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WHAT THE RUMORS SAY

ABOUT THE APPROACHING ELECTIONS IN THE PROVINCE.

The Campaign is Apparently Opened in Charlotte County by the Premier and the Provincial Secretary—Something About Probable Candidates.

An election or a session—which? That seems to be the principal topic of discussion at the present time and the sudden activity of the principal members of the government, the premier and the provincial secretary, in Charlotte County, would be somewhat strong evidence of their intentions to hold an election before the house is convened.

The rumors therefore of what is likely to happen in provincial politics, and the possible results of the contest, the personnel of the candidates and their chances of success are many and varied.

Charlotte County seems to be one of those counties that is giving some considerable trouble to the administration. The late premier, Hon. Mr. Mitchell, was the gentleman who always held that constituency well in hand in support of the government of which he was a member but after his death and the apparent determination of the opposition to conduct provincial politics in future on federal lines, the prominent men associated with Mr. Mitchell in this border county seemed inclined to follow the lines laid down by the Moncton convention that meant that such popular men as John D. Chipman, George Clarke, W. C. H. Grimmer and others rallied to the support of the opposition. To counteract this, if possible, appears to be the present aim of the premier and his associates.

But while affairs are thus mixed up in Charlotte County and the government speakers are making, perhaps the first explanation of the various charges that have been made against them, there is an equally interesting condition in many other counties in the province.

Progress simply proposes to give a portion of the rumors that are flying about at the present time and perhaps they will indicate in a manner just what is being thought of the probable chances of both parties.

Away up in Victoria County it has been stated that there will be an opportunity for our own Colonel Hugh McLean to find a seat which he may hold down in the House of Assembly. There will be a sincere feeling of regret that the Colonel has to go so far to seek an honor which he can no doubt fill with great acceptance. His popularity here as a military man and his connection with the representative of the county at Ottawa should make him a most desirable candidate for the government in this constituency and good candidates are so scarce too. Whether correct or not the managers of the government party in the city of St. John are said to be having rather a hard time of it to find men who will represent them properly in this approaching contest.

Surely some good man might be found for the county of Victoria in which Colonel McLean is comparatively a stranger, and thus permit that gentleman to come to the front among his friends in this city. It is said and believed by many that he would have for a colleague in the race Mr. George Robertson who needs no introduction to the citizens of St. John. Mr. Robertson was mayor for four years and during that time proved himself acceptable as a civic representative, but the task that he is undertaking, if the rumour above noted is correct, is one which a good many men have tried and failed at.

A few years ago the present opposition representatives were returned by acclamation but that was an arrangement and the vote that was received at the previous election indicated that the government did not stand much of a chance in St. John. The party in power, however, hope that after the lapse of so many years public opinion has changed and that its candidates will receive a substantial support when the election day arrives.

Mr. Dunn will of course come for the county and another of the rumors is that Mr. McLeod will not run again, but that his place will be taken by Mr. H. A. McKeown. The last time that Mr. McKeown ran he was opposed to Mr. McLeod and the electors of the county were unable to choose between them. The result was a tie vote and the late Sheriff Harding declared in favor of the resident of the coun-

ty, Mr. McLeod. Times have changed since then and it looks as though Mr. McKeown has kept pace with him, if the rumor noted above has any foundation in fact.

Now who will the opposition get to oppose such a combination as Mr. Dunn and Mr. McKeown? Mr. Douglas Hazen is spoken of and those who would like to see him run for the county of St. John have also suggested that his colleague should be Mr. Shaw. They would make a strong team and would no doubt keep the government candidates at bay.

Dr. Stockton, Dr. Alward and Mr. Lockhart appear to be available for the city, but if Mr. Shaw goes to the county another man will be needed and no doubt he can be found. It is said Alderman Macrae would not be averse to accepting a nomination. Dr. W. W. White is also mentioned in the same connection but with what authority Progress knows not.

