

PROGRESS.

Board of Works 8 May 1900

VOL. XII., NO. 612.

ST. JOHN, N. B., SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 1900.

PRICE FIVE CENTS

How the News Came.

Naturally the parents of the St. John boys fighting in South Africa are locally the most interested people in the great strife now going on, especially that end of the struggle in which their sons are mixed up. In scouring the town for photographs of some of these brave lads this week a PROGRESS representative heard some unique opinions expressed by mothers and fathers as to the war outlook, also some pathetic tales from widowed mothers, indigent fathers and dependent sisters.

One dear old mother who feared her boy was languishing in a hospital finally comforted herself by the happy thought that if such was the case, he was out of harm's way, for at least a short while, in which time, according to her critical judgment of the situation, the heaviest fighting would be over. Brightening up at this home-made suggestion she resumed her knitting contentedly.

"Yes indeed," broke in a feeble father who, was told the Canadians were in the thick of the fray on Sunday last and many had been killed and wounded, "it's just as like as not my Jim was among the best of them. He said he'd make his old father proud of him 'fore he'd come home and its proud I am to know he's there", but then reflecting a moment the white-haired old man continued in a broken voice, "perhaps me poor boy's already dead or hurt, and if he is may God rest his soul for he's a brave lad."

The posting of the Canadian casualty list on Wednesday struck a blow home to the hearts of the people of the Dominion and hardly a district escaped the merciless bullets of the enemy. For the first time as a country Canada was put on a footing with the Mother Land in this regard, and some appreciation of the tension on the British public when waiting for motuary statistics after each battle, can now be arrived at by the people here. The whole town was alive to the war and its phases on that fateful day in the middle of the week, and in fact ever since. The wounding of four St. John boys and the killing of a suburb anite filled the hearts of townspeople with feelings of sorrow and pride; pride, because our own lads from loyal St. John were sharing the brunt of England's battles for the common causes of the Empire.

MR. BLIZZARD'S LEAVE OF ABSENCE

The Auditor General Calls Attention to It in His Report.

In the report of the Auditor General that was issued a short time ago, the case of Mr. F. W. Blizard received some attention and the sharp eyed guardian of the dominion finances wrote a letter to the deputy postmaster general calling attention to the fact that Mr. Blizard's leave of absence was extended. The circumstances as set forth in the communication are as follows:

"I beg to inform you that I have received an Order in Council dated March 31, 1899, authorizing leave of absence with pay to Mr. Frederick W. Blizard, a railway mail clerk of the New Brunswick division, from September 27, to July 1, 1899.

"As you are aware, Mr. Blizard has been practically on leave of absence under the authority of previous Orders in Council, since September 13, 1897. There was, I understand, an interval of eight or ten days in September, 1898, when he resumed work, but it seems to me that notwithstanding this short break in his absence from actual service, the order in Council in the present instance is contrary to the statute applicable to the case, subsection 2 of section 49, chapter 17, R. S. C., which provides as follows:—

"In case of illness or for any other reason which to him seems sufficient, the Governor in Council may grant to any officer, chief clerk, clerk or other employee, leave of absence for a period not exceeding twelve months."

"In my opinion Mr. Blizard's leave of absence should not have continued after September 1898."

This does not present the whole of the case. Mr. Blizard was a first class railway mail clerk running on the train between St. John and Montreal. His salary was so much and he received so much for every mile he ran. While on one of his trips there was an accident and the mail car tumbled over an em-

bankment. Mr. Blizard was badly injured and in consequence of this he obtained leave of absence. When that expired he tried to resume his trips on the train but found it impossible to do so.

His friends have been making every effort to have his case adjusted and during that time he has been on partial leave of absence. At present he reports to the post office daily and performs such slight duties as may be required of him.

The government apparently considers



ARTHUR HAYDON.

One of the St. John wounded in South Africa. He is the son of Mrs. Haydon, of the Morley-Haydon College of several years ago and brother of Mr. Haydon of M. R. A.'s wholesale. Arthur is a well educated English lad and when in St. John was a Y. M. C. A. enthusiast. The nature of his wounds are not yet known.

that the life of a railway mail clerk is worth so much, for the relatives of Messrs. Campbell and Edgcombe received a certain sum after their deaths on the road. If a man is so injured as to be incapacitated, his claim will no doubt be considered a good one. This is Mr. Blizard's position.

Some Church Novelties.

A Sunday school attendance "thermometer" is something quite new in St. John and it has remained for a traditionally conservative east end baptist church to make first use of one. The "thermometer" is about twelve feet high and proportionately wide, closely fitting in between the floor and ceiling and in full view of all the scholars. It is fitted with figures in degrees from 100 to 400, the glass tubing being represented by a wide white tape and the mercury by a movable black tape. The attendance each Sunday is referred to by the superintendent as the "temperature" of the school, sometimes warm, other times warmer, and perhaps a stormy Sabbath makes the giant "thermometer" take on a rigid aspect. Records of each week's readings by this novel "glass" are written on a huge blackboard and a marked benefit is already evident by the inauguration of the simple but interesting device. This same church has been some weeks enjoying the benefits of a four page Sunday weekly distributed profusely in the pews at both services. The social and religious announcements for the week are contained in it, also items of congregational interest, such as personal references and suggestions. The new pastor is aided greatly through the little sheet in "speaking" to everybody personally and increasing congregations is one good result. Still another progressive feature in this baptist church is an auxiliary choir of twenty selected voices, beside a regular choir of fifteen vocalists. Congregational singing is become a feature in consequence.

