

PROGRESS.

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PR. FIVE CENTS

SCHOOL BOOKS ARE COSTLY.

The New Readers are Dearer, and Other Needed Books are Very High in Price—What the People Say.

School children are back from their vacations and on Monday they resume their studies. The commencement of this term will be a red letter day in St. John school life, as it doubtless will be in pretty nearly all New Brunswick schools. Beside entering a higher grade of study, as most of the scholars will do, they will start using a brand new series of readers from the Primer to the Fourth Book. This will indeed be an innovation to the young people of the lower grades, as they have been used to studying from the old brown-clothed English readers, as did their big brothers and sisters before them, and in many cases, parents.

That the new series is an advance in the right direction is being largely disputed by those who have examined them. They bear the imprint "Prescribed by the Board of Education for New Brunswick," but that does not say the N. B. Board of Education can force the people to buy them for their children. There are thousands of the old readers yet in use, and for whole families to making a sweeping change in this class of school books would in many cases be a financial impossibility. The country people as a general rule can ill afford to condemn the old readers and purchase a new series at an advanced price for their children. And what will the poorer families in the city do?

For years past the old readers have been handed down from the elder children to the youngster, and one set of cloth-bound books might supply a whole family of growing children. The school authorities will find it will be a long time before the latest editions will come into general use.

Communities of varied financial ability cannot and will not dance around at the crack of every educational whip, nor can they in many cases meet the capricious demands of an individual teacher, as to the purchase of new and expensive books for their children.

The school book burden is already a heavy one for the small wage earner to bear, and even the comfortably situated citizen finds it onerous if his family of children is at all large. For instance the following book prices may be quoted:

Primers (new).....	5c.
Second Primer, (formerly Royal Reader).....	10c.
First Book (formerly second book).....	20c.
Second book.....	30c.
Third book.....	40c.
Fourth book.....	50c.
New Geography.....	75c.
Meiklejohn's new Grammar.....	\$1.25
Meiklejohn's English Language.....	50c.
History of Canada.....	75c.
Todhunter's Algebra.....	50c.
French Reader.....	50c.
Latin Grammar.....	\$1.00
Virgil's Aeneid.....	75c.
Longman's French Grammar.....	70c.
Orations of Cicero.....	\$1.50
History of the World.....	\$1.00
Spotten's High School Botany.....	\$1.00
Edith Thompson History of England.....	60c.
Blaisdell's Physiology.....	80c.
Elementary Latin.....	70c.
Fractical Speller.....	30c.
Hamlin Smith's Geometry.....	60c.
Health Readers.....	20 and 30c.
Arithmetics.....	15c.
Drawing books (series of 8).....	5c. each.
Writing books (series of 8).....	8c. each.
Scrappers, slates, pencils, erasers, toiscap, ink-pens etc. etc.	

These are some of the books a scholar has need of in his or her school life in St. John, so a pretty concise idea can be gained from the prices here quoted, what it costs the head of a large household to educate his children in these days of free schools. It will be seen, the new Primers and readers are more costly than the old ones, also the new geography, which only adds to the book man's burden—of money.

As before mentioned the new readers will be quite a novelty to the school children who have been used to studying from the old series, and in no less a degree will they be interesting to old time pupils, who were wont to have their reading, spelling, dictation, etc., from the English books. When these old time scholars were seated behind their little desks in the first grade their reading lesson used to run like this.

This is a cat.
It is a fat cat.
I can see its tail.
I can see its paws.
It has a long tail and soft paws.

But the coming generation will have this style of selection to display their deciphering and elocutionary abilities upon:

I love my little kitten,
She has such pretty ways,
She looks so very funny,
When with the ball she plays.
I feed my little kitten,
And smooth her soft gray fur.
I know she likes my pating,
Because it makes her purr.

No matter how many new Primers the

indeed to improve upon their compilation and contents. As it is, a great many local educationists find no particular merit in the newly prescribed readers, some claim in for them a short term of popularity, if popular at all. The subjects introduced in them do not appeal to the British spirit as much as the old English series, which as we all know fairly team with poetry and prose of British historical value, awakening the scholar's interest, and retaining it. The new books are more of a jumble of all sorts of authors and all sorts of writings.

This Should be Remedied.

The attention of the post office inspector is directed to the fact that it takes a letter two days to come from Clifton, Kingston or other points adjacent to St. John. The

STREET CARS AND SUNDAY.

What May Happen if the Sunday Regulation is Enforced Against the Use of Electricity.

