

CALLS THEM "AMORINES."

"Taxpayer" Talks About Civic Politics and Says that Aldermen Christie and Millidge Have the Support of the P. A.'s or as He Calls Them—The "Amorines."

TO THE EDITOR OF PROGRESS:—With the movement of the ice on the St. John river, the advent of spring millinery openings and of house cleaning—the latter that time of abomination and desolation to those of the male sex whose better half has that intermittent fever with greater or lesser severity—the mind of the taxpayer begins to brood upon the possibilities of making a change in our civic representation. Not that we would intentionally connect house cleaning with our much respected civic council, for some of them are of too antiquated and fossilized a type to admit of any beneficial influence of such a process. Far be it from such; but still, nevertheless, one's mind unconsciously, as it were, works around through some mysterious process of evolution, until a fixed determination seizes us that the common council should be housecleaned. If you will have the whole truth, it is time that the present board were housecleaned out of existence, and that a new body of live men, such as have no axes or pulp to grind at the expense of their fellow citizens, who are willing to do a turn at the arduous duty of attendance at committee meetings and listening to the requests of sick policemen as to whether they should receive whole pay during the time which they were incapacitated from duty, should be substituted in their place.

The policemen's lot is not a happy one under any circumstances, and we cannot but feel that the average policeman earns all that he receives, he is more liable to sickness and incapacity from the very nature of his employment, and the fact that he is obliged to face all weathers and work at night as well as day, makes him more deserving of our sympathy than almost any other class of the community which we can recall.

By all means give the policeman his full pay while absent through sickness contracted while in the discharge of or in consequence of his duty, and let the pay be granted on the certificate of the police surgeon and the chief of police, and do not let us have any such nonsense as we occasionally see. A policeman's pay should depend upon the faithful discharge of his duty, and not upon the fact that he is a Catholic or an A. P. A. man, and accordingly has a greater or lesser pull with the council.

Having reached the point where we determined to make a clean sweep of the council, we would state that we believe, without equivocation or mental reservation whatsoever, that from the mayor down, a change is desirable.

Mayor Sears proved a most excellent official in many respects, and had the ring, which has run the council for some years past, not met him at the threshold of his official life with a fixed determination to do what they could to make the said life a burden, and have given him a fair trial, he might have accomplished more for the city's welfare, even than he has.

He has had two terms, however, "Requiescat in pace."

But "Peace with honor" was not desired within the common council chamber as we have found to our sorrow—and cost, particularly cable cost. The fact that Mayor Sears's cable was acknowledged by our Gracious Sovereign, while that of the ring was treated with the silent contempt it deserved, speaks more eloquently than we can describe.

Of the present members of the council, there are one or two fairly good men who might be of value if they would come out manfully and ally themselves against the present ring. Let us "Scotch the snake" with the crusty head and the litigious tail, which now controls our every civic action.

Ald. White's suggestion to reconstruct the water and sewerage departments is a good one, but it has taken a long time to evolve.

Ald. Allan is, we believe, a well meaning individual, though a trifle obstinate at times and a little addicted to marriage licenses, hospital commissionerships and such like.

Ald. McGoldrick, with all his peculiarities, has a good heart and if he also would come out openly and disclaim any connection with the ring with which his name

has been more or less associated he would considerably elevate himself in the public esteem. He has been 6 years chairman of the safety board and has been 16 years a member of the council. He has given liberally of his time and ability during that

at least be given the best quarters, consistent with our financial ability, and the requirements of the service, that are obtainable.

One point we must earnestly advocate is the absolute necessity of having all committee meetings open to the public, and to the press through whom the public is usually represented. The present system is simply a farce. A caucus of the members of the ring is held in Dr. Christie's back office. And the important business of the city, involving perhaps our future weal or woe, discussed and disposed of, without the public or the press having the

BENT UPON REFORM.

Citizens Who Will Take a Hand in Civic Matters and are Anti Ring Rule—Anti Christie and Millidge and Anti Clique.

It is just ten days before the civic elections and the first token of interest in them was the somewhat imposing sign on Charlotte street indicating that a "civic reform" club proposes to take a hand in the contest. The concealment of previous years has

The contest for aldermanic positions may be keen enough before Tuesday week. There is opposition now in Lansdowne and Kings and on the West side. Nothing has developed in Duke's or Sydney though there is not much reason to doubt that any two citizens known at all could be elected to replace the present representatives. This seems a blunt statement but the honesty of it cannot be disputed. Ald. Waring represents Sidney ward and works in Lancaster. Before that he was out of the city for months in the woods of Messrs. Cushing employed by them and before that he worked in Carleton. The people in that ward are easily satisfied.

Ald. Tufts has been in the council for some time and it must be said for him that he gives his efforts for the city with a cheerfulness that is refreshing. He is not sharp enough however for the men at present at the board. His objections to this or that scheme are not listened to as they should be. Dukes is an important ward and its representative should be listened to with respect and his opinion have as much weight as that of any other.

