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ST. JOHN, N. B., SATURDAY, APRIL 29 1899.

PRICE FIVE CENTS

THE CITY HAS CONTROL AND WILL MAKE REGULATIONS FOR THE CHIEF OF POLICE

By which he will have to govern the force—Something about the Acts Proposed by the City Council—The Letter of the Chief of Police to City Members.

The members of the common council are rather relieved this week at the pleasing prospect of a final adjustment of police affairs. The delegation that went to Fredericton on Monday night with instructions from a special meeting of the board, found themselves very favorably received by the committee which was discussing their bill and their suggestions and wishes were in the main adopted.

W. Walker Clark will still be Chief of Police, holding the appointment at the pleasure of the government but he will not have that absolute power which he has possessed ever since he succeeded the late Chief Marshall. The council will, after this, have the power to make regulations governing the actions of the police force, the chief will have the power, as any chief should have, of appointing, suspending and dismissing men, but the file and patrol work will be regulated by the safety board under the common council. It seems there was a great deal of discussion at the meeting of the committee of the legislature before matters were finally adjusted. There was one suggestion that the Chief should be a member of the safety board and have a voice in the deliberations of that part of the business affecting the police affairs. This however was so strongly opposed by the delegation present that it was not adopted. The effect of the regulations, briefly stated, will be, that the Chief will have to report to the safety board and accept their suggestions. Hitherto there has been an impression that the work of the office was not directed as it should be. For example, although there is a detective on the force, the duties of that office have been scattered broadcast through the force. It would be hard to explain the reason of this, but the fact remains that it is so. Certain members of the Common Council cannot understand why it is necessary to have such an intricate system of book keeping as exists at present in the office and one of them explained that the books were a sort of moral character index and kept at least one officer writing a greater part of his time.

There are others beside the Common Council who will not regret that the matter is settled. The members of the legislature representing St. John and some others were pestered by letters and telegrams advising them what course to pursue. Some of them were in favor of police affairs continuing the same, while many others suggested a change. The chief himself was not inactive and he brought all the influence of personal friends he could command to disturb the situation.

A copy of the letter the chief sent some members of the legislature representing this city is given herewith as presenting his side of the question:

Dear Sir:—Alderman Macree before the Municipalities Committee is reported in the St. John Globe, as saying, "there are no regulations controlling the Police Force of the City of St. John." I need not say to you this is not correct, as you are conversant with police business. We have rules and regulations for the government of the Force approved by the Common Council. I was requested to make and compile rules and regulations for the Department of Police by the Common Council seven or eight years ago. I did so, expending considerable time, thought and search and gave them as requested to the Common Council. They appointed a committee and that committee as far as I can learn found no fault with them, although they never reported to the Common Council. The next year another Committee was appointed and they have never reported, showing how hard it is to get members of the council to take interest in and to give the time to business like this. So it has stood 7 or 8 years, one council would take it up and a new council lose sight of it. Alderman Millidge took it in hand one year and said he would see if he could not help me, by making considerable changes, doing something with the old officers and taking the whole police business into consideration. We had 5 or 6 meetings, Alderman Millidge asking questions and taking notes of the proceedings of each meeting. After all this time and trouble it came out that Alderman Millidge had lost all the notes of the meetings. Then again the bottom dropped out of it, and I did not hear anything more of it. I have a copy of the rules and regulations prepared by me, also copies of approved rules by the common council which are now in use. I have no feeling against the Police Magistrate. He has done against me for what I did at the request of the Common Council and advice of the Recorder, (written advice which I have in my possession) removed Sergt. Thos. Caples from the Mayor's office—something I had no wish to do. I would like to pull with the Magistrate in everything right.

I will give you one of the orders issued to the force June 30th 1890. Officers will not talk, debate or discuss religion or politics in the police station.

This order has been carried out with the exception of one or two cases which have been dealt with.

I write this because of something I saw in the papers. I have always been loyal to the Government and so has a large majority of the force, perhaps in fact, there is no one in the House better acquainted with me and the workings of the Police Department than yourself. You know I give my whole time and attention to the office, I sleep (what little sleep I could get) in the station for two years working and watching everything, getting the department down to a system and have succeeded, and the citizens of St. John will say so. I can give you statistics of fifteen cities in the United States and Canada showing that the Police Department of the City of St. John with about the same population costs more work with less men and less pay and with more miles of streets to patrol.

I am in the hands of my friends. I do most respectfully ask and do hope you will continue to sustain the free and entire independence of your Chief of Police and never take the control of his office out of his hands. I see no other way to have discipline in the department and maintain its self-respect.

