

PROGRESS.

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SIXTEEN PAGES.

ST. JOHN, N. B., SATURDAY, APR. 14

Subscribers who do not receive their paper Saturday morning are requested to communicate with the office.—Tel. 95.

THE CIVIC ELECTIONS.

The idea that the people are not interested in civic affairs was effectually dispelled a few days ago when a few persons called a meeting of those interested in civic reform. The move was made but three or four days before the nomination of candidates. Had it started earlier there is no doubt that public opinion would have been thoroughly aroused. As it is, the action of Ald. CHRISTIE and a few of his followers in attempting to take charge of the reform meeting one evening has brought him into the light of public discussion and the result is not apt to be favorable to him. His tactics on that occasion were on a par with his usual course at council meetings. The introduction of his methods of bulldozing was not welcome to the people and his angry and excited discourse had no weight whatever. The display of a motto alluding to the pulp mill acted like a red rag to the bucolic alderman and he was indignant in his denial that he was connected in any way with the prosperity of the pulp industry. When this statement of Alderman CHRISTIE's is considered in connection with the letter Mr. CUSHING of the pulp mill, wrote to Insurance Agent KAYE, the taxpayers will know what reliance to place upon the assertions of the alderman for Landsdowne. Why should Mr. CUSHING make it a point to allude to his interest in the candidature of Alderman CHRISTIE in his business letter to Mr. KAYE when referring to the renewal of his insurance policy, if he had not a vital interest in the re-election of that gentleman. We all know that Dr. CHRISTIE was the man who engineered the Spruce Lake extension scheme through the council; we know that the great concessions granted to the pulp mill were advocated and forced upon the attention of the council by Ald. CHRISTIE; we know that the first proposition, agreed to reluctantly by the city, was refused by the pulp mill promoters and Dr. CHRISTIE urged the council to take immediate action and to grant many further concessions in order that capitalists in England would fall in with the idea at once; we know that notice of the expropriation of the land was given before the council had any idea of the cost and arbitration proceedings were entered into almost at once. That was two years ago. Almost the last act of ex-Mayor ROBERTSON was to declare against the extraordinary haste that was characterizing the proceedings. He spoke against the investment of \$100,000 in pipe a year before it was needed, but Dr. CHRISTIE at that time had the council in the hollow of his hand as it were and anything he said was law. To the utter surprise of the people it was agreed to give the pulp mill all the water they wanted at one tenth of the price paid by the PARKS cotton mill on this side of the harbor.

The city has not completed its contract yet. The pipe to the pulp mill has not been laid. Is it any wonder then that the manager, Mr. CUSHING, should desire the re-election of Dr. CHRISTIE? But will the people endorse this? Do they want a man who has given away so much to the pulp people for so little put in a position to do the same thing again? The only way to prevent this is to vote for Dr. SMITH, the opponent of Dr. CHRISTIE. His ability to deal with civic matters has to be proved but he is free from the influence of ring rule and will for the present,

at least, be inclined to consult the wishes of the people rather than the interests of individuals.

The last act of this years council has been to deprive the committee of five, called by courtesy the committee of management of their control over water and sewerage affairs. Dr. CHRISTIE was chairman of this "managing" committee which spent \$150,000 of the taxpayers money every year. Meetings were held when the chairman pleased, the press was not admitted, reports were submitted when the chairman pleased and they were not made up as other reports by the common clerk and read by him but were no more than some brief memoranda of what had been done. After this there will be a change. The committee of management will be composed of thirteen members instead of five and the meetings will be held like those of other boards. Dr. CHRISTIE was not present at the special meeting of the council when this was done but of the two thirds of the members necessary to be present there was not one dissenting voice.

There will be at least one change in the composition of the Common Council next year. Mr. J. B. BAXTER was not opposed in Brooks ward in the West End. He cannot be called a new man, exactly, since he has had experience in civic affairs, having set at the council board before. Since his retirement he has been an interested observer of civic methods and he should come to the council with a fair knowledge of what has been and is being done. It is fair to expect in alderman-elect BAXTER now a mature judgement, and one more amenable to the wishes of the people to whom he knows every one must bow in the end.

