

PROGRESS.

VOL. XII., NO. 610.

ST. JOHN, N. B., SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 10 1900.

PRICE FIVE CENTS

Board of Works May 1900

That Pro-Boer Denial.

Here is a paragraph that found insertion in one of the daily papers during the week. There is not the slightest foundation in fact for the story current on the streets for some days past that a prominent city manufacturer had punched an equally prominent St. John contractor because of the latter's pro-Boer utterances. The two gentlemen have not even seen each other for fully three weeks.

At a first glance this might be taken for a complete denial of the story that there was trouble between two business men over some expressions about the war but it is anything but that.

The story was told many days before PROGRESS printed it last Saturday and it was told with many variations. The whole truth of it is known to but a few people and they are very chary of talking about it. But many versions of the affair did leak out and when one of them appeared in print there was some haste to seize upon the slightest pretext for denial. This was found because the gentleman described as a contractor is not really a contractor but a manufacturer. It is of no use to give names at this date because even the words over which the dispute arose have been contradicted, but that it did actually take place there is no reason to doubt. The tendency to throw blame upon a newspaper that gives the news, and, because it suppresses names, is called upon to bear the odium of denial is becoming very common of late. So far as PROGRESS is concerned after this the names of those who figure in these pleasant or unpleasant episodes will be given as proof in the event of a denial. The memory and example of Munchausen are very distinct with the gentlemen who sought the newspaper offices and corrected the denial. PROGRESS is informed that one of the parties to the dispute—the loyal man—had no part in the denial. He had nothing to deny.

But the curious feature of the case is this, an attempt was made to make it appear that it was a young and rising contractor who was in the luss, and it was so stated. He was told of it and was astounded, and that his name should be used, especially as he was absent from the city on a trip to the states when the affair occurred. It is said that he demanded an explanation, but that the statement was characterized as a joke. Whether he will view it in that light remains to be seen, but a friend of his told PROGRESS that he proposed to seek legal advice upon the subject.

The Pender Nail Manufacturing Company at its meeting this week voted \$250 to the Contingent Fund, an example that many of the successful manufacturing concerns might well follow.

Flew the Boer Flag.

Sergeant Jacob Ross, the West Side chief of police, sees the point of a joke quite readily and never fails to appreciate a good one, even if the laughs is on himself. This was the case last Tuesday morning. On Monday night he made some repairs to a flag pole on his barn, to make it secure against the prevailing high wind. He left the ladder he was using standing against the structure and went to bed. Next morning what his horror to discover the flag of the Transvaal Republic floating majestically from the pole. No time was lost, needless to say in having the emblem of the national enemy dragged to Mother Earth, but it was too late. Many early risers had seen it and now the genial police officer, whose loyalty is undoubted, is being berated good naturedly and otherwise by his friends on both sides of the harbor.

The joke is all the better when it is known that Sergt. Ross was just at that time engaged in tracking down the French laborer who said so many vile things openly about Queen Victoria at Sand Point on Saturday 3rd.

Matinee Girls Have Idols.

As is usually the way with good looking actors, the heroes of the Stock Company now playing at the Opera House have become the idols of the matinee girls. The seven weeks test has proved too much for the more impressionable fair ones of the theatre going class, and a fondness for other than the mere play has seized hold of them.

The Valentine Company possesses one particularly fine looking young man whose stage presence and delightfully modulated

voice have created him the "far off" awe of more than a hundred girls, yes and young women both married and single. Crowded houses greet every afternoon performance and scarcely a fair attendant is without her opera glasses. Young ladies and blushing maidens, who have made it a point for a long time back to sit in particular sections of the house now crowd eagerly into the front orchestra chairs, from which point they admire their heroes at close range. Applause is showered upon the actors upon the least provocation and evidences of their popularity is shown in various other ways. In passionate love scenes in which the matinee idols participate the effect upon the sentimental audience is very apparent. Young girls cry, older ones sigh, while behind the canvas walls of the charming stage drawing room, the hero smiles and winks his other eye. When the show is over the parade of matinee girls on the streets is a feature. City boys and young men are given only mere recognition by the watchful matinees, who stand by in admiration as the actors plod their weary way back to their hotel's.

His Teeth Won't Leave Him.

