

PROGRESS.

Board of Works 5 May 1900

VOL. XII., NO. 617.

ST. JOHN, N. B., SATURDAY, APRIL 14 1900.

PRICE FIVE CENTS

THE PEOPLE'S INTEREST.

They are Aroused Over the Civic Elections and Have no Use for Ring Rule and Ald. Christie—The Mayoralty Contest is Attractive.

The mayoralty contest is only second in interest to that between Ald. Christie and Dr. J. M. Smith. Last year the latter gentleman was within seventy-two votes of victory and his friends have no idea but that he will be ahead several hundred votes when the polls close on next Monday.

So far as the mayor's contest goes no one wishes to wager on the election of any of the four. It is acknowledged that Sears and Daniel are better known and perhaps for that reason as much as any other that they should be surer of victory. But Mayor Sears has not made any canvass. He says he has not had time; that the business of his office is exceedingly heavy at this time on account of the contingent fund duties. There is no doubt there is something in this but politicians know the value of a personal request and this leads many to think that the active house to house canvass of Messrs. Moulson and DeBury is going to have an effect not realized now.

Mayor Sears excuses his candidature for a third term on the ground that he has been opposed and thwarted by the council. It is only fair to say that many people agree with the mayor in this and with them, at least, Ald. Christie has been his best canvasser. They have no sympathy with the bull-dozing methods of the latter and will vote for Sears simply to show their disapproval of them.

Still, there are friends of the mayor's who, while admiring his loyal ways and the energy he has put into the contingent funds, feel that he has not done all he could to protect his friends and the interests of the city so far as illegal traders are concerned. The licensing power is virtually in the hands of the mayor. He is the sole judge of whether a man is entitled to a license or not. When a Jew or Assyrian goes to his worship and asks for a license he seems to stand upon the same ground as a citizen who has lived here all his life and is known to many. In this way St. John has become a sort of refuge for these (in many cases) insolent and filthy wanderers. That was proved a few days ago when the magistrate sent a dozen or more Assyrians to the Mayor's office to get a pedler's license. That costs \$40 and when they heard what the amount was they lifted their hands and their eyebrows, backed out and in half an hour were on the streets again with their packs of cheap goods and cut prices.

This sort of thing is not popular in mayors. Shopkeepers who do not try to sell goods on the principal streets, but in the quieter portions of the city find that the incessant pedler is ahead of them. They pay no license, they escape taxation and they live on what many decent white men throw away. They spend nothing for luxuries, they contribute nothing to the common fund for the support of the city and they are worse than useless in the city.

Mayors have but little in their power but unless these people are licensed they cannot do business. If every pedler was compelled to carry a license badge there would be few of them abroad in St. John. This is a pointer for the mayoralty candidates.

Dr. Daniel comes forward again without any particular platform. He has been in the council and knows what should be done. He has ideas, or should have ideas, looking to the improvement of civic government. Why does he not give them to the public? The citizens are looking for a man of this sort and when they find him they will vote for him. One remarkable thing about the canvass of all the mayors (the absence of requisition papers of any length. Count de Bury did publish a few names but there) were not enough to impress anyone. When George Robertson ran for mayor first and third years he printed a nomination paper that seemed long enough to elect him in the eyes of many people. There were perhaps four or five hundred names on the list and while half of them had not their taxes paid when it was printed his opponents took fright at once and the force of the example secured him lots of votes.

Then energy of the late Ira Cornwall

secured those nomination papers for ex-Mayor Robertson and they went a long way toward electing him. The bills of all the newspapers for printing the names amounted to \$120 to \$150, but it was money well spent.

Mr. Moulson is, perhaps, the most uncertain quantity in the campaign. He is

This was nothing, however, compared to the Spruce Lake extension. The Messrs. Cushing talked about a pulp mill and concluded it would be an excellent thing for them and a good thing for Fairville if one could be erected at Union Point, adjoining their own saw mill. No one disputed that point with them but as an abundance of pure water is very necessary to the manufacture of pulp the feasibility of the plan was not apparent. The schemers are not all dead yet, however, and in a short time the necessity of another water main from Spruce Lake to Carleton began to be impressed upon the board of aldermen. Then Messrs. Cushing came forward with a pleasant proposition to erect a

IS THIS COERCION?

Manager Cushing of the Pulp Mill Flakes the Election of Ald. Christie Enter in the Question of the Renewal of a Fire Insurance Policy.