The two gentlemen who have represented the West End, Messrs. COLWELL and STACKHOUSE are opposed to one another this year, since, under the law they are required to run for the same ward. They are supported by different factions in the city, the latter alderman being credited with the assistance of those who this year have taken up the fight for Alderman CHRISTIE. Whether this makes much difference or not remains to be seen. The strange part of the whole affair is the turn over of a considerable body of men from active opposition to certain men in the Council last year, to their present support. It can only be the result of blind obedience to an obligation that forbids a man to think for himself. It shows how easy it is for interested parties to pack election committees and coerce men whose good sense tells them that the organization that bids them vote against a man one year and for him the next is being used not for the good of the community but for the interests of the individual.

OLD MRS. BLIZZARD DEAD.

A Remarkable Woman Nearly 108 Years Old.

Mrs. Amy Blizzard, widow of Thomas Blizzard of McDonald's Point, Queen's Co. on the river, died about a week ago at her home, after six days of considerable suffering. The news of her death and burial did not reach her St. John relatives until last Thursday night and then the particulars were meagre. However it was stated that after almost a week of illness the grand old woman, in the 108th year, dropped peacefully into a sleep, which those nearby were surprised to find the sleep of death. The breaking-up state of the river made it next to impossible for any relatives or friends from the city to attend the funeral obsequies.

The late Mrs. Blizzard was 107 years and 8 months old, and on that account one of the most remarkable women in America. Her birthday the 16th of August, has for years been celebrated at her home with great zest by hundreds of people from the city and from rural districts. At the last celebration PROGRESS had a pleasant talk with her in which she told of the early days along the St. John river and spoke as if it were yesterday of such world famous happenings as the battle of Waterloo.

She said she knitted and frequently did sewing without much inconvenience and her eyesight and hearing appeared to be remarkably well preserved. Seated in her quaint old rocker with a grandmother's, aye a great-great grandmother's cap on her head and with her family of old men and women about her, she indeed looked venerable. To interested visitors she chatted freely, but her natural trend of conversation took even the oldest visitor too far back in the vista of years.

Mrs. Blizzards parents were directly Loyalists, in fact the deceased old lady was born only ten years after the city of St. John was founded. In her most talkative moments and when in a reminiscent mood her utterances were frequently of historical value. It was her particular delight to tell of the old river settlers and their struggles. She herself was born in the

parish of Gagetown in 1792. Her father was Albert Akerley of New York and her mother Lucy Ward of Cumberland.

She had been a widow 32 years and had sixteen children, ten of whom are now living. They are:

Oliver Blizzard, living at Narrows, Queens County, born 1815.

John Blizzard, residing in this city, born 1817.

Thomas Blizzard, North End city, born 1824.

The widow Mead of North End, born 1814.

Mrs. Scribner of Houlton, Me. born 1819.

Mrs. Jas. Hamm of Narrows, Queens Co., born 1823.

Mrs. Geo. Black, North End, City, born 1827.

Mrs. Wm. B. Smith, McDonalds Point Queens Co., born 1830.

Mrs. Thos. Watson, St. John, N. E. born 1832.

Mrs. Samuel Hamm, St. John, N. E., born 1838.

The engraving on Page 8 of this issue shows Mrs. Blizzard surrounded by her family at her birthday celebration a few years ago.

WOULD AFFECT HIS TRADE.

Mack O'Kell—Yes, he is always afraid the sun may suddenly drop from his position.

Luke Warme—Is he a scientist? Mack O'Kell—No; a parasol manufacturer.

JOYS AND WOES OF OTHER PLACES.

A New Remedy. Chatham World Death notices free; poetry 10c a line.

Idyllic. (St. Andrews Beacon) The robins and the hoboes have struck town. Spring is here, sure.

The Filtered Pie, or the Mystery of the Mines. (Springhill Advertiser) Who were the young men that captured the pie in a certain restaurant on Saturday evening last?

A Flea for Intemperance. (P. E. I. Agriculturist.) Western Correspondents say that on some days the Straits are perfectly clear of ice, as can be seen, with a strong glass.

Naughty, Naughty Sydney! (Island Reporter) A letter addressed to the Leader of Sydney Dancing Orchestra has been traveling from hand to hand for the past few days, and has so far found no resting place. The danger of being found in possession of such a document during the lenten season no doubt actuates rapidly of transfer.

These are Bible Neighbors. (Canons Corner Cor. in St. Croix Courier) George Gildart of Beaconfield held a 'bee' on Tuesday of last week which lasted four days. The result was the hauling of a house a distance of about two miles. On a rough and narrow road the task proved to be a hard one, but with the perseverance of good neighbors and their horses they put the building on the ground satisfactorily to Mr. Gildart.