In Kings County it is said Mr. Fowler will not run again, not at any rate as a supporter of the government but Mr. Wm. Pugsley is considerably in evidence and reports say will have for his colleagues Hon. Mr. White and Mr. G. G. Scovil. There can be no doubt whatever about Mr. Pugsley as a manipulator and if he succeeds in placing the promised opposition in Kings County, he will have done something surely to commend him strongly to the attention of his party if it is successful.

Carlisle, York, Sunbury, Charlotte, St. John and Westmorland are counted upon to be fairly strong in their opposition. Of course the supporters of the government ridicule this and claim that they will not only carry Westmorland but will regain some of their support in St. John. Organization is being carried on as rapidly as possible and no doubt if the election is not brought on too quickly both sides will be in fairly good shape to meet each other.

A LAWYER'S BIG FEE.

He Makes \$300 for Himself and Thousands for His Client.

There are some lawyers in St. John, as elsewhere, who get big fees. The rewards of success in legal circles are not large as a rule but there have been some fairly liberal ones in this city of ours. Take for example the fees in the consolidated electric case! Does any one know how large they were? Does anyone know outside of the legal gentlemen mainly interested in just what shape those cases stand? Where is the money? Some of it was no doubt in the hands of the receiver general of the province a long time. The history of how it got out of his hands has been told so often that the readers of newspapers know all about it. But does anyone know where the money is now?

There was a rumor around town this week to the effect that some demands had been made for the balance that remained after the lawyers had their share but it was not possible to verify its correctness. It is hard to tell sometimes how these reports arise. The absence of a prominent man will frequently set his colleagues in the profession talking and their speculations are rather interesting. Keeping the run of big cases as they do the man who evades their curiosity must be made of good material.

Perhaps this is how the story of a \$300 fee for a few hours work got out. But the story was told in the law library that one of the brethren had done some good work in settling an estate and had been paid in proportion. He had, it was said, saved his client a few thousands and had been paid a good fat fee. But this is nothing new in the history of business. Good work demands and obtains good pay and anyone who has ever read the bill of the arbitrators that was submitted to the decision of Judge Barker will never doubt the ability of the gentlemen who made it up.

Two Ways of Doing Duty.

That sturdy looking minor, William Harding, who cost a few liquor dealers some ten dollar fines a short time ago because his age was behind his looks was arrested a few days ago by Sergeant Campbell with a companion, on a charge of taking a piece of meat from a butcher shop. That fact and the result has been noted in the daily papers but an incident of the trial was the complaint

of the prisoners of the language and actions of the sergeant when he arrested them. There won't be much sympathy for Harding and his chum but these complaints are becoming a regular thing and from what Progress can learn a good many who might have complained of Sergeant Campbell's manner of doing his duty have not done so. The chief says that Campbell is one of his best men but there are ways and ways of doing one's duty and if the Sergeant was to change his he might get even stronger praise.



CAPTAIN STAILING, of Annapolis, N. S.

All along the Nova Scotia coast are homes from which the sea has claimed its victims, and the latest family thus bereaved is that of Capt. Stailing, of Annapolis, whose portrait appears above.

January 13th, the ship Andelina was captured in a terrific gale which prevailed near Tacoma, Wash., and every man on board was lost. The ship had only arrived a few days before from Shanghai, her ballast had been discharged and she was waiting to be towed into the dock when she went down with the entire crew of fifteen. Capt. Stailing belonged to Annapolis where a widow and three young children now mourn in sudden bereavement.

MACKEY STILL IN JAIL.

The People Interested Here are Paying His Board.

John Mackay is still in jail in Boston and the six gentlemen in this city who claim that the lottery ticket he holds belongs to them are each contributing four cents a day to pay his board in this institution in Massachusetts. They don't seem to mind the expense but the loss of time and of liberty must mean a good deal to a man as active and busy as Mr. Mackay was. He must be fairly certain of coming out somewhere on top or else he would have handed over the ticket long ago and obtained his liberty.