One on the Drill Sergeant.

A Newcastle contingent member in writing to a friend in this city about the life of the delayed volunteers at Halifax tells of an amusing incident that occurred one day at drill. The drill instructor in putting the men through some marching order forgot—a very unsoldierly happening—to give the command "halt." Full of a mischievous spirit but under the cloak of remarkable discipline, the squad of Newcastle chaps kept plodding on. The drill sergeant had in the meantime turned his back to attend to some other matter, not for a moment supposing his squad were still on the tramp. But they were,

and after traversing a long straight line they came to a house with an open door, passing through it in double file formation, traversing a front hall, dining room, kitchen and scullery in their peculiar march. A high fence in the back yard checked their advance, and marking time like mechanical men the irate drill sergeant discovered them. He was very angry and said naughty things, but the Newcastle boys avow he gave no halt command, and nothing was left for them to do, but to keep on marching. "Lut," suggested the letter writer, "it was for the joke of the thing we kept on marching not so much for the sergeant's absent-mindedness, if you ask me."

Peddlers and Smallpox

Kent county is about to experience a smallpox scare through the many arrivals of foreign peddlers during the last ten days. It is estimated that about two hundred of these people are doing that county now and the majority of them have come from the province of Quebec and down through the infected districts of this province and are making their way to the southern counties. It is persistently reported that the disease has already been brought into Kent county by these travellers, who go from house to house showing their wares. There is a growing feeling in Kent county that these peddlers should be looked after by the government at once. They should be vaccinated and other precautions taken to prevent the spread of smallpox by a class of persons whose ways of living are not calculated to keep down disease.

Another Company May do it.

As it looks now the St. John Railway Co. had better hurry up and have the Douglas Avenue branch line built, or the Carleton Fairville system will materialize. The old company with this railway as an object has been given new life and are at the door of Parliament once more. They are evidently in earnest about connecting Fairville Carleton and the bridges by street car communication and a few months may see perhaps this old idea in material form. For the early bird there certainly is a worm in this regard.

PROGRESS CONTENTS TODAY.

- PAGE 1.—A glance over this well filled page gives you its contents.
- PAGE 2.—Portraits of J. Douglas Hazen M. P. P., Hon. H. A. McKeown M. P. P. and Prot. Hesse—men in the public eye at present.
- Chinese smuggling across the Canadian border. General items.
- PAGE 3.—Musical and Dramatic columns with bright items from all theatrical towns and cities. Also an amusing critique of a play submitted by a local playwright for PROGRESS judgment.
- PAGE 4.—Editorial, Poetry, Interesting items from about the Lower Provinces.
- PAGES 5, 6, 7 and 8.—City Society and social happenings of the week in Halifax, Fredericton, St. Stephen, Calais, Nova Scotia towns smaller N. B. parts and from P. E. I.
- PAGE 9.—Another week with a whole page of bright local happenings, including:—
 - St. John from on High—what the town looks like from the top of the new grain elevator.
 - Joseph Allison's Offer—Physical training in the schools and what an expert thinks.
 - Another Stain on the Police—The unfortunate case of Daniel Higgins and what the police did and didn't do.
 - What a "Cut" Recalled—Sergt. Polkinghorn's picture taken in Africa as seen by High School boys of years ago.
 - More Ferry Protection Needed.—Diphtheria Danger Lessened.—Our Boys Made a Big Hit.—No Osteopathy in Georgia.—Baden-Powell's Bluff.
- PAGES 10 and 15.—A new serial story in two parts, "The Silence of Gwyneth."
- PAGE 11.—Sunday reading page with a powerful writhing on the Bible word "Inasmuch." Other sabbath day literature.
- PAGE 12.—"In the Sergeant's Coils"—or how I was saved from drink—a true story written for PROGRESS General miscellany.
- PAGE 13.—Frits of Fashion, fresh from France and American centres. Women's page.
- PAGE 14.—Sir Wm. McCormac tells how the wounded in Africa are cared for.
- PAGE 16.—An amusing story "The Million Silver Dollar"—Miscellaneous.

Will This Judge Retire.

The question of the resignation or superannuation of Mr. Justice Vanwart is receiving a good deal of attention from politicians at the present time. The reasons for this sudden interest is said to be the wish for a reorganization of the provincial ministry. The shuffle that has already taken place is simply an indication of what may be expected to follow.

It is openly stated by those who should be in a position to know that Mr. Emmerson accepted the office of attorney general

are unmerciful at times and the favorites of the administration must be looked after.

If the programme spoken of is carried out there will be a chance for Mr. Carvell of Carleton and a more substantial place in the government for Mr. McKeown. So, taking into consideration Mr. Emmerson's partiality to the judgeship, Mr. White's wish to retire from politics and his prospect of a fat job, Mr. Pugsley's ambition to be attorney general and the necessity of providing for Messrs. Carvell and McKeown the prospects of Judge Vanwart's retirement do not appear so distant.