Aesthetic Albert Co. (Albert Maple Leaf.) Spring, with her bright crown, sits enthroned. Where once old winter sat: Hurrah for the bicycle, And the big straw hat.

Kentville "Frost" Bitten. (Western Chronicle.) The Frost Stock Company played last week in Margeson's Hall. Some of the plays put on were said to be fairly good. The attendance was very poor, and it will probably be some time before the Co. comes here again.

The Thin "Yellow" Line. (Carroll's Corner Cor. Miramichi Advance.) We are very much interested in the progress of the war with South Africa and wish for the success of Great Britain, although there a few Boer sympathizers in our parish. Like those elsewhere, however, they are of course, the lowest and the meanest of our people.

More International Arbitration Perhaps. (Lubec Me. Herald.) When things have arrived at such a pass that free born American citizens cannot go over to Campobello and spend a quiet day on "blooming British soil" without being visited by a representative of Her Majesty's government and being read the riot act (otherwise extracts from the Charlotte county game laws), something should be done. A couple of battleships or a part of the North Atlantic American squadron should be asked for to protect Lubec citizens in their quest for enjoyment at Gooseberry Point Camp.

Others Agree With Him. (Annapolis Spectator.) Donald McKay, who went steward on the Pearlina for one trip to Porto Rico, returned home Monday. "Farnell" says he enjoyed his experience, but would not care to follow the sea for a living. He says the friendly feeling for England that is supposed to exist in the hearts of the people of the U. S. is all "rot." While the vessel was in New York, he had a good chance to sound the feelings of the people there, and on one occasion came near getting mobbed because he let his British blood get the better of discretion, and stood up for the greatest people on this earth.

Amen! (Chatham World.) We would like to get the other country publishers to join in testing the legality of the Canada Paper Trade Association's discriminating prices. It looks to us like a criminal conspiracy for which the law ought to afford a remedy. We don't object to the paper makers organizing themselves into a combine for raising the price of paper, and presume that they have a legal right to do that, but we doubt the legality of the agreement under which they charge country publishers a higher price than city publishers. It is a conspiracy to do this is not criminal the code should be amended. We would like to see it tested in court, and are willing to pay our percentage of the cost.

ROYAL BAKING POWDER ABSOLUTELY PURE Makes the food more delicious and wholesome ROYAL BAKING POWDER CO., NEW YORK.

THE PEOPLE'S INTEREST.

(CONTINUED FROM FIRST PAGE.)

at present reaches \$170,000. Two hundred thousand will be nearer the figure when the end is at hand. This is one of the reasons why the taxpayers object to Ald. Christie as an administrator of civic affairs. He can bonus a pulp mill to the extent of \$100,000 and get but little in return but when the exhibition wants a grant for a couple of thousand dollars he is opposed to it. That means business for all the people, money for the merchants but none for any particular individual. The tourist association brings many strangers to town and they leave money here. They want a small grant to make St. John men widely known. Ald. Christie says "No, let the next council deal with that." How well he knows it will be too late then. The S. P. C. A.—an association which does great good—wants a couple of hundred dollars, but that too is given the hoist with the consent of the alderman.

People may well ask why it was that this man had such power. They do not know that he was chairman of the two great pending departments, works and water, and was the great dispenser of patronage. He, as an old alderman, was the leader of young men, was the opponent of the mayor, feared not to ridicule the salvage corps, sneered at the requests of sick policemen—in fact was the autocrat of the council. Any alderman who opposed him might find him on the wrong side when he made a motion. This was Ald Christie's power. He has held it for years and the first blow he has received was that delivered by Ald White a few days ago when he took the expenditure of \$150,000 out of his hands and four others and constituted a new board.

The ring want him returned. His particular friend, John Chesley, wants him returned. He has been working all the year for it. The vote that was opposed to Christie last year has been "worked" by Chesley and the "walking organizer" has swung it into line. The same crowd supported Dr. Smith last year. The only difference this year is that the people generally have awakened to the fact that they—who pay the taxes—must say who will spend them.

Col. John R. Armstrong is opposed to Alderman Allan. He was in the same position last year and yet was not elected. It is not supposed that the colonel is really in earnest but has permitted his name to be used by his "royal" or loyal friends, and they are conducting the fight for him. Ald. Allan's record at the Council board is not such that the citizens can afford to dispense with him. He is always outspoken and fearless, is not governed by any clique or ring and has a splendid acquaintance with civic business. Carleton people have a more intimate acquaintance with Ald. Allan than the voters in the North End but his record at the present council board is a good canvas for him even in this stronghold of the opposition.