King George said that the looked upon the independence and uprightness of officials as essential to the influential administration of justice as one of the best securities to the rights and liberties of his subjects, and as most conducive to the honor of the crown.

On the twenty third day of May next I shall have served the City of St. John as Chief of Police nine years, I think I have done my duty to all men, and have maintained my manhood and self-respect.

I am Yours respectfully,
W. WALKER CLARK
Chief of Police.

Another bill that was promoted by the city and which was carried by in common majority of two, will have a far reaching and very beneficial effect upon the interests of many people in St. John, as well as throughout the Province. Its passage, was due largely to the efforts of Mr. McKeown, who being acquainted with the local circumstances of the examples of the injury done to tenants in this city, worked courageously for its adoption. It appears that under the law as it was there was a doubt about the renewable character of leases and the landlord who wished to do so could annoy his tenant and disturb his peace of mind by refusing to renew his lease unless he received more rent. If the tenant told him that he could not do this, some landlords were in the habit of saying that if he wished to contest the matter he could go to law. That was the alternative that almost any tenant would naturally desire to avoid, and the result was that in many cases the advance in rent was given rather than incur the danger of the costs of a law suit. Mr. McKeown's contention was that this clause in the lease should be made so clear that there would be no possibility in the future of disturbing the tenant and he carried his point. (Since this was written the bill, at Mr. White's suggestion, was shelved.)

The Board of Trade and the council seem to be opposed to one another on the assessment question. The former body, some months ago expressed themselves in favor of the exemption of all personal property and when the council intimated that they could not agree with that view the Board of Trade took the stand that they would oppose any amendment to the assessment act until their view was adopted, so when the bill was before the committee the canvas in the lobbies among the country members of that body was against "tinkering" with the law, until one wholly suitable to all the people could be adopted. Then the Board of Trade sent in a bill to the Common Council empowering the city to get such information as was necessary for the construction of a new assessment law, but the council did not see their way clear to accept it without adding the preamble that it was desirable to get such information regarding the value of property in St. John, as was necessary to see whether a new act was necessary or not. Then if the people wanted a new act a bill could be prepared to that end. One of the members of the delegation pointed out some of the anomalies of the present act. For example there are about twenty six insurance companies represented in St. John and last year only six of these paid taxes. The reason why the greater number escaped was that under the law if their loss exceeded their profits they would escape taxation. The bill committee of the council thought that this was wrong and so they proposed a general fee on each of the companies, amounting in the case of fire insurance to \$100 and agency and in life \$50. This was opposed keenly by a delegation from this city and the proposition was made by the fire insurance companies to pay \$75. The delegation however refused to bargain as they were not sent there for that purpose.

Another instance of this sort was the bank assessment. Last year and for some years the Bank of New Brunswick paid some \$8,000 into the revenues of the city, about \$2,000 more than that collected from all the rest of the branch banks here. The council felt that this was not right, that it was unequal and unfair and so the remedy they sought was based upon the percentage figured out by the present taxation of the Bank of New Brunswick and the returns they made to the government of the business they did last year was found to be one seventh of one per cent. To get at the probable amount of the business it was suggested to add together the deposits, loans, and investments on the last day of each month and the result divided by 12 would it was thought give a fairer idea than if the last day in any one month, or any particular day in the year was named. This seemed to excite the indignation of one of the bank managers here who thought it implied an intention on their part to tamper with the accounts in order to make their business appear as small as possible for the purpose of taxation. But the answer to that was that there could be no doubt of the fairness of the methods suggested.

Since the delegation arrived from Fredericton some changes has been made in the bill. That authorizing the appointment of a commission to get information as to whether a new assessment law is necessary or not was withdrawn at the request of the city mainly owing it is understood to the way it was proposed to appoint the commissioners.

DEATH OF WARD C. PITFIELD.

A Prominent Business Man Passes Away at an Early Age.