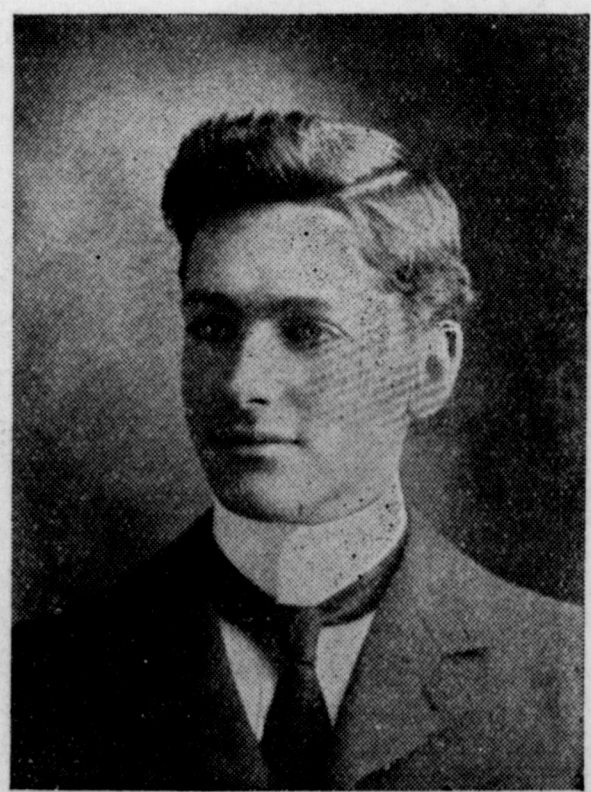
A young man who is the possessor of a fine set of false teeth looked upon the wine when it was ridd a short time ago and looked upon it so often that he became ill. In the severe struggle that followed he lost his teeth over the curbstone of the street. A policeman passing later found them and in due time the owner received them. The next week he was in Carleton one evening and the sea air must have proved too strong for him, for again he struggled with his feelings and again he was vanquished and his teeth went. His misery was such that he did not discover his loss until morning, when remembering where he was about that time, he returned to the spot and lo! his teeth were there frozen in the ice. It is quite evident that that they do not intend to part with their owner.

The Bishop Forbade It.

His Lordship Bishop Sweeney has a particular aversion to undignified demonstrations and whenever such matters come within the pale of his influence he promptly rectifies what he considers the mistake. The other evening one of the city Catholic officers tendered His Lordship Bishop-elect Casey a reception, as many of the other Catholic societies had already done. Elaborate preparations were in progress for the event and the decorations were to be most profuse and very elegant. But Bishop Sweeney heard of the great activity in this direction and forbade it, as undignified and a needless drain upon the purses of the members of the society. Accordingly the decorations were removed but the affair of the organization was considerably dampened.

Mr. Martin's Deer Baulked.

Tom Martin came over on the Maggie Miller a few days ago and told the story of how he let the deer that he caught on

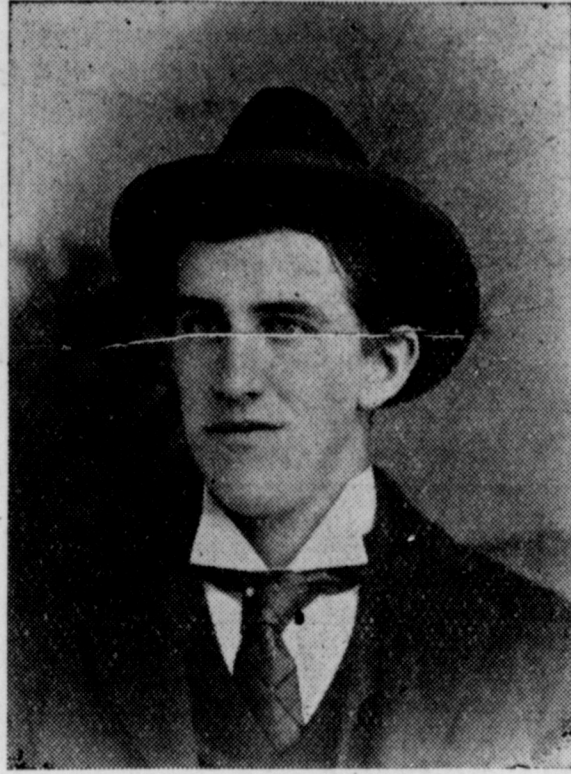


J. ALBERT PERKINS.

Son of retired Captain J. D. Perkins of Fredericton. An expert cornettist, also an athlete. A 71st. battalion member and now with the first contingent.

the ice last Christmas go to the woods again. Mr. Martin wanted to give the deer to the park people, but they could not accommodate the animal and Mr. Hanington advised him that it was against the law for him to keep the deer or kill it

so he would have to let it go. Mr. Martin thought as it was quite tame and a great pet of the children the deer might remain in the vicinity but as soon as it was liberated it ran "like a deer" and all the creature's attention the kind hearted farmer had given to it had gone for naught.



JOHN PICKLES.

Son of Rev. Mr. Pickles, Methodist minister, and formerly of this city. Member of first contingent now in Africa.