The unexpected has happened and the street railway is placed in the attitude of defendant on the Sunday observance law. The eagerness of the Lord's day alliance to have a perfectly quiet Sunday may result in the stoppage of the street cars, and if that proves to be the case something else is liable to happen.

The police hardly knew what to do last Sunday. They found the cigar stores open; the soda water being ordered

drink must take some means of having the law changed.

The case before the Supreme court is in the name of Louis Green. There is not much sympathy for his Sunday trade because he is in the business six days of the week and should close on the Sabbath. He has no particular hours for keeping open but the store is open all day from early morning until late at night and this is not in accordance with the ideas of those who do not believe in too strict Sunday observance.

BATTERED FOUR CHINAMEN.

"Sim" Fan-joy of North End and his Crusade Against the Boxers.

"Sim" Fan-joy of Indiantown is an anti-Boxerite of the most virulent type. Pretty nearly everybody over in that end of town has the pleasure of the affable Simeon's acquaintance, even to the Chinese laundrymen, but as to the pleasure they derive from knowing him, there is good ground for a heap of doubt.

"Sim's" afflictions have been many. He is a confirmed invalid, greatly crippled, and it is with great difficulty he ambles about. But that he is utterly devoid of ability to wage war and protect himself the following will contradict. A few weeks ago while seated on the doorstep of a Chinaman's laundry, near the car sheds, he was treated to a shower bath by the Celestial.

"Me no wantee you sittee on my doorstep!" explained the pigtailed shirt destroyer.

"Sim" uttered nary a word, at least his stuttering prevented any immediate outburst, but at once despatched an expeditionary force consisting of himself alone, toward the hostile forces within the little Pekin. It was more than a peek in that Sim got, for while the Mongolian army was in the act of sucking up a face full of water to spit all over the clothes, the invading forces commenced a spirited attack from the other side of the Great Wall.

Retreat to the Inner City was only a temporary escape, for the attacking party gave chase in a shuffling manner and plied the "cripple's best friend" with remarkable effectiveness. A few squeals from the Chinese forces and the white went up, in fact a whole line full of white was displayed.

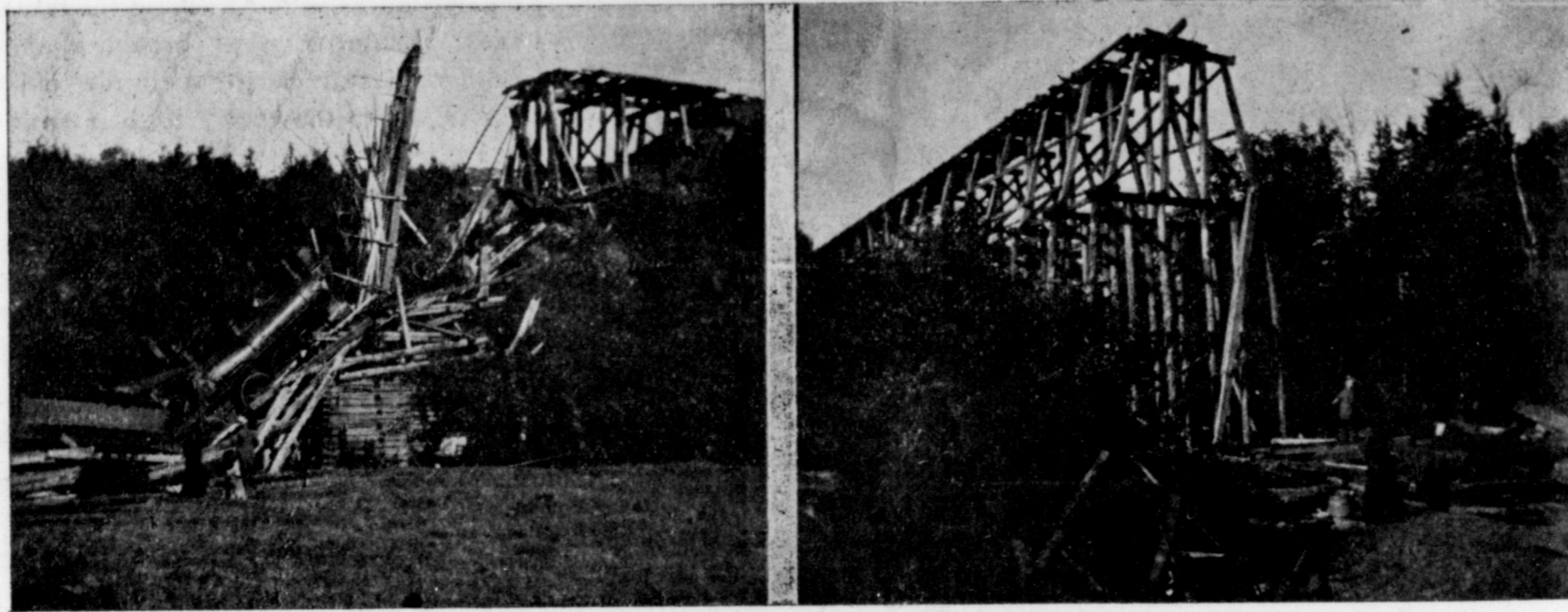
Since this episode, which has been aired in one of the city papers Simeon has taken on a most decided aversion to the slit-eyed race, and a crusade against them has been in progress several weeks. No less than four Chinamen have fallen victims to his stout stick, until a few days ago the police had to call on Sim's father and warn him against his son's further prosecuting his persecution.

