

PROGRESS.

VOL. XIII., NO. 649.

ST. JOHN, N. B., SATURDAY DECEMBER 22 1900.

Board of Works 8 May 1900
PRICE 10 CENTS

RIVAL COMPANIES.

St. John Will Have Plenty of Amusement This Holiday Season in a Theatrical Way.

On Christmas afternoon and evening the people of this city will have the opportunity of welcoming two of their stage favorites, Miss Bonstelle and Miss Blanche. Last year both of these ladies were in the city playing with the Valentine Stock Company, of which Miss Blanche seems to be the leading spirit. They won popularity, and for one hundred performances—no doubt the most extended visit that any company has ever made this city—entertained the people splendidly.

This year Miss Bonstelle is not with the Valentine Stock company, but at the solicitation of the management of the Development Club and under the conduct of Mr. W. S. Harkins will attempt to revive interest in the Mechanics' Institute, which has been so renovated and improved that it is now considered a most suitable place of amusement. No one could doubt its popularity in the past and the pleasant evenings that so many people have spent within its walls will incline many of them at least to return to the old place and enjoy the entertainment which no doubt Miss Bonstelle and her company can give them. It is the first time perhaps that there has been any opposition in the theatrical way in this city and there is already much interest in the result. Whether there will be sufficient patronage to warrant the continuance of two such good shows remains to be seen. The holiday season will no doubt be an incentive to good attendance but that is not likely to last more than a week or two. With a limited population such as St. John has, it is hardly probable that both places of amusements will be kept open for any lengthy season. Still every one will wish each company the very best success that is possible for them. Mr. Harkins has undertaken a task that will commend the admiration of all who know him, inasmuch as it must call for a great deal of energy and ability to prepare in so short a time the Mechanics' Institute stage for public amusement. He has had plenty of experience and is not likely to ask for any favors other than his show deserves. The members of both of the companies are in the city and are meeting many old friends who will no doubt assist them in making their shows successful.

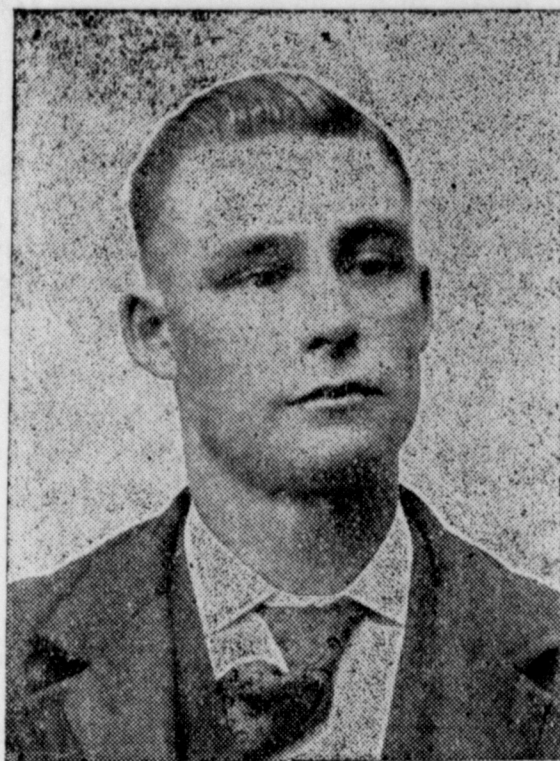
Miss Blanche announces that she will receive her friends this afternoon at the Dufferin where the leading people of both companies propose to remain while in the city. It is a coincidence that the leading men of both companies have similar names—Everett King and Emmett King.

Mr. W. S. Harkins is in town again and it is so long since we have seen him at this season of the year in this part of America that his welcome is all the more kindlier because of that. The old Mechanics, or rather the new Mechanics Institute, is to be re-opened under new ownership and under new management, that of Messrs. McLellan and Wilkins, who have been so successful in securing the services of Mr. Harkins to conduct the management of an actress well known and well liked in St. John, Miss Bonstelle. Miss Bonstelle it will be remembered, was with the Valentine Stock company last winter and scored a decided success in the Opera house. Since then she has been with a company of her own and from time to time St. John has heard of her popularity in other cities. With her on the stage and Mr. Harkins as manager, the theatre-loving public of St. John are sure to expect something popular and engaging. No doubt they will get it. Progress understands that the renovation of the institute has been somewhat remarkable; that the lighting is much improved, the ventilation is better and the seating capacity added to. Opposition is the life of trade in all business and it that which seems to be approaching in the theatrical line will only stimulate a nicer appreciation of the wishes of the public there will be nothing to regret.