In Kings ward a canvas is being made against Ald. Allan because he is in Queens ward now instead of Kings. He moved his store from King to Charlotte street last May and though he is only a few yards distant from Kings ward now people are asked to vote against him on this ground. He has two stores in Carleton, one in Queens ward and is a school trustee and hospital commissioner. Yet to make sure that he would not be disqualified for Kings he rented an office in that ward when he moved to Queens. He hasn't any sign out to announce the fact but PROGRESS heard him say so months ago, before civic elections were spoken of and has no doubt that it is so. His opponent is Colonel John R. Armstrong, and he was in the same capacity last year.

In the four largest wards, Prince, Queens, Wellington and Victoria no opposition has developed.

The friends of Dr. Christie think he made a great mistake the other day when he talked about the exhibition as he did and engineered the postponement of the consideration of a grant. His remarks were not popular with the business people who look back to their cash receipts for September and wonder why they should vote for a man who wants to rob them of this additional trade.

The canvas of the candidates for mayor is most interesting. Dr. Daniel is the strongest opponent of Mayor Sears, so it is thought, and the retirement of Mr. W. B. Wallace has strengthened his chances a great deal. The candidature of Count de Bury has hurt Mayor Sears because it is thought that a great portion of the support he will get would have gone to Mr. Sears. Mr. Moulson has been the most energetic canvasser and has been from one end of the city to another. He has a host of personal friends and only time will show whether they will prove to be political supporters or not.

There is a red hot band of citizens out after the scalps of the Common Council ring combination, and styled "Civic Reform Club." Their transparency was hung out from the Isaac Erb building on Charlotte street Thursday night and quite a number were in attendance at the first performance. The creed of this new organization seems to be anti-Christie, anti-Millidge, anti-P. P. A., anti-sectarianism, pro-Smith, pro-Allan, pro-Baxter, pro Colwell and several other pros.

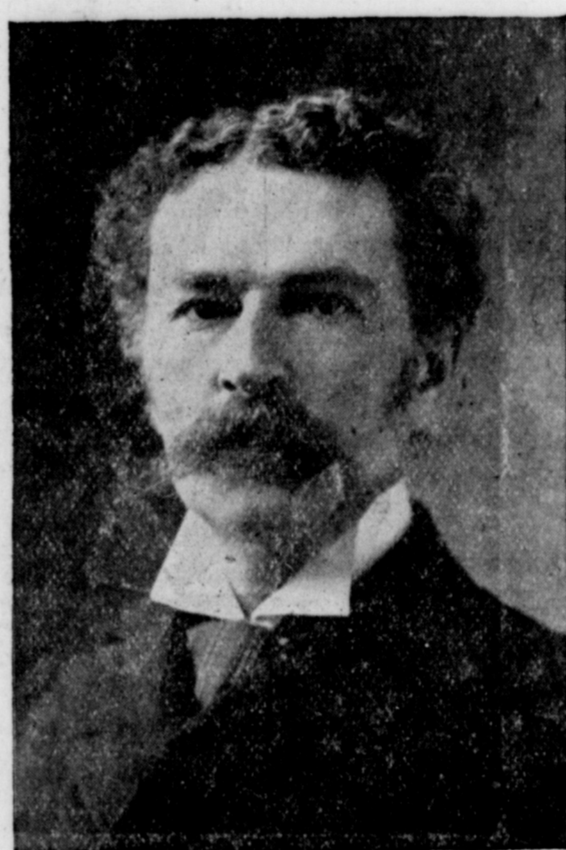
Their sole aim and purpose is to defeat what they term the "iniquitous combination," heretofore so invincible in local political circles, and to make amends for a lot of partial and one-sided legislation of late years. Attempts were made, they assert, in the past to do this trick but not enough energy was put into the fight. However this year they promise to come down on their would-be victims like the proverbial twenty hundred-weight of red building material.

Among those at the first meeting of the Club Thursday night were:—Dr. J. M. Smith, Andrew Hunter, E. Fisher, Harrison Kinnear, D. R. Jack, Wilfred Campbell, Gabriel Crawford, M. McRobbie, N. Shaw, Ed Hilyard, Capt Moran and many others.

TWO OF THE CANDIDATES FOR MAYOR.



MAYOR SEARS.



DR. DANIEL.

long period and has filled the chair with dignity. The high state of efficiency of our fire department is largely do to Ald. McGoldrick's ability, as the department is a credit to St. John second to none in Canada.

By-the-way, among the latest additions to the belief of the "Amorines" are Doctor Christie and Alderman Millidge.

To most of our readers, the "Amorines" conveys no intelligible idea as to what it covers but, like Hamlet's ghost, what a tale it could unfold. Well, it is the true name of the organization otherwise known as the P. P. A. Last year our valorous duet boasted that they were sure of victory because they had the catholic vote. This year they have expressed their willingness to ride to victory on the backs of the "Amorines".

