PROGRESS.

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ENFORCING THE LIQUOR LAW.

The time for the granting and extension of licenses for the sale of liquor is just past and as one result there have been some informations and prosecutions. As those cases are yet before the court editorial comment is out of place but the facts are reported elsewhere. It is interesting, however, to note that in prohibition Maine and Scott Act Westmorland the officers of the law have even greater difficulty than our own inspector. There is a disposition in this city to comply with the spirit of the law; the letter of which is almost impossible to enforce, but in Moncton the officers are fighting with themselves and trying to make the dealers pay a double fine for the same offense. In Maine the enforcement of the prohibitory law was so unsatisfactory that at a meeting of citizens in Lewiston a committee was appointed to investigate the methods employed by the officials. In its return the committee reports that they have found that the Sheriff and his deputies are tender-hearted, and have no desire to prosecute any one; that they do not want to make any liquor seller feel that he has been singled out for the law's assaults, but that it is their fixed policy to treat all about alike; to raid them at irregular intervals and secure evidence against them where possible, so that a large number of them shall be presented for trial at each term of court. Meantime, and all the time, with almost no exception, the business of liquor selling goes on. While the liquor dealer is facing the judge in court to receive his sentence for violating the law of the State his place of business is open and his barkeepers are as busy as usual.

The officers claim that the methods they pursue is restricting the business and closing some places. All the evidence the committee has been able to gather, after most painstaking investigation, goes to show that the business of liquor selling is not being restricted, that the number of places where liquor is sold is not being diminished, and that within the past year new places have been opened. Still further, it is plain that the business is not being driven into the dark. Liquor selling is done openly, and bars, with their furnishings of glasses and bottles may be seen from the street.

"I have taken the names of fifty of the liquor sellers of Lewiston, nearly all of whom have been in business a number of years. Of these fifty the names of thirty-nine appear on the court docket at least once, many of them more than once, for the four terms of court beginning in January, 1899. Against these thirty-nine law breakers there were, during the four terms of court, 182 complaints and indictments; eighty-three of these were nol-prossed, seventeen were assigned to the special docket, and thirteen continued for sentence which means, to all intents and purposes, that 113 of these complaints and indictments were brushed aside. This leaves sixty-nine cases against the thirty-nine men during the four terms of court, or an average of somewhat less than two counts against each individual for that length of time.

'The average total fine imposed upon these thirty-nine men under these sixty-nine cases during these four terms of court was $324, and every one of the thirty-nine, with one exception (he is in jail), is in business to day, and, so far as we can learn had never been out of business for a day during the time covered by these calculations.

"My attention has been repeatedly called to the fact that local officers after making raids and securing in some cases large quantites of liquor, have found the Grand Jury under some circumstanses unwilling to grant an indictment; and the case, after passing through the municipal court, has been dropped and the liquors returned. Equally suggesiive is the fact that business men, men of influence in the county, politically, socially, and, in some cases, I am led to believe, religiously, stand in the way of the law's enforcement; stand in the way even of the attempts which are made to enforce it, and not infrequently, by personal solicitation, seek to turn the officers from the plain path of their official duties because, forsooth, interference with certain liquor dealers would be detrimental to business.

'Can we blame the officers for regarding such advice as an indication of a prevailing sentiment sufficiently strong to warrant them in regulating their official conduct by it?"

THE ECLIPSE OF THE SUN.

The eclipse of the sun which takes place on May 28 is an event of such rarity that it has excited a great deal of attention. Astronomer HOLDER has given the public many facts and much information concern this important celestial phenomenon. In one of his articles he describes an eclipse of the sun is caused by the moon (the new moon) moving in her orbit between the earth and the sun. The sun's light it thus occulted—eclipsed—and the earth's atmosphere becomes dark. So far, this is a phenomenon that happens every evening at sunset. But the glory of a total solar eclipse is the corona which is visible at that time and at no other. The corona is a kind of an envelope surronding the sun, and extending for millions of miles away from it. Part of it is made up of the invisible gas, coronium, so called which extends all around the sun. The presence of this was first discovered by two American astronomers, Prof. Young of Princeton, and Pro. Harkness of Washington, in 1896, by means of the spectroscope. The spectrum of coronium is characterized by a bright line in the green. Of course, the gaseous corona cannot be seen with the naked eye or with the telescope. A spectroscope is required to prove the presence of the gaseous envelope of the sun. The visible corona is produced by the reflection of sunlight from billions of small particles, which occupy the spaces on either side of the sun, and revolve around it, as nightflies cluster around an electric street lamp. At a total eclipse the direct light of the lamp (the sun) is shut off; but the swarm of particles in still illuminated, and it is visible. We do not see the corona every and any day at noon for the reason that it is a little less bright than the general illumination of our own atmosphere. It is usually projected on a background of about the same brilliancy as itself, and then, of course, is not separately visible.

