joke at his expense by announcing his candidature.

Ex-alderman Wilson has been mentioned as a good man to take Alderman McArthur's place. He has a good knowledge of civic affairs and would gain his election easily. Alderman Tufts had no opposition last year. There is talk of some one opposing him this spring, but no man has been named as yet.

There is a good deal of speculation as to what effect the recent elections will have upon the aldermanic contest. It would only be natural if the aldermen who supported the government made it a condition that they should have assistance in their civic battle. For example Capt. McMakin who was to the front in Lorne would expect that he would get any assistance he wanted when the civic battle came off. The same is true of Messrs. Smith and Stackhouse in Carleton. They won't expect to get many catholic votes because they voted for Mrs. Smith as against Mrs. Dever but they may not be concerned about that.

It is said that the Catholics have agreed that their representation at the council board is inadequate and that they will have some candidates up. At present Alderman McGoldrick is the only representative they have and their contention is that they should have four or five out of the fifteen. If this cannot be brought about in any other way they may apply to the legislature and have the present method of electing aldermen changed.

Many are in favor of going back to the old ward system while others favor a redistribution of wards. This scheme finds favor with the politicians. The proposition is to divide the city after this fashion. Make Carleton one ward; give the North End two wards not including Victoria, and divide Victoria, Wellington, Prince, Kings, Sydney and Dukes into three wards. Then it is proposed to elect three aldermen from each ward. Under this change the wards will vote for their own men. It is said that the city representatives have been approached and that they are in favor of the change.

The present system was brought about through the efforts of the T. R. A. with George Robertson as mayor. If as an M. P. P. now he favors the change the legislature may listen to him with a good deal of attention. Even in the council there is a disposition to abandon the present method because they say it leads to combinations and the man who is most popular in his own ward may be defeated by the vote of the people who know nothing of him in another part of the city. Progress gives this rumor for what it

is worth. There is something in the air of that flavor. The details are not yet worked out and they may not be this year but this is the talk.

## HE WON'T DO THIS AGAIN.

A North End Man Takes Poison by Using the Wrong Bottle.

Cases of poisoning, accidental or otherwise are rare in St. John, or if they happen are generally kept so quiet that the public seldom hear of them unless of course, fatal results follow. One case that looked for a time as though it might have a serious ending occurred here a few days ago but fortunately the victim is recovering and has registered a solemn vow never to drink the contents of any bottle, no matter how familiar he may be with the exterior, without a close examination of the inside.

The accident referred to happened to a well known man, who, it appears has for a long time been in the habit of visiting a drug store in his neighborhood and regaling himself with a tonic which was always to be found in a certain place. Day after day these visits were made and the tonic was always found in its place; naturally as time passed he took his dose without looking to see that he was getting the right stuff. And this indifference is what led to his almost fatal mistake.

A few days ago he entered the drug store, took the bottle from its accustomed place, and proceeded to drink the amount prescribed for his case. It wasn't many seconds before he realized that he had somehow gotten hold of the wrong bottle and in a short space of time the drug store was a scene of the wildest confusion. Somebody had by accident removed the tonic bottle and in its place was a poison, and of this the man had taken a good big drink.

A doctor was hastily summoned and armed with a stomach pump he went to work on the victim of the mistake.

He finally extracted the poison and the patient was conveyed to his home. He has undergone a pretty serious time of it but at present is doing very well.

## CAME TO HIS BROTHER'S FUNERAL.

Mr. McBriarty's Division of His Property—One Thousand to His Brother.

The death and funeral of Mr. George McBriarty last week was followed a day or two later by the probating of his will which divided several thousand dollars between his near relatives. Those who knew him had a fairly good idea that the deceased was in good circumstances but some over-estimated while others under-estimated the value of his property. It was probated at about \$8,000 without considering the business which Mr. Connors, a nephew who had looked after it during the long illness of the deceased, received as a part of his share. Nearly everybody knew George McBriarty. His independent business methods and his plainly expressed opinions attracted many to his place. His likes and dislikes were strong but his heart was always in the right place. His brother, J. J. McBriarty—who was so well known here as the proprietor of the International Cafe, but who for more than a year has had a responsible position as Port Seward of the steamers of the Merchants and Miners Transportation Co., of Baltimore—came here to attend his funeral. He travelled from Savannah to do so. He was a beneficiary to the extent of \$1,000 under the will and his two boys for nearly the same amount.

The presence of "Jack"—as his friends all knew him—in spite of the mission which called him here enabled him to receive personal congratulations on his recent marriage. Baltimore seems to have agreed with him, if health and avocations are any indications. The same scales that used to tell him when he was in condition would be of no use now. His sojourn here was short but it was pleasant and judging from the party that saw him off in the train he still holds a very kindly place in the memories of his many friends in St. John.

## Regarding His Health.

Letters from T. B. Blair this week told his friends that he was regaining the good health that he enjoyed before the grippe seized him and he went away for his health. He is in New York at the present time but proposes to go South in a few days. He has been in Montreal and in some of the large American cities. Mr. A. George Blair was with him in New York.

## They May Have Amateur Sports.

There is some talk of the Neptune Rowing club holding some amateur sports in the near future. There are some scientific boxers among the members and several all around athletes—enough to make an excellent show.