The rumor round town this week that an insurance concern was in receipt of one or two letters from the Cushing Pulp Mill people which touched upon its policy in civic affairs, caused considerable comment among those who knew just what stand Ald. Christie had taken to further the ends and aims of that mammoth industry

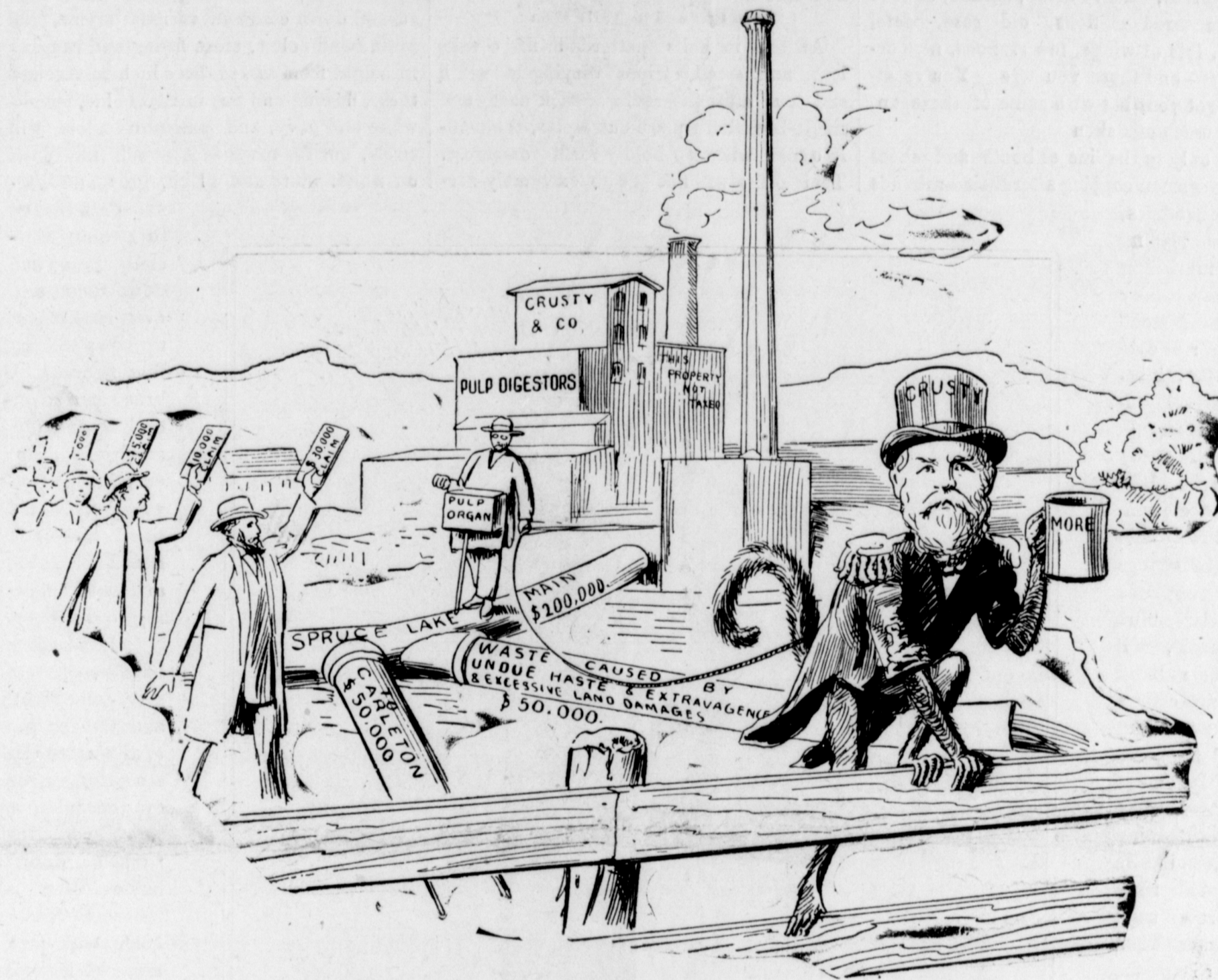
giving the correspondence for publication however.