PROGRESS CONTENTS TODAY

- PAGE 1.—Cast your eyes about this page and you can learn as to its contents.
- PAGE 2.—Drill on the Veldt—A special communication from South Africa describing the preparing of Canada's first contingent for their first meeting with the Boers. Prominent Men and Women of Today—Cleverly written references to people who are at present in the public eye. The New Christian Church in North End—A cut and brief reference to this new edifice.
- PAGE 3.—Music and Dramatic—The happenings of the week in these worlds of amusements—Our local theatre.
- PAGE 4.—Editorial and Poetry—The editorial includes references to the Police Association, Strathcona Horse shipment, Military enthusiasm in St. John, the feeling against Pro-Boers etc., etc.
- PAGE 5.—Local Society and personal notes from Halifax, Fredericton, St. Stephen, Yarmouth, Irero, Sussex, Parrsboro, Kentville, river parts and from all over the three Provinces.
- PAGE 9.—A whole page of bright breezy bits including: An unbiased description of the manner in which the emigrants are treated at Sand Point and during the voyage. Vaccinating children at the Board of Health Office. An amusing incident in which two young lawyers in Fungley's building and two applying typewriters figure. Each lawyer wanted the pretty typist. Still another St. John Boer. He is a liquor dealer this time and has been partially boycotted. The Royal Kennebecasis Yacht Club has its actual meeting—An organization St. John is proud of. The commercial traveller who would not be vaccinated at Chatham, but who was nevertheless. St. Joan drummers have great fun with an old masher at Albert, Albert Co., and hold a breach of promise case in a mock court. The old fellow was frightened. How the Boers train their horses to stand still in action. A bell boy's clever scheme to "get even" for fancied grievances. Correct statement of England's army in South Africa, in criticism of Secretary Windham's statement. General Buller and Mrs. Kruger. The deadly shells of today. \$3,000,000 in gold gone astray.
- PAGE 10.—First half of a highly interesting story "fated to marry a Soldier."
- PAGE 11.—Sunday Reading—Extracts from the writings of the most eminent divines of the day and miscellaneous literature for Sabbath day perusal.
- PAGE 12.—"A Scene from Home Life"—Written specially for PROGRESS by Mr. Fleming of Amherst. An article with a healthy tone.
- PAGE 13.—Frits of Fashion and a whole budget of timely reading for the gentler readers of PROGRESS.
- PAGE 14.—Newfoundland Wrecks—A splendidly written article on the danger of the inhospitable coast about Newfoundland and an account of the recent wreck of the German oilship "Helgoland."
- PAGE 16.—"Within the Line"—A story of love and duty during the American War.

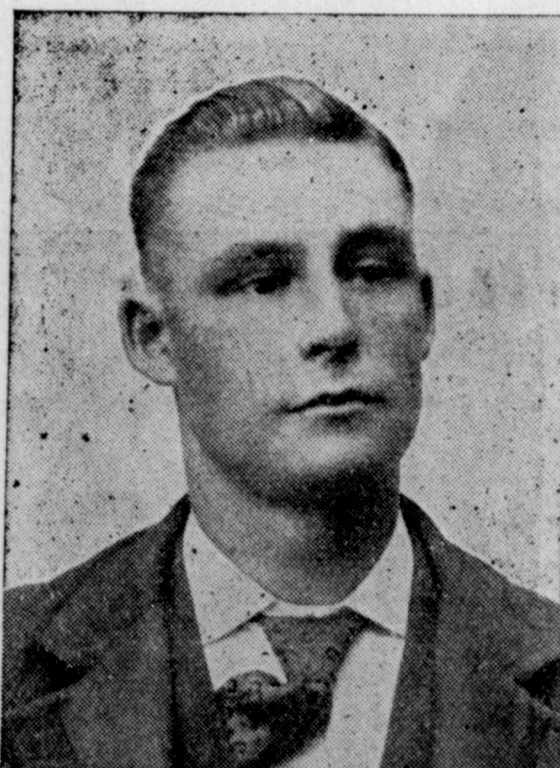
Police Alarm Again.

Monday afternoon was a field day at the Safety Board. The chief of police was there and the police magistrate and both of them had something to say about police affairs. Some interesting facts came out that have been held back and the result is that the Safety Board has more information now about the force than it has had for some time.

Whether it will act or not remains to be seen when the report comes in to the council. One of the first things that came up in connection with the report of the chief was the condition of the outside lock ups. One or two of them need repairing and two or three more should be burned up. Then the old question of the police alarm came up for discussion and strange to say obtained greater attention than it did when the representative of the Gamewell company was here some time ago. The system was explained at length then by PROGRESS and he saving to the city was pointed out. It is operated much the same as the fire alarm is but it gives a good deal of information to the captain in charge. The alarm boxes are scattered all over the city and as the men pass them on their beats at certain times they are supposed to open the box press a certain button and the fact that he is on his beat, attending to his duty is at once signalled in the Central station. This is recorded on a tape and there is a perfect record of each day's proceedings before the chief. One advantage of this, that was pointed out at the time, is that it would do away with patrol sergeants. Now one, two or three men are constantly on the move looking after the different beats seeing that the patrolmen are attending to their duty. These alarm boxes of the gamewell system are known as silent sentinels. A policeman who is not on his beat cannot report to the central office and he must give a satisfactory explanation of his absence.