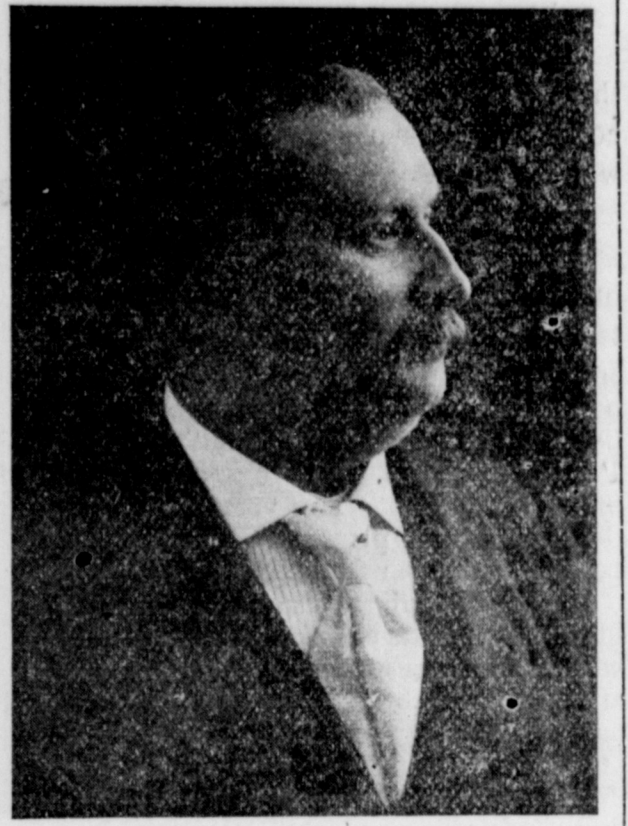
One of the business neighbors of PROGRESS is no longer with us. He passed away at seven o'clock on Thursday morning and when the employees of the firm of W. C. Pitfield & Co assembled for their daily work and learned that their chief had passed away they sustained as great a surprise and shock as those on the same street who were used to see the splendid specimen manhood come to his place of business in the early morning hours.

He wasn't ill long enough for his absence to be much noted because his business called him often from home for days at a time and the knowledge that the genial man and cordial merchant who always was apparently as much interested as he was pleased at the success of his neighbor, was dead was saddening indeed. Health and strength, vigor and energy were indeed his and no one on the street would have thought for a moment that his tenure of life was short. But jealousy as he was of his commercial honor and reputation the events of the past three years have told terribly upon him. The abuse of trust by a valued and confidential employe shook his prosperity and the efforts necessary to pay in part or whole the interest of a special partner were particular strains upon a mind sensitive to the success of his business. Then last year Mr. Pitfield met with a severe accident which, while showing a broken arm as the outward result shattered his system. He told the writer the latter part of February that he had not had the same health since and his appearance bore out his statement. Two weeks ago today Mr. Pitfield was compelled to leave his business and go home. He had been complaining of illness for some weeks, but the indomitable energy that was so characteristic of him kept him at his warehouse until he could remain no longer. His physicians appeared to be unable to say what was the nature of his illness, save that it was nervous indigestion aggravated by business worries which disturbed him much. Nevertheless Mr. Pitfield did not keep his room up to Wednesday when his illness assumed a more serious form. He passed a very bad night and expired next morning.

He was born in Sussex on the 26th of March, 1855, and is a little over 44 years of age. When sixteen or seventeen years of age he was employed by a local firm in that vicinity, but he entered a broader field of business in St. John a short time later, and became an employe of Thomas R. Jones who was then owner of the business that Mr. Pitfield afterwards conducted. From a junior in the business he became a traveller, and enjoyed a wide acquaintance and an honorable record throughout the Maritime Provinces. His success was such, that when the establish-

ment of Mr. Jones was offered for sale in 1888, he was, with the assistance of Mr. Samuel Hayward, able to acquire the business, which entered upon a new era of prosperity under the energetic ability and business experience of W. C. Pitfield & Co. Mr. Hayward was special partner and the business association was continued for many years.

Although a busy man of affairs Mr. Pitfield did not forget that as a citizen he owed something to the public and the arduous labors of the president of the Exhibition association were assumed by him without complaint. He was president for years and reelected only a few days ago. It may be truly said that the existence of the association is almost wholly due to him and two or three other gentlemen who did



The Late Ward C. Pitfield.

not know the meaning of the word failure. He was also president of the Board of Trade for one or two years and in the chair of that important body he displayed the same earnest care for the welfare and prosperity of the city. After his retirement from the chair he was vice president and always a member of the council. Head of the Auer Light Company, it was due to him that the improved system was introduced into the city.

Mr. Pitfield was a conservative in politics and an active one at that. Connected with the organization and loyal leadership of the party, he was listened to with much attention in the councils of its associations. He was also a Forester and a member of St. George's society.

Fourteen or fifteen years ago he married Miss Daig, a Brooklyn lady, who with three children, a boy and two girls, survive him. He lived in a handsome residence on Germain street, and his pride in his home and his family was natural. His father was Samuel Pitfield of Sussex, and he has one brother in St. John, Oliver Pitfield, another in Sussex, W. T. Pitfield, one in Massachusetts, Geo. C. Pitfield, and a sister, Mrs. Geo. McIntyre of Sussex.