When Ald. Christie appeared with his followers at the Civic reform meeting last Friday night he said he had no interest in the pulp mill. It seems that the pulp mill has an interest in the alderman. Mr. Cushing wants to see him elected, and he goes so far as to attempt to influence citizens whom he should know are beyond the reach of such an argument. The interest of the Pulp Mill company in Dr. Christie is only natural in view of what he has done for it. It is only to be hoped that the return is for past favors and not for those that are expected.

The introduction of such methods, however, is a new feature in Civic politics in St. John and it is not one that will be relished by the people.

Mr. Coughlan Has no Show.

The school trustees are getting lots of censure this week because the tender of an enterprising young plumber, J. S. Coughlan, has apparently been passed over in favor of older men in the business. The character of Mr. Coughlan's work, his reputation for doing what he undertakes in fast class fashion has made the action of the school board appear curious. Tenders were asked for the plumbing of the Alexandra school. The lowest tenderer, Messrs Blake retired, and the contract was given to the next above them, Messrs Campbell & Co. He signed the contract and was prepared to go on with the work when a change was made in the specifications that compelled them also to withdraw. Mr. Coughlan was not given a chance then but new tenders are asked for and this time a five cent deposit is requested. Only one of two conclusions can be drawn from the facts as known at present; either the school board has a favorite plumber or it has a most unbusiness like way of doing things.



SOMETHING MORE WILL BE WANTED.

Water Extension and Pulp Mills—Land Damages and the Claimants—Waste of Money and Water.

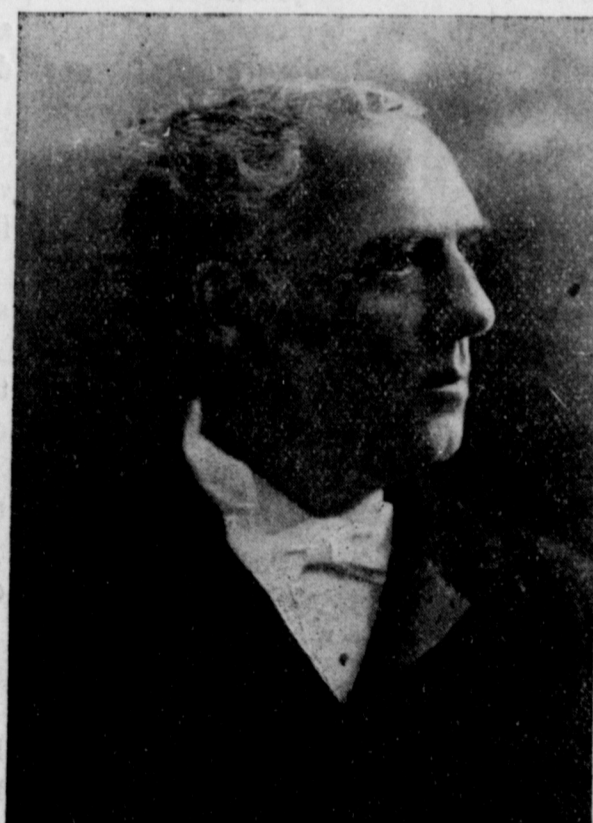
better known today than he has ever been and yet in certain circles no man is better acquainted or appreciated than this candidate for the favor of all the people. He is a splendid speaker, a chairman whose cleverness cannot be disputed, in fact in every respect a gentleman who will do honor to the chair and the office. PROGRESS has always favored mayors promoted, as it were, from the position of alderman, but there have been exceptions and, no doubt, there will be again.

The argument assigned as reasons why Ald. Christie should not be returned are so many that it is somewhat difficult to recount them. He has been a bold alderman, never fearing to advocate what he wanted and apparently entirely fearless of the opinion of the public. Two or three years ago he opposed such men as James Manchester and Collector Ruel when they desired to present the city with a lot of land for the erection of a free public library building. They proposed to pay between three and four thousand dollars for this land and the only stipulation was that the city should erect the building. To the surprise all man this was opposed by Ald. Christie and his followers in the council. The reason for this was not known, but the surmise then—and it was openly stated—was that the intention was to house the Free Public Library in the Oddfellows building in which some intimate friends of Dr. Christie were largely interested. At any rate the speech that Ald. Christie made against the munificent offer of Chairman Ruel and Commissioner Manchester was so objectionable to those public spirited gentlemen that they resigned their connection with the free public library. So St. John is today without a library building.