But when the moon shuts off the direct light of the sun the corona stands out against a darkened background and then and then only, can be seen with the naked eye.

The beginning of a total eclipse is marked by a small black notch in the bright circle of the sun caused by the advancing moon. The moon is black because its dark side is turned toward us (it is new moon) At a total eclipse the moon gradually covers more and more of the sun's disk until only a thin cresent—like the sickle of the young moon—remains. To the general spectator there is little to notice unless it be the altered shapes of the images formed by the small holes or apertures, like the spaces between the leaves of a tree, for example. Under ordinary circumstances, the image of the sun made by the solar rays that pass through a small hole—in a card, for example—are circular in shape, like the shape of the sun itself. When the sun is crescent, the images or the sun formed by such holes are also crescent, and if the observer is under a large tree the appearance is quite striking. The experiment is worth trying at any rate; and it serves to pass the time till the approach of totality.

As the light of the sun is diminished in quantity a change of its color is also remarked. This grows more and pronounced and gives to the adjacent landscape that strange and weird effect which lends so much to the impressiveness of a total eclipse. The rays of the crescent sun which now light the landscape come from points near the sun's edge, and therefore pass through a greater thickness of the solar atmosphere than usual. The sun's atmosphere, like our own, absorbs proportionally more of the blue rays. And therefore the light becomes progressively more and more red, just at sunsets.

The shadow of the moon is projected downward upon the earth's surface and it moves with prodigious swiftness—at the rate of some thirty miles a minute. If the observer is on an eminence he can see it approaching his station, and in a moment it reaches him. Just at this instant the darkness suddenly increases, the brighter stars and planets began to shine out in the sky and suddenly the moon, an intensely black ball, appears to hang isolated in the heavens.

An instant more and the corona is seen surrounding the black orb of the moon, shining with a pearly soft effulgence, quite different from any light known to us. Near the moon's edge it is very bright and it extends outward in wisps and streamers often of immense length. Under favorable circumstances it has been seen for twelve solar diameters on each side of the sun—for about nine million miles.

The mere spectacle is worth a long journey to see. If the appearances are studied with a telescope or spectroscope much may be added to our scanty knowledge. The total phrase endures (in 1900) a little over a minute and then suddenly, the sunlight reappears and there is a reptetition of the phenomena of the partial phase, in reverse order, however.

The phenomena that have been briefly described have been seen by generations of men for countless ages. No doubt our remote ancestors were terrified beyond words by these appearances, but as the world did not come to an end then and there, they invented a name for the appearance, wove legends about it, and by and by, began to observe it carefully. The Chinese have statistics of eclipses going back more than four thousand years. The legend of their common people is that a dragon is endeavoring to devour the sun and they frighten him away by beating drums. It is quite possible that the Chinese flag—a blue dragon swallowing a red ball—has something to do with the early belief.

At the beginning of the century little attention was paid even by scientific men, to the phenomena of eclipses. The times of their occurrences were noted, but that all. At the eclipse of 1836 Francis Baily noted that the thin solar crescent broke up into little spots of light in a peculiar way, forming, for an instant, what are called "Baily's beads." At the time there was no explanation forthcoming and astronomers began to realize that they knew little or nothing about the sun itself, not to speak of the corona. Red "flames" were seen close to the moon's edge (they are part of the sun's atmosphere of incandescent hydrogen) and it was disputed for a long time whether they belonged to the sun or the moon. It was not until Young's observation of the coronal spectrum in 1869 that the serious study of the solar surroundings began.

About thirty years, therefore, is the age of modern views of the sun and of the corona. Everything known has been learned by men now living, and it is a fact worth remarking. It ought to teach us a little humility which is useful in science as it is in other walks of life. The eclipse of 1851 and 1860 proved that the hydrogen flames belonged to the sun, and not to the moon. At the eclipse of 1868 a method was discovered of observing (with a spectroscope) these bright hydrogen "prominences" on any and every day. They are so much brighter than their background that the observation is not very difficult and they are now regularly mapped at several observations. In 1869 the green hue of coronium, the coronal gas, was discovered. So far, this gas has not been discovered on the earth.