But this advantage, while important is but a minor one to the abolition of the lock ups. As they are today they are filthy places—usually tumble down shanties, removed half a mile or so from the station, where prisoners can be lodged until the men report at the central station in the morning. With the police alarm system when an arrest is made the officer would touch a button in the nearest box and the hurry up wagon would be on hand in a few minutes to take the prisoner to the central station. The spectacle of an officer lugging a drunken man to the station would be avoided and the policeman would not have to leave his beat.

The expense of the outside lock ups would be avoided, the caretaker's salary would be saved and the heating and lighting. It was calculated when the subject was up before that the city could pay the interest on the capital required to put in the alarm and actually save money! Of course there would have to be a horse and wagon (the funds for the latter, PROGRESS understands, are already provided by some ladies) and a driver, but even with these



SAMUEL JONES.

Of Fredericton, all round athletic and late of 71st. battalion. Now in South Africa with first contingent.

expenses there would be a decided saving. If Director Wisely can make the same showing to day as he did when the Gamewell representative was before the council there is not much doubt that the city will soon have a police alarm system.

Under the present system only a portion of the night force is on duty at one time. One man remains in the lock up while his associates on the beat are out. This is true of at least two lock ups and probably of more. If there were no outside lock ups this could be avoided. There are many more features of this system that are interesting and valuable and if the council takes the matter up again PROGRESS will be able to give some more facts about it.

Thought Her a Mere Child.

Miss Annie Blanke, the clever ingenue actress with the Valentine Company tells a story of an encounter she once had in New York with a delegation from the Gerry Society, that philanthropic organization whose efforts are directed toward preventing small children from laboring, at least from being pressed into service as money earners. Miss Blanke was playing the part of little Lord Esunterley and in the childish garb of Frances Hodgson Burnett's famous little character, she looked even more diminutive than she really was. The Gerry Society people naturally took her to be a mere child and had her stopped playing, but a short interview with his tiny "lordship" behind the scenes soon convinced the surprised Gerrites of the success of Miss Blanke as a portrayer of the part assigned to her. Instead of a babyish little Miss or Master, they knew not which, they were confronted with a bright intelligent young woman, who laughed heartily at the joke she had been the cause of inflicting.

Half Holiday for Firemen.

The drivers of the various fire department horses are contemplating the drawing up of a petition for presentation to the Common Council asking for one afternoon off duty each week. At present their only off duty hours are their meal hours and these indeed are short enough. From Monday morning to Monday morning without a respite is monotonous living, even if the labor is not very onerous, and it is thought the local authorities will treat the matter kindly if some action is taken. No civil servant's command more warm feeling and encouragement from the people at large than do the fire fighters, and it is hard to see how any objection could be raised against granting them a weekly half holiday. The arrangements of the fire labor system however may not permit of such a move, just at present, yet it could undoubtedly be brought about if a willingness to do so was evinced.

Dr. Pope's Death.

Thursday evening Rev. Dr. Pope, one of the city's oldest and most revered clergymen went to his reward, after having been ill but a fortnight. No pastor in the community was held in greater love and esteem than was the white haired doctor of divinity so recently deceased. His long residence in this city brought him in close contact with people of all denominations and among them he became greatly endeared. Since the death of Rev. Mr. Daniel a few years ago, Dr. Pope had been the father of Methodist ministry in Lower Canada. He held various pastorates in different parts of the provinces, and was superannuated 24 years ago. Besides being an able preacher Dr. Pope was an indefatigable worker during his active service and a writer of force and elegance. Dr. Pope's death removes another familiar figure from about town, a kindly face and everybody's friend.

A Sunday Morning Race.

There has not been so much interest in racing for a long time as that which is taken this winter on the Marsh Road. On Sunday morning last there was a large gathering there to witness a match race between the horses of Messrs. Keeffe and Pye of the country market. Both of them are known to have some speed but the owners had a bet of ten dollars up and, accompanied by their friends went out to settle which animal was the faster. A gentleman well known as a good driver was objected to as a guide for one of the horses and the owners started. There was a starter, judges and all the officials necessary. Pye's horse kept the lead for a considerable distance but broke and acted so badly that he did not finish the heat and the race went to Mr. Keeffe.