A Black River Picnic Incident.

Black River is an ideal place for a picnic but it is in a portion of St. John county where the liquids are of a mild sort, such as butter milk, good cool spring water and so forth. Therefore when a party of joyful market boys—or rather men—went to the outing there on Tuesday they thought of this peculiarity of the place and took that with them which threatened to prevent them from becoming thirsty. The "case" contained the best of ale—two dozen bottles—and the careful way they laid the same in a hay-mow, gave some idea of the value they attached to it. In the course of the afternoon they made their way somewhat jubilantly to the barn and began to dig for their treasure. They found the box but the contents were missing and all that could be discovered when the search was extended were some empties on the grounds. Their language was expressive but the thirst remained just the same.

A Barrack Square Garden Party.

The non commission officers of the 62nd battalion are advertising a garden party on the Barrack square next Tuesday afternoon and evening and the programme contains some events that are sure to interest all those who attend. A garden party on the Barrack square under such auspicious should draw a large crowd.



THE CENTRAL RAILWAY ACCIDENT.

The two pictures above give some idea of the bridge at Bellisle on the Central Railway through which the train from Chipman crashed a few days ago, killing the engineer and seriously injuring some others. The great height of the structure causes one to wonder how any of the passengers or trainmen escaped at all. The inquest being held this week is not completed at this writing. The evidence will no doubt throw some light upon the cause of the disaster.

educational boards may order up, the time-famous description of that old Primer cat will outlive them all.

Following is an extract from the new First Book formerly the Second Book.

A Storm At Sea.

"A little ship was on the sea,
It was a pretty sight;
It sailed along so pleasantly,
While all was calm and bright.
"But lo! a storm began to rise;
The wind was loud and strong,
It blew the clouds across the skies,
It blew the waves along.
"And all, save One, were sore afraid
Of sinking in the deep,
His head was on a pillow laid,
And he was fast asleep.
"Master we perish; Master save!
They cried. The Master heard.
He rose, rebuked the winds and waves,
And stilled them with a word!"

Among the verses found in the Second Book are these:

The Brook and the Wave.

The brooklet came from the mountain,
As sang the bard of old,
Running with feet of silver
Over the sands of gold!
Far away in the briny ocean
There rolled a turbulent wave,
Now singing along the sea beach,
Now howling along the cave.
And the brooklet has found the billow,
Though they flowed so far apart,
And has filled with its freshness and sweetness
That turbulent bitter heart.—LONGFELLOW.

The Third Book contains such selections as:

Black Beauty, by Anna Sewall.
The Little Land—R. L. Stevenson.
The Death of Nelson—Robt Southey.
Ye Mariners of England—Thos Campbell.
Canada an Boat Song—Thos Moore.
The Eagle and the Swan—J Andobon.
The Dying Swan—Tennyson.
The Blue Jay—Mark Twain.
Weather Prophet Plants—Anon.
A Psalm of Life—Longfellow.
An Incident at Ratisbon—Browning.
Helvellyn—Scott.
African Hospitality—Mungo Park.
The Brook Song—W Riley.
The Little Match Girl—Hans Anderson.
The Doll's Dressmaker—Dickens.
Wolfe and Montcalm—Parkman.
The Mouse and the Sunbeam—Eugene Field.
Aladdin's Lamp—Arabian Nights.