Prudent and economical citizens found fault with Christie as chairman of Public works for the mistakes in connection with the improvements at Sand Point. The land slide over there, which cost at least \$50,000, was due, it was charged to not following the advice of Engineer Peters, and that official, it was well understood, had to bear the brunt of Ald. Christie's displeasure from time to time.

pulp mill if they could be supplied with water from this pipe. In a short time the council was enthusiastic over the pulp idea and it was not until they learned that the proposal was wonderfully one sided that they began to hedge. Not so Alderman Christie. He went ahead and even the opponents of the scheme admired his ingenuity and his persistence. The cost to the city counted nothing so long as he gained his end and gave the pulp mill all the water it needed.

A twelve inch pipe was spoken of, then an eighteen inch and finally a twenty-four inch. The eighteen inch was to cost, say \$90,000 with two or three thousand dol-



MR. JAMES MOULSON

One of the Candidates for the Mayoralty.

lars for land damages and the twenty-four inch would cost \$140,000. There was a difference of \$50,000 at once, all on account of the mill. No one disputed for an instant but the eighteen inch pipe would supply Carleton for many many years, but it would not supply the pulp mill.

The pipe has been partly laid, the land damages have been partly paid and the cost

[Continued from Fourth page.]

PROGRESS learned upon investigation that Mr. Sidney Kaye, the fire insurance agent, had a policy upon the property at Union Point belonging either to the Pulp Mill company or to Messrs. Cushing. This policy was about to fall due and Mr. Kaye was much surprised to get a letter from Mr. Cushing which gave him the impression that he was much interested in the election of Ald. Christie. As PROGRESS obtained the story, the letter, after speaking of the fact that the policy was about to expire, stated that the writer understood that Mr. Kaye had opposed the election of Ald. Christie last year because he had supported the Spruce Lake water extension. Also that he had opposed ex alderman Hamm for the same reason. In view, however, of their business relations the manager of the pulp mill hoped that Mr. Kaye could see his way clear to support Ald. Christie this year.

Then the story went on that Mr. Kaye replied that he did not permit politics of any kind to interfere with his business and that while he had voted against Ald. Christie for the reason named he had when Mr. Hamm was up for election supported him because at that time he was opposed to the water extension. So far as he was concerned, however, the fire insurance policy preferred to by the pulp mill people would be cancelled at the date of expiration without reference to civic politics.

It was said that Mr. Kaye received a reply to this which expressed the hope that under all the circumstances he might reconsider his decision.

This apparent attempt to boom the canvass of Ald. Christie caused, as stated above, much unfavorable comment and PROGRESS started to find out whether such correspondence had been received by Mr. Kaye. That gentleman was seen and when asked the plain question, stated that the report was correct. He had received letters from Mr. Cushing in reference to the renewal of an insurance policy which brought the candidature of Ald. Christie into the question. He did not feel like

PROGRESS

CONTENTS

TODAY.

- PAGE 1.—This page speaks for itself.
- PAGE 2.—Tomorrow's Easter Dress Parade.—PROGRESS grows prophetic and tells what the people will wear on their way to and from church. What is their fancy costs. Easter Illustrations, Easter Sea Holidays, Easter Passion Plays, Easter King. And other very interesting bits about this particular season.
- PAGE 3.—Easter Music in the churches. Dramatic Notes.
- PAGE 4.—Editorial on Civic Elections, Easter poetry, letters from the people, Joys and Woes of Other Places, etc.
- PAGES 5, 6, 7 and 8.—Social Items from all over the Maritime Provinces.
- PAGE 9.—A complete page of original articles including: A St. John Lady Among the Alps. Count deBury's Originality as a Canvasser. The Victoria Rink not to be Demolished. A Rural Couple and a Frisky Breze. Will Manage the Athletic Grounds.
- PAGES 10 and 15.—The final chapter of that charming story, "The Mystery of a Mountain Pass."
- PAGE 11.—Sunday Reading page with another talk on the study of the parables. A Jewish Rabbi Describes Christ Other Sabbath day literature.
- PAGE 12.—A Western New Woman. Gambling in Washington.
- PAGE 13.—Woman and Her Work.
- PAGE 14.—Cy Wainman writes interestingly and amusingly of "Stumming" in Dawson City.
- PAGE 16.—Buck Bronson's "Blowout"—a typical Western story. Deaths, Births and Marriages of the week in the three provinces. General Miscellany.

Umbrellas Made, Re-covered, Repaired Dual 17 Waterloo.