An Easy Task Here.

Mr. W. C. Rudman Allan of Charlotte Street is showing a great variety of goods suitable for Christmas presents. His store

always looks bright and attractive and this is especially true of it this year. His windows are filled and show so many articles that would be appropriate for gifts that it is impossible to describe them. The stock of perfumes that he carries is



SAMUEL JONES.



ADRIAN TIBBITS.



JAMES TIBBITS.

FREDERICTON BOYS TO ARRIVE.

always complete and as a bottle of some favorite odor is never unwelcome it is safe to say that he could supply the wishes of even the most fastidious in this respect. The choosing of holiday gifts is not always easy, but those who visit Mr. Allan's store will find their task less onerous than it might be otherwise.

LOST AND WON A WAGER.

Mr. Harkins Tells How He Lost and Won A Bet Down South.

Mr. W. S. Harkins is a pretty good story teller and when a few evenings ago he related how he had lost a wager at one time and bought the handsome gold watch, that he carries with the winnings there was an air of some surprise and incredulity on the faces of the listeners that no doubt he appreciated. According to the story he was down south the winter that Paddy Ryan fought John L. Sullivan and he was a warm supporter and believer in the ability of Ryan to defeat the Boston pugilist. In fact, Ryan had told him that Sullivan could not beat him if he had a club, and so one evening, after the play, when Harkins was playing billiards, the somewhat boastful confidence of a bystander in Sullivan attracted his attention. Having such confidence in Ryan and quite willing to win a few dollars on the result, Harkins offered to bet a hundred that Sullivan would get whipped. He produced the money and the other fellow claiming that he hadn't the stuff put up a forfeit of five dollars that he would cover the wager in the morning. The stake holder was found right in the house and the parties separated. The next afternoon Harkins said as he was coming in from a drive he saw the bulletin, and realized just how easily Sullivan had whipped Ryan. "My hundred is gone" was his mental exclamation. Still he put on a bold front, went to the hotel and looked up the stake holder. "Sullivan wins" he said as he went in. "Yes" said the man who held the money "and you don't lose. That guy you bet with last night came in here just three minutes after I had heard that Sullivan had won and wanted to put up his other \$95. I told him no, so here's your \$105." Bill said that he was so glad to get the money that he went out to the next jewellery store and bought the watch he now carries. That is how he came to lose his bet and win his money.

More Serious Business on Hand.

After the information which has recently been given the citizens of the somewhat extraordinary deficit in connection with exhibition matters it seems somewhat strange that the association should be entering into arrangements at this early hour for placing the dates for next year's show. The initiative, however, seems to have come from Halifax people who made it a point to visit

St. John and confer with the executive. A very sensible view was arrived at that the dates of the two shows should not conflict. The general opinion however, will be that the exhibition association of this city has a far more serious matter to consider than the dates for the show next fall. The management has been unsatisfactory both to them and to the people and it seems to have been continued rather from a sentimental standpoint than from that of business. Progress has advocated a change from time to time and now even those who were perhaps somewhat indignant at this journal because of that fact

MADE A MOVE AT LAST.

The Magistrate's Words to the Police Force Had Some Effect Apparently

This has been a great week in police circles, all kinds of things have been promised the policemen. They have asked for new overcoats and are going to get them. Some of them have received pay for time lost through illness, injuries,

business specified. The chief knows that he made a mistake and is not willing to admit it.

NEED HELP AND DESERVE IT.

Poor Families Made Destitute by the Fire at the Coldbrook Rolling Mills.

When the glare in the sky on Wednesday evening told the people that there was a tremendous fire on the marsh road, there seemed to be no doubt as to where it was, the Coldbrook Rolling Mills being the only large building within a short distance of the city. In less than an hour and a half this hive of industry was a heap of ashes and nearly one hundred men were thrown out of employment. The story of the fire and the loss of the principal stockholders has been told in the daily papers and Progress does not intend to repeat it, but there were some incidents in connection with the misfortune that deserve to be recorded. For some three years a number of very energetic workmen, have, with the assistance of some capitalists, carried on this industry and provided employment for the community there, quite largely at their own expense. They invested their little all in the works, and Progress understands, had from pay day to pay day kept investing a certain portion of their savings in the mills. For some time steady employment has been given night and day to a large number of capable workmen. The industry appeared to be prosperous and the community was contented in the knowledge that work was at their doors and there was apparently no danger of its cessation. To think that in an hour or two all their hopes and plans, their means of sustenance should be swept away by fire is distressing.