The track of total eclipse extends across northern Mexico, traverses the United States from New Orleans to Norfolk, touches Portugal and Algiers and ends at sunset near the Red Sea. A partial eclipse will be visible over the whole of North and Central America and of Europe, and over a part of South America and much of Africa; but it is the total phase that is of special importance to astronomers, and the total phase in the United States, which is specially interesting to Americans.

It has long been desired to construct a hawser or cable for towing vessels that should be able to act also as an electrical conductor between the two boats, so that signals and messages might easily be interchanged. As such a cable must possess very great strength and elasticity to withstand the heavy strains to which it is subjected, and at the same time be highly flexible, the problem presented in the design of a suitable electrical circuit for incorporation with it has been most difficult. It is said to have been solved with great success by two Belgian engineers. Their method is extremely simple. Two cables or conductors are formed of fine copper wire wound in spiral form around cores of hemp. The cores are about one-eighth inch in diameter, and the wire spirals surround them much in the same way that the wire is wound on a guitar string. These conductors are sewed with hemp and insulated with a yielding rubber tape, the two together with other strands of hemp or wire forming the midde "lay" of the hawser. If the towing cable thus formed stretches a little under heavy strains the spiralled wires simply open out without breaking. It is stated that after a test consisting of one hundred stretchings of such a cable under a pull of 4,800 pounds, the electrical qualities of its wire circuits were unchanged.

A French electrician, M. C. Tissot, has made an interesting innovation in the receiving apparatus used in wireless telegraphy. As nearly every one knows, the sensitive element of the receiving end of a wireless telegraph system is a small glass tube full of metallic filings and having terminal wires so that it can be put into a circuit with a battery and a telegraph relay. When electric wave impinge upon this apparatus, which is called a coherer, the grains of metallic powder in the tube seem to join hands and form conducting chains so that current passes from the battery and affects the relay. To break these chains and prepare the coherer for another signal it has been usual to employ some variety of mechanical tapper to strike the tube gently and loosen its contained powder, causing it to 'de cohere.' M. Tissot has found out that if the metallic powder in the tube be of iron or steel, placing the whole apparatus in the field of a comparatively weak magnet causes the fillings automatically to de cohere, thus removing the necessity for the tapper with its delicate and untrustworthy adjustments.

Several years ago a telegraph cable was laid in the bed of the Amazon river to connect the various town along that stream with Para. It was soon found that the rapid current of the river and the vast quantities of driftwood, &c., brought down by the stream, broke and interfered with the workings of the cable to such an extent that it has been in use only about one month in twelve during its existence. A company has been formed, aided by the Para Government, to construct a land line of telegraph wires along the river, and, so far, 180 miles have been built. The difficulty of building a telegraph line through the Amazon forests is enormous, and it will probably cause this to be the most expensive telegraph line in the world when it is completed.

Mr. Warden MCGOLDRICK introduced by Aldermen CHRISTIE and ROBINSON!!!

JOYS AND WOES OF OTHER PLACES.

St. John's is Due About August.

(Halifax Echo.)

The exhibition prize list is out. The cover is a handsomely designed one in colors.

Here's A Timely Tip.

(Yarmouth Times.)

The sanitary inspectors are making their annual spring tour of the town.

A Much Needed Reform.

(Moncton Transcript.)

The I. C. R. management has instructed all its employes to be more careful in the future in handling all trunks carried as baggage. These instructions are the result of representations made by the Commercial Travellers Association.

Bluffs Won't Work There.

(Annapolis Spectator.)

In Windsor they are "making no bones" about the enforcing of the law in regard to the collection of overdue taxes. The last issue of the Tribune says: "We have it on good authority that warrants are issued for the collection of all outstanding taxes, and according to the appearance of the Town office just vacated, this report is verified, as it is now being used as a store-house for furniture and other articles taken for taxes, which are to be sold by public auction."

He "Yumped for Yoy."

(Letter to Union Advocate.)

'J. R Munroe and I went to visit F. O. Petterson's brother who lives at Bloemfontein. He does not talk very good English (he is a Swede) and it amused us to hear him talk. He told us he 'yumped for yoy' when he saw the British flag floating over the city."

Meterological Antics in Meteghan.

(Meteghan River Cor. Digby Courier.)

We certainly are experiencing very changeable weather, for like some people's minds, it is one way one day and another the next. Yesterday was too warm for an overcoat, but today is far too cold to be without one. The wind now, 9 p. m., is a cold north wester with hale and rain. We can't say all hail to such weather, neither is it hale. The rain we had three days ago, caused the grass to start up quite green, though the spring is backward Planting is being done quite extensively, and our farmers hope to reap a large and paying crop when harvest time comes.