"What are your chances of getting the money?" asked Progress of one of the gentlemen interested. "I am just as sure of it as I am that I have that fifty cent piece in my hand" he replied pulling out a half dollar from his pocket.

It seems that the case will be tried out in Boston and that the lawyer for the plaintiffs here is just about filing his bill of particulars. That won't be the only bill he will file it may readily be supposed but it is the money is forthcoming in the end the parties who get it won't mind the expense connected with the getting of it.

DEATH ENDS HIS PAIN.

Geo McWilliams Passes Away After a Long Illness.

Geo McWilliams, a young man who was well known and well liked, died at his mother's residence on Coburg Street Tuesday morning after an illness that has extended for over a year and was so serious and painful that it required all the fortitude of his strong and patient nature to stand the suffering.

He was a brother of J. Olsen McWilliams and for some time before he was taken ill was associated with him in his business in the Farlong building. Before that George was a stone cutter and a mason and he always thought the reason for his lung trouble was the result of the stone dust he inhaled while at this work.

Combined with this trouble was a severe attack of rheumatism and sciatica which prevented him from enjoying the air as long as he might have. His suffering was such that his nearest friends hoped for and yet dreaded the relief that the end would bring. The news of the sudden death of his sister, Mrs. McDade, was kept from him until the end. The large attendance at his funeral was the best evidence of the thorough esteem that was felt for the deceased.

THE COLONEL'S STORY.

HE SAYS NEWSPAPER STATEMENTS INJURED HIM

In the Old Country—A Brother Officer—Colonel Markham, Who Manages the Sun Seems to be At a Loss—That Election Bill and the Verdict Given.

The war between Colonel Alfred Markham and Colonel James Domville still continues. There was a lull in hostilities for a time but the feeling between the two officers, one of whom manages the Sun newspaper and the other represents the people of King's county in parliament, is stirred up from time to time by the back handed compliments that the latter receives through the columns of that particular journal.

The latest notice of this sort that Colonel Domville has to acknowledge was the report of the trial of a suit against him in the county court of Kings when plain John Smith sought to recover \$48 for hire of teams at the election of 1896. The fact that John Smith obtained a verdict was somewhat prominently displayed in the Sun's report of the proceedings and the friends of Colonel Domville are not so well pleased over the matter. That may not worry the managers of the Sun any but the Colonel says that the repeated attacks upon him in connection with his management of the Yukon company that appeared in the Sun were used to his disadvantage in London. Thousands of miles away as he was he could not reply to what was said about him and the copies of the Sun that were industriously sent to the old country did not fail to do the harm intended.

In respect to the claim of John Smith, Colonel Domville says that he did not hire the teams but was careful to keep a memo of all he did hire and what personal expense he was under as he was required to do under the law. The representatives of the party may have hired the teams but they did so without his knowledge. He had heard of the matter some months ago, but had paid no attention to it at all.

Under these circumstances and the fact that he has a suit pending against the company with which he was connected as well as against Mr. Trewartha James for slander, the rather prominent publication of a verdict for debt against him did not please him, to say the least. Colonel Markham is naturally desirous to obtain the command of the Hussars but the present commandant, Colonel Domville, is just as naturally not inclined to fall in with his views. He is in favor of Major Montgomery Campbell being promoted to the command. Whether the department of militia will fall in with his views and pass over Colonel Markham remains to be seen. The events of the future will be looked for with interest.

FINISH OF THE HERSCHEL CLUB.

Their Numerous Trials and Tribulations Lead to Misfortune.

The Herschel club is in trouble. It will be news to most people that there is such a club in the city, but like all similar organizations it feels famous in its own estimation and the members who compose it no doubt think the fact of not knowing something about the Herschel club argues oneself unknown.