Beware of the two stools gentlemen, which have ever afforded a treacherous foothold. What an interesting game it would make for an evening party, to see Ald. Millidge, for instance, trying to stand erect, with one foot on the Catholic stool, and alternately the other on the P. P. A. stool, but without the privilege of placing his feet on both stools at the same time. We fancy his fall would be rapid.

Something must be done to effect a radical change in our council, and it is with great satisfaction that we learn that there is a probability of there being at least some new blood in the field during this campaign.

Dr. John M. Smith of the north end, is a man whose face and figure are well known, and who has the record of giving his opponent in the last civic election, Dr. William Christie a very close call. Dr. Smith was confined to his home with a very painful eye trouble, and was unable either to show himself at the hustling or to make any personal canvas. Notwithstanding this great handicap, he polled within 72 votes of the figure made by Dr. Christie.

Dr. Christie's past acts have made him many enemies, and his suggestion to turn out of their present quarters what he has pleased to call "the forty thieves, or the high collar brigade," did not meet with public approval. The Doctor was obliged to crawl down gracefully, which is rather a difficult feat to perform.

Our Salvage Corps are a body of well known and highly esteemed young men, they have performed arduous duties for many years, at considerable self sacrifice, without financial remuneration, and should

least idea as to what is going on. This reduces a committee meeting to a farce, and the sooner such proceedings are put an end to the better for all concerned.

The exhibition association, the tourist association, the street railway company and

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PROGRESS CONTENTS TODAY.

- PAGE 1.—This page speaks for itself.
- PAGE 2.—Chas. K. Cameron's millinery opening. "Betty"—a very cleverly written story of a famous summer resort.
- PAGE 3.—Musical and Dramatic—general miscellany.
- PAGE 4.—Editorial. Joys and Woes of O her Places. Poetry. Bright local items.
- PAGES 5, 6, 7, 8.—Social items from all over the three provinces, Halifax, St. Stephen, Fredericton, Woodstock, Digby, Wolfville, Calais, Hartland, Parrsboro, Moncton, Annapolis, Bridgetown, Truro and smaller places.
- PAGE 9.—Live Local Topic Page with the following articles:—A Mixture of Offences. Coach drivers criticise the first St. John automobile. Driving is an accomplishment in this city. Look out for "bob" veal. Etc. etc.
- PAGE 10 and 15.—The third story of that fascinating four week serial, "The Mystery of a Mountain Pass."
- PAGE 11.—Sunday Reading Page with another vigorous writing from the text "That which is born of the flesh is flesh." Other Sabbath day literature.
- PAGE 12.—The Prince of Wales visit to United States in 1860—a timely piece of reading. Anecdotes of famous people of the hour.
- PAGE 13.—Chat of the Boudoir—of the inventive genius of the fashion maker, also Frills of Fashion. A woman's page.
- PAGE 14.—Sea Elephant Hunting—a choice narrative well told. General miscellany.
- PAGE 16.—Yankee Enchantment—an American fairy tale. Deaths, births and marriages from all over Lower Canada.

been abandoned and the gentlemen who propose to reform the council are now working in the open. The platform of the reformers has not been published but there is no doubt that they have some suggestions to make, something that their candidates can go to the people with and urge as a reason why there should be a change in the council.

A paragraph in one of the morning papers indicates that Messrs. Colwell and White are among those whom the club proposes to favor and at the same time some hope is called upon to assist in making up the new combination.

The letter of "Taxpayer" in other columns of this issue may throw some light upon the matter. The correspondent seems to have a good many ideas about civic affairs and he expresses them in a blunt fashion. But the people like plain speaking and so PROGRESS prints it. Perhaps, where there is so much assertion there is some truth.

He is after two of the present aldermen, Christie and Millidge with a sharp stick, and apparently their movements toward re-election comes within his knowledge. He talks quite freely of the P. P. A. organization and hints that the aldermen named are among the latest converts. That seems, in his mind, to be an objection to the election of these gentlemen, but he fails to give his reasons for that conclusion. "Taxpayers" good words for the chairman of safety and his somewhat curious criticism of others at the board, will be read with interest and, perchance, approved of by many.

The introduction again of the catholic and protestant question is not welcome. We concede freedom of speech and action to every citizen and the protestant who wants to join the P. P. A.'s or the Amorines or Algerines or whatever they are called, has a perfect right to do so; so has a catholic a perfect right to join the association, peculiar to the people of that religion. To array one organization against another however, is a different matter and does not lead to any good results. The independence of an alderman who goes to the council as the candidate of and supported by any organization cannot amount to a great deal. His refusal to follow their wishes in every instance is the cause of much indignation in the association and great discomfort to himself.