The fourth reader has 320 pages and is well filled with poetry and prose of a highly interesting and instructive nature, covering pretty nearly all the branches of school study. Among the authors are:

Addison, Mrs. Alexander, Mrs. Allen, Blackmore, Browning, Mrs. Browning, Bryant, Burritt, Carlyle, Coleridge, Collins, Cowper, Dawson, Dumas, Field, Frankilo, Frechette, Gray, Grimm, Hawthorne, Haber, Hemans, Herrick, Holmes, Hughes, Irving, Kipling, Lincoln, Longfellow, Lowell, Macaulay, Milton, Parkman, Ruskin, Scott, Shakespeare, Shelly, Southey, Stevenson, Tennyson, Toplady, Whittier, Wolfe, Wordsworth and others.

The Fifth and Sixth Readers of the old issue will still be used, as it would be hard

mail leaves Kingston at 7 a. m. and is taken to Jubilee Station this side of Nauwigewauk, connecting with the Halifax express from St. John. The bag is put on the train and taken up the line. The mail clerks on the train are no doubt supposed to sort the contents and send back what belongs to St. John by a later train. By the time this is done the express is well up the line and though a letter for St. John may arrive in St. John that evening it is not delivered until next morning. Two days are required to take a letter from any way office near Jubilee or Nauwigewauk to Chipman or points along the Central railway. This should not be because there is ample time to sort before the train reaches Norton where the Central connects with the I. C. R. How much simpler it would be if there was a mail box on the Sussex express and letters from Sussex and all stations on the I. C. R., between that town and St. John could reach the city at 9 o'clock and be delivered that day. Here is a pointer for Col. Domville, the county member, and a hint for Inspector Colter as well.

and drunk in drug stores and they discovered that some corner groceries on the back streets sold milk or something of that sort on the Sabbath day. They also saw the street cars in motion and the happy idea struck them that a conductor or a motorman who ran a car on Sunday was breaking the Sabbath just the same as the other people. So the reports went in and now the city is face to face with a peculiar condition of affairs.

The street railway is run by electric power. The men who feed the furnace, the engineers, the electricians, the conductors and the motormen, are all necessary for this work. They do not begin so early in the morning, nor so often, neither are there so many cars on Sunday as on week days, yet winter and summer they provide this great convenience to the public.

In summer time the traffic on the Sabbath may yield them some excess revenues but in winter it is not enough to pay expenses. In summer people go to the park or part of the way to the cemetery in the cars instead of staying within doors; in winter their own fireside is cheerier. The poorer families find that a street car ride "around the circuit" a pleasant way of spending an hour or two in an inexpensive way and very many take advantage of the open cars to give their little ones pleasure and health. They cannot go to the country because the good Sabbatarian has said that no steamer shall run to take them there; they cannot go to a livery stable and hire a team—though the Sunday law says they may—because they cannot afford the expense and the only resource left them is to walk the streets or remain in the house.

"But" said an officer of the company to PROGRESS "if our men are breaking the Sabbath running the railway, then our firemen in the power house are equally guilty and the same boilers are used in producing all the electricity in the city. So if the cars go it would seem as if the lights would have to go out. There is nothing in the exceptions of the law to warrant us in producing electricity."

This is another view of the case that has not occurred to some of those interested in the observance of the law. Some of the churches are, or have been lighted with electricity and the absence of it would seriously interfere with the aim of the Alliance.

Judge Ritchie was to finish the cigar dealers cases on Friday and about the time this paper went to press probably told them what penalty he would impose. Some druggists who have been selling soda water say it is not worth their while to risk a police court call for a few cents. The people who have to go without the cooling

PROGRESS CONTENTS TODAY.

- PAGE 1.—Bright and interesting as ever. It's right before you.
- PAGE 2.—Just from the Famine Land.
- PAGE 3.—Musical and Dramatic.
- PAGE 4.—Editorial, Kings and Queens Co., politics, Canada for Canadians, etc. Joys and Woos of Other Places. Poetry. Live Local Matter.
- PAGE 5.—Three columns of city personal items.
- PAGES 6, 7 and 8.—Personal items from all over the three provinces.
- PAGE 9.—Town Tales including: A Car Conductor registers a kick. Where our N. B. dulce goes. A Hero that had no reception. Heard in the Stilly Night. Color blind St. John Women.
- PAGES 10 and 15.—A new two-installment story, "Beautiful Jean."
- PAGE 11.—Sunday Reading, including Dr. Talmage's interview with the Czar.
- PAGE 12.—Game exhibit at the World's Fair. General miscellany.
- PAGE 13.—Chat of the Boudoir—fashion fancies from the styles centres.
- PAGE 14.—The approaches to Pekin—a highly instructive and interesting article.
- PAGE 16.—Two minutes with a Lighted Blast—A thrilling adventure. Births, deaths and marriages of the week in Lower Canada.