That King's County Alms House.

Councillor Thomas Gulliland of King's County was in town this week and saw PROGRESS in regard to an article that appeared in the last issue of this paper which touched on matters relating to the County alms house at Norton. The Councillor is chairman of the alms house committee and there is no doubt he speaks with authority of matters in connection with it.

He says the impression left by the article that the house was badly managed is not correct. It was true that four of the inmates had died since the first of the year but they were old people, ill when they went there and not expected to live long. That they were not well used is ridiculous and the fact that the keeper in charge is well known and respected is sufficient guarantee of that. Councillor Gulliland is naturally jealous of the reputation of King's County alms house because it was only recently that the people consented to abolish the old slavery plan of sale of the poor by public auction and there are still many who are opposed to the new order of things. PROGRESS publishes his correction with pleasure.

A New Home in the West.

Very many friends saw James Berry the city editor of the Sun and his wife and family start for their new home in Montana last Saturday. Mr. Berry has been offered a lucrative position there and as his wife's relatives reside there he accepted. He was a popular newspaper man and his friends and associates while regretting his departure could only wish him God speed.

HOW BROTHERS ARE OUT.

THE LATEST DIFFICULTY THAT HAS AFFLICTED THE BUSINESS

Of Messrs. John Edgecombe & Sons of Fredericton—An Attempt to Eject out Unsuccessful—The Story of the Difficulty as Told by a Member of the Family.

FREDERICTON April 29:—Another phase in the controversy that has for years continued between the Edgecombe brothers occurred yesterday when Alfred was ordered to remove what stock he had from the building at one time known as the factory. The story of the trouble that has destroyed the at one time well and favourably known firm of John Edgecombe and sons, carriage makers, is a long and peculiar one. Talking with William J. the elder son the following facts were gleaned.

He came from Sackville where he had been at school, and began work in the factory where he continued till he was 22. He had no understanding as to partnership. His father had worked up the business but said to him when he, Will, decided to go west that if he would continue he would become a partner in the firm. He did so, but no papers were prepared, and there was nothing but verbal statements. The business was very prosperous and the books of that time will show that thousands of dollars per year were made.

The father was well satisfied and everything was smooth. Then Alfred came home from school and it was agreed between the father and Will that Alfred should come in as a partner, there being again some unwritten agreement that the father should hold one half, Will one quarter and Alfred another quarter of the firm's stock.

This was also very satisfactory, Will worked as a skilled carriage builder while Alfred, who was a good salesman and accountant did the office work and looked after the books. The first trouble occurred when Will's residence was burned. He had built this house himself, though it appears some of the material was owned by the firm. When the insurance came in he considered that he had a claim on all of it while Alfred and the father thought otherwise. This was the first entering wedge of the trouble that has since become so keen, and which has destroyed the best business house of this city.

Then when Norman became a workman in the establishment another difficulty arose. Mr. Edgecombe senior, desired to place him in the firm and give him an interest in the business, but Will and Alfred objected on the plea that they had worked up the business to its prosperity and they could not see the justice of dividing with Norman.

A demand was made that an explicit statement of the firm's standing should be made so that Will or Alf should know just what they owned, but Will says that he never could secure this from his father who put it off from day to day.

Norman was taken into the firm and the split grew wider. Then Will became still more dissatisfied and the father also got uneasy, and an attempt was made to get the business on some satisfactory basis and at last it was decided to put an injunction on. This was done and the factory stopped for a time.

About this time a paper arranging the business was drawn up by a legal adviser, and Will says he signed it without really knowing what it contained. It was read once to him but he did not realize what position he was going to put himself in till later.

Previous to this Mr. Van Buskirk was taken into the office as clerk and book-keeper, and Will claims that from that time he knew nothing of the way the firm's work was being done nor how it was going. As long as the old gentleman lived, Will claims the business was satisfactory, but soon the books came entirely into the hands of Alf and Van Buskirk, and from that time, Will says, he knew nothing about how affairs were going.

Matters went from bad to worse and the old gentleman took ill. There was no understanding up till that time, and when he went to bed things were in a chaotic state.

One eventful evening Fred, Will, Alf, Norman, and all the rest were called to his bedside. He was dying; his solicitor was in England, but Mr. Vanwart, the present judge was called in; he attempted to make a will and a document was made out in the brief time at his disposal but before he died.

CONTINUED ON FOURTH PAGE.