Worse than this there are some families who are in actual want because of the loss they have sustained. One in particular, a family of five ranging in age from 7 years to 2 months were taken from their beds carried to a neighbor's across the street, while their father with a broken leg crawled to the Three Mile house and was kindly looked after there. Some of the furniture was saved but very little of it and hardly any of the clothes of the little ones. Progress does not know at this moment whether the efforts of the associated charities extends outside the city, but in case they do this is a most deserving family for the consideration of those interested in the good work.

At the present writing no decision, it is understood, of those interested have been arrived at as to whether the mills will be rebuilt or not. The insurance is slight compared with the loss but as far as could be learned the plant was not injured materially.

A Kind Offer.

The street railway made a generous offer to the committee of citizens and to the council in undertaking to carry the returned soldiers when they arrived in the city free of all charge. Of course they mean on their cars, but as the system covers the city very completely it would afford the boys in khaki an excellent chance of seeing the town without charge. The service that is being given this winter is excellent in every respect and so far has been almost uninterrupted. There are now over 200 employes on the railway and each of them in a day or two will be the recipient of the usual Christmas turkey from the management. The birds are not scanty either for Progress understands their weight will be nearly two thousand pounds.

A Bountiful Market.

The country market never looked better at the Christmas season than it does this year. Considering the cool weather and the splendid travelling there has not been an extraordinary amount of produce from the country and what has arrived seems to have been purchased largely by the butchers. Messrs Dickson, O'Neill and Dean have a splendid assortment in each of their stalls, from the very heaviest beef to the very daintiest birds. Such delicacies as quail, pheasants and all kinds of game are to be found in plenty in the market this year.

agree that it was right and that the recommendation should have been carried out long ago.

Will Give Them a Grand Welcome.

Whether St. John will have any soldiers to welcome is a question. Still the preparations have gone on and if the boys come they will get a good reception. It is not to be wondered at that the people did not enthuse at the prospect of being called upon to give a hearty welcome to two or three hundred men the day before Christmas or perhaps on Christmas day. Their efforts in the direction of receptions have been hearty and wonderfully successful and it is not surprising that there should be some hesitation in undertaking to give a right royal welcome at a time when every energy is usually bent to home pleasure and enjoyment.

It is to the credit of the citizens and the council, however, that the task was cheerfully undertaken. The mayor and the council, the representative men and citizens are bending every energy to make the arrangement for the reception complete and Col. Otter and the men under his command will find that St. John will give them a splendid welcome if the department sends them to this port.

An increase of pay has been asked for and is now under consideration.

There is not the least doubt but that the already overburdened tax-payer will be pleased to carry a heavier load than he is at present bearing, and that the generosity shown by the Common Council in their dealings with the guardians of the peace will be gratefully remembered by the said tax-payer when he is again called upon to settle his account at the Chamberlain's office.

One daily paper has said that the request of the policemen for higher pay is one "that should receive careful and sympathetic consideration." Another paper remarks editorially: "It is highly necessary that the force should be composed of good men." The Police Magistrate is of the opinion that the police force of this city, as at present constituted, is far from being a model body.

Complaints against the conduct of some of the policemen seems to be a matter of daily occurrence. Police protection is evidently not a misnomer in St. John!

That the "policeman's lot is not a happy one," has never been more fittingly illustrated than it is to day. Since the publication of the police revelations in Progress last week, many under breath mournings have been made by the members of the present "efficient" police body.

The accusation of "police protection" has been made in faith and some of these self-same policemen that are now asking for an increase of pay, have a chance left, before the 20th century dawns upon us, to contradict the remarks that have been made.

The public has noted from time to time that all has not been going well in police circles. The appointments of policemen etc, have caused discussion. The Common Council has been called upon to deal with police matters. The city fathers have not as yet solved the knotty problem of police legislation. Chief Clark saw fit last September to appoint a "special" as a "regular" over Napier's head. This was not justice as Napier had been longest in the service. Alderman-at-large Hilyard brought the matter up at a session of the Common Council, but nothing was done about it.

To further strengthen the animosity existing between himself and his officers, Chief Clark, a short time ago, appointed "special" officer Scott, a "regular." This was another slap in the face at Napier. It seems more than strange that the Chief does not give his real reasons for keeping Napier in the rear ranks. He should award him the promotion which is his by all right of precedent, or else tell him the reason.

The simple facts are that at the time of Napier's appointment to the force he was sworn in as a "policeman." Just an every day, plain, ordinary, policeman. There was none of this "regular" or "special"

PROGRESS

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Chairs Re-seated Cane, Splint, Perf. set, Lual, 17 Waterloo