Count de Bury looks for most of his strength, of course, from the people around and about him. He has been a political worker in old Portland and the present North End. If the friends of the party he has supported will now in their turn help him he may surprise the scoffers and poll a vote that will make some of his rival candidates despair.

THIS COLUMN FOR STRAIGHT TALK.

Legislators And Their Pay. TO THE EDITOR OF PROGRESS: Our legislators at Fredericton seem to have but little shame about them when, while the province is in its present financial standing, they vote themselves an additional \$100 indemnity. This means between four and five thousand dollars to the province and you will see that it is but the entering wedge for a regular increase in pay. The members travel, in most cases, on passes and yet draw their Mileage. They have increased their numbers and the expenses of government. When will a man strong and brave enough arise to put an end to this sort of thing? Chatham, April 12th. PROVINCIAL.

He is Getting Impatient. TO THE EDITOR OF PROGRESS:—I have not observed that the police authorities took any notice of the plain statements in my letter to you two or three weeks ago respecting the existence of houses of prostitution so near public institutions like the

Wiggin's Orphan Asylum and the Home For Incurables. Why is this? The inspector of liquor licence etc. has given them a visit and made them pay toll for one form of breaking the law. What about the other and more serious crime? Must the residents take this matter in hand themselves and lay information or must the old headlight be resurrected? A SOUTH END RESIDENT.

More Information Wanted.

TO THE EDITOR OF PROGRESS:—I notice a letter in the Telegraph regarding Ald. Seaton and the city printing. That is all right—let us have the information by all means, but why not ask also who does the printing for the liquor commissioners? Chasimah Knodell could no doubt give the answers off hand. ANOTHER PRINTER.

Provident Savings Life Assurance Society.

A Successful Administration.

The policy-holders of the Provident-Savings Life Assurance Society are to be congratulated upon having its affairs conducted by a management active and aggressive and yet careful and conservative. In the march of progress it keeps pace with the most modern company and adopts the most modern plans of practical value, at the same time not forgetting the importance of transacting business upon well defined and well-matured methods. The present management of the Provident Savings has directed its affairs since the last part of December, 1896, and has so well succeeded in building up the company that today it occupies front rank among the strongest and most progressive life insurance companies. This has been accomplished not by accident, but by action, and the statement is confirmed by pointing to the many commendations given the Provident by the press and by its policy holders, and also by the very substantial growth of the Company, so that it is well alongside, "The Three Giants" in the essentials that make a prosperous and permanent company. It is a pleasure to confirm the general statement by a few figures, showing the growth of the Provident Savings during the last three years.

For the year ending December 31, 1896, the company reported amount of insurance issued, \$14,991,763, and reserve for policy-holders, \$1,243,561. At the close of the year 1897 it reported amount of insurance issued \$25,172,804 and reserve for policy holders, \$1,639,941. At the close of 1898 it reported insurance issued \$30,268,550, reserve for policy-holders, \$1,994,053, and at the close of 1899 it reported amount of insurance issued \$47,859,893, and reserve for policy holders, \$2,481,461.

Mr C. T. Gillespie of this city, Manager for the Maritime Provinces of the "Provident Savings", reports a gain of over 100 per cent., in volume of new business for the year 1899 over the year 1898 within his territory, and is prepared to negotiate on very liberal terms for the services of three good men as representatives.

Pointed Paragraphs.

The characters of illegible writers are always bad. Some men seem to think a woman's mission is sub-mission. When a man's friends roast him he is usually done to a turn. All's fair in love and war, but they cut rates in a railway war. An egotist is a man who imagines he is in good company when alone.

A Prospective Boom.

We're goin' to boom the real estate at Pohick on the Crick. We think we'll have 'em comin' mighty liberal an' thick. When all our great advantages is rightly advertised You all will pine the movement if you're properly advised. We've passed a regulation which prohibits all debate Concernin' things which don't concern concerns right in our State; We've made it understood that all our able talk must be Devoted to our uses as a local industry. There won't be any parley 'bout the kopjes that are took Or the fact that Emp'r William sails a boat or writes a book. We won't have any bother 'bout the Chinyman afar, Nor rack our brains a-figgerin' on the doin's of the Ceasar. An' when we've got the energy that used to go to waste All harness'd, we'll be noted for prosperity an' taste. The palaces will soon be seen a-clusterin' 'round us thick. Cause every one'll want to live at Pohick on the Crick.—Washington Star.