ANOTHER HAY BOAT LEAVES.

The "Mariposa" Sails on Thursday for South Africa—The new Bales.

Another big steamer load of hay left this city on Thursday afternoon aboard the "Mariposa," and as soon as the bulky craft swung from her moorings, another boat the "Janet," went in her place. The "Mariposa" took away several thousand tons of hay and fodder for the "patient heroes" on South African fields and was well weighted down with it.

A pointer of interest to Canadians engaged in exporting baled hay on long voyages, can be taken from the report received concerning the condition when landed of one of the shipments of Canadian hay recently sent to South Africa.

Late despatches say the Hon. Mr. Fisher, Minister of Agriculture, has received a report from South Africa, saying the hay of the first cargo from Canada sent on the steamer "Montauk," was most excellent. It will be remembered that a portion of this hay was rebaled into Lowry bales. It is cabled that the War Office authorities have approved of these bales. The Lowry bale is cylindrical in form, and the Lowry press compresses the hay so compactly that one ton of hay can be stowed in about 75 cubic feet. Ordinary baled hay occupies nearly two and half times as much space.

It will be remembered that at the time the engagement was made for this shipment of hay the action of the government was challenged because all the hay was not forwarded in Canadian pressed bales. The agents of the government who had the matter in charge contended that the course pursued by them would enable a much larger cargo of Canadian hay being purchased and shipped with every expectation of the same turning out in good condition at port of destination.

Gentle Mary of Brussels Street.

A Brussels street Mary who is prosperous at times has a husband who seeks to keep her within the bounds of her marriage vows. She resented this a week ago and some hours later walked off with a companion to do the town. She took the cash drawer with her and when opposite the gas house pitched it over the fence.

Now this did not amount to much of itself because the drawer was empty save for a few papers but the next morning (Sunday) when the usual crowd gathered at the gas house corner the air of depression and thirst that they usually wear was more apparent than ever. They knew what they wanted but it takes money to buy some things and the scarcity of coin was something awful. The thirst of two characters called "General Buller" and "Crab" was becoming unbearable when they spied the cash box under the fence. Visions of what might be in that drawer floated before each of them but neither forgot his dignity or presence of mind. So by mutual consent these two leaders moved to inspect the drawer. It was locked! What is to be done. Their hopes were dashed and the end of it was they delivered the prize to the gas house man to keep secure.

Some practical joker carried the news to Brussels street that "Buller" and "Crab" had appropriated the cash drawer and the irate Mary soon appeared on the scene. Both of the culprits however were missing and Mary's search and gentle language were the wonder of the neighborhood for a short time.

Not Mentioned up There.

St. John does not seem to have had a place in the list of casualties as published in the Upper Canadian papers. The Witness gives Halifax four wounded and one killed, but St. John or New Brunswick is not mentioned.



WM. HUNTER.

Another local lad with a Boer bullet mark on him in the Transvaal. His home is on Hanover street and when in this city he worked with the water-works department. His friends and folks are naturally very anxious to know how badly he is hurt.

simply as a stepping stone to the supreme court bench. Judges are more acceptable to the general public, when the choice is made from the leaders of the bar. Then it is also said that Hon. A. S. White does not propose to remain in politics but is disposed to accept the chairmanship of a commission to codify the laws of New Brunswick. This is a plan that has been held in abeyance so long that perhaps it will be accomplished now when there is a man who wants the office. The salary of such a position is estimated at different figures. Some place it at \$3,000 a year, some at \$4,000 and some not so high. If this should be so and the chairman got so much a year until the work is completed the suggestion might well be made that the government should agree upon a lump sum for his services.

Messrs. Emmerson and White get the credit of being the strongest men in the government. With them out of it room would no doubt be made for Mr. Pugsley who, needless to say, is quite the equal of either in point of ability.

In connection with the rumor of the retirement of Judge Vanwart, Messrs. Tweedie and Pugsley's hurried journey to Ottawa is mentioned. If the Eastern Extension claims were the reason for the journey Mr. Pugsley's presence would not be considered necessary as he is not a member of the government.

Since then the short announcement has been made that Judge Vanwart does not intend to retire. This is interesting in the light of all the facts. Whether the judge and his friends will be able to persuade the government to their way of thinking remains to be seen. The recent deliverance of his honor, Judge Barker was perhaps the hardest blow that Judge Vanwart has received. The latter was sued for a small account by a photographer of Fredericton and the case was appealed from a small court to that of the county court judge and from there to the Supreme court. Why the friends of Judge Vanwart permitted this is a mystery. The debt was a just one and should have been paid and the effort to postpone or evade the settlement because a judge was concerned, met with no sympathy at the hands of Judge Barker when he delivered judgment.

This is but one of many things that the opponents of Judge Vanwart are able to bring against him. It is an open secret that he has been in financial difficulties for some time, and the manner in which several estates were handled showed a carelessness that has not worked to his advantage. Personally there are few persons who would like to see him lose the honorable position he holds but politicians