VERSES OF YESTERDAY AND TODAY

When the Smelts Run up the Dungarvan.

Oh, the wintry blasts are o'er and there's moisture on the pane;
The sluggish hills have pushed their brows above the drifts again.
Brook unto brook is uttering speech long sealed by winter's snows,
And 'round the south end of the barn a kindlier radiance glows.
The sap is climbing upward, and we see on every hand
That Nature's still in business at the same old cosmic stand;
And we're watching, and we're longing, while the ice gorge slowly melts,
And we're leaning on our scoop nets, and we're 'laying' for the smelts.

The currant loaf of Christmas has long since passed away;
The doughnuts and the mince pie, too, have also had their day.
The pork barrel has an empty clank as we jab in the brine
For the solitary hunk of fat, the last of all its line.
The liver and the bacon's gone, the toothsome herring too,
And there's almost nothing now but ham and eggs to see us through;
But that which 'spring eternal' brings us cheer if nothing else,
For we'll soon be charging 'bagnets' and going for the smelts.

If you saw us in the summer time when gentler breezes blow,
You might think we lacked in hustle, and be apt to call us slow;
That we kind of slacked the traces, and were laggards in the race,
And the time of cold molasses was the record of our pace.
But you ought to see our temper when old winter lifts her yoke
And we moisten up our hardy hands to pull a 'get there' stroke.
Oh, there's shouting on the kopjes and there's laughter on the veldts
When the ice jam is a moving and the river's full of smelts.

When the lustrous scoop net flashes and the pole vaults through the blue,
And the surge of rushing waters breasts against the log canoe.
Then we just unsilp our braces, and let out another loop.
And a livelier kind of iris forms around the sou'-west whoop.
O, Spring! we love thy breezes, thy shady dells and bowers,
The wild notes of thy song birds and the love tales of thy flowers;
But that which makes the thrill of joy creep down beneath our belts
Is the few short days you bring us when we masticate the smelt.

Better and Better.

The world grows better by degrees,
As roll the restless years along,
The poet should the moments seize
To fill the same with light and song.

The wrongs that honest men bewail,
That cause the worst of us to weep,
We should not sound on every gale
In lamentations fierce and deep.

No, let us rather be content
To do the best we know how—
We didn't build the firmament,
Nor fashion man as he is now.

We can't relieve man from the curse
That fell on Father Adam here;
We can't construct a silken purse
From a dead sow's unlaundered ear.

But we can do some things I know,
With other toilers of the race.
To make this wilderness of woe
A very fair abiding place.

The Choristers.

There's a little band of singers
Every evening comes and lingers
'Neath the window of my cottage in the trees;
And with dark they raise their voices,
While the gathering night rejoices
And the leaves join in the chorus with the breeze.
Then the twinkling stars come out
To enjoy the merry rout,
And the squirrels range themselves upon a log;
And the fireflies furnish light
That they read their notes aright—
The katydid, the cricket and the frog.

All the night I hear them singing;
Through my head their tunes are ringing—
Strains of music straight from Mother Nature's heart.
Now the katydid and cricket
From the deep of yonder thicket;
Then the croaking frog off yonder drones his part
By and by the moon appears
As the midnight hour nears,
And her smiles dispel the low'ring mist and fog;
Then the mirth is at its height,
And they glorify the night—
The katydid, the cricket and the frog.

The Boy With the Spade.

No weight of ages bows him down,
That barefoot boy with flagers brown.
There's nothing empty in his face,
No burdens of the human race
Are on his back, nor is he dead
To joy or sorrow, hope or dread.
For he can grieve, and he can hope.
Can shrink with all his soul from soap.
No brother to the ox is he.
He's second cousin to the bee;
He loosens and lets down his jaw—
And brings it up his gum to 'chaw.'
There's naught but sweat upon his brow.
'Tis slanted somewhat forward now.
His eyes are bright with eager light,
He's working with an appetite.
Ah, no! That boy is not afraid
To wield with all his strength his spade
Nor has he any spite at fate—
He's digging angleworms for bait.

Beautiful Nova Scotia.

The Yarmouth Steamship Company is never behind time in issuing its summer resort literature and already copies of "Beautiful Nova Scotia" are being sent out. The description matter is exceedingly interesting and the illustrations splendid. The cover design of the pamphet, which, by the way, has now assumed such proportions as to deserve a more imposing title, is very attractive. New Brunswick does receive much attention but as our own tourist association is supposed to look after this province's interests that can be forgiven.

We have noticed in time of peril that the man who believes his soul is saved, gets as scared as one whose soul isn't.