It came into existence, last fall, it would seem needless to explain, just about the time of the visit of Baron Herschel to this city. The staid English nobleman will no doubt be somewhat surprised to learn that a sporting club has been named after him, and it may lead his coteries to believe that his stay in America was not wholly devoted to international interests, Joint High Commissions and other weighty affairs. It may also lead to serious results and when the famous Englishman hears of the club's trouble it is safe to say he will think it serves them right for changing the name from The White Squadron, which it was originally christened.

While it was known as The White Squadron it seems to have been a pretty well behaved organization, and it is a question whether or not the change of names is responsible for the swift pace it has been going lately.

The membership of the club wasn't particularly select, in fact most any one seems to have been eligible, and that what led to all the trouble. Every profession and branch of industry seems to have been represented, including dry goods clerks, draughtsmen, musicians, band professors, grocers, tailors, butchers, wine clerks,

fishermen and druggists. It didn't take long to get a good rapid gait on once a man was initiated, and a five weeks course was guaranteed to teach a member all he wanted to know about sporting life.

It has been pretty well established that troubles never come singly, and the Herschel Club was not exempt from the common fate.

First of all one of the prominent members, got into trouble, and the police court. That was a crime in itself, for it was one of the principles of the club that every member should give policemen and the police court a good wide berth. So some of the members resolved to make an example of the unlucky offender and also make the punishment fit the crime, and the culprit was accordingly asked to resign. This move didn't meet with the approval of the majority however, and internal dissensions and insubordination followed.

Then a whole lot of the boys got mad and left, and for a little while things moved quietly. This peaceful state of affairs didn't last long however and a deep humiliation was in store for the unlucky club. The furniture of the meeting place was only borrowed from the club landlord and not long ago he decided that he wanted it himself, so the room was dismantled. Then some more of the members came to the conclusion that the amount of dues they were asked to pay was out of all proportion to the accommodation furnished; and the prestige of being a Herschel club man was considerably diminished with the result that another batch of resignations was handed in, now the once prosperous and thriving Herschel club seems doomed to extinction unless somebody interested in philanthropy comes forward and helps it out of its present difficulties.

It is not known whether Lord Herschel has been notified of the trouble. He is still in Washington, so that there may be something yet to hope for from him. In the meantime the only amusements left to the surviving members are a piano and a few games.

That Was a Good Act.

Once in a while an incident crops up in police circles that shows the kindness of heart that distinguish some of the men. Not long ago a belated citizen was trying to wend his way toward Union street over the icy sidewalk. He had been enjoying himself evidently at some supper or something of that sort because, whatever was the reason, he did not take a very direct course along the street. Finally he fell and was unable to regain his feet before a couple of policemen assisted him to rise. Those who were regarding the incident from a distance were in doubt at first whether the policeman would go to the station with their capture but, to their credit be it said, they took the citizen home which was not very much out of their way. That seems to be about the highest duty of an officer.

Visiting Newspaper Men.

St. John is always glad to see representative newspaper men from abroad and that may be one of the reasons why the people who met Messrs. Smith and Matthews of the Montreal Star, and Mr. Livingston of the Toronto Globe were so glad to extend a hearty welcome to them. But before they left they were liked for their own good fellowship. They were here in the interest of their newspapers to greet the steamer Huron with her 2000 emigrants bound from Russia for the West. The Huron had not arrived up to the time of this writing and so the visiting newspapermen went to Halifax to meet her there. While here they gained much correct information regarding the port, which, when published, as it probably will be, cannot fail to be of much advantage to St. John.

Hope for His Recovery.

The many friends of William McEvoy of the Three Mile House will be glad to learn that the operation that was performed on him in the hospital Wednesday was so satisfactory as to give much encouragement to his friends. He has been ill for some months with an affection of the throat and in order to get the advice of the best specialist he went to Boston and remained there for some time. The results were not so satisfactory as he hoped for and he returned home to fight his battle for life here. The operation was performed in the General Public Hospital without the use of anaesthetics. The friends of Mr. McEvoy hope for his speedy recovery.