

PROGRESS.

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SIXTEEN PAGES.

ST. JOHN, N. B., SATURDAY, MAR. 10

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

A PROPER MOVE.

For some time PROGRESS has been urging upon the authorities the necessity of providing suitable fire escapes for public structures, especially for the public schools where thousands of children are in large buildings with only one or two possible means of exit. We are pleased to state that a bill has been presented to the legislature to make this imperative. The recommendation of the chief of the fire department this year was somewhat emphatic but the credit for the movement really rests with the chairman of the safety board, Ald. MCGOLDRICK, whose speech at the last meeting of his committee in 1899 gave prominence to the necessity for such safe guards as fire escapes particularly for the public schools. The result of this was the preparation of a bill to make fire escapes a necessity and it is needless to say that so far it has met with the approval of the members of the legislature.

It is not well to alarm the people upon such a subject, but if a few parents would inspect the public schools and see for themselves what the chance of escape for the children are in case of fire they would be among the first to demand the safeguards that the chairman of safety proposes. More than that, have those who attend the opera house ever thought how they would get out in case of fire? They have an idea how long it takes a large audience to make its exit now but what would happen during the rush and excitement of a fire? This bill provides that places of amusement shall also be provided with fire escapes. Hotels are also included and this is proper. The guest who is placed in a room in some remote part of even a moderately sized hotel has small chance of escape in the event of a fierce fire.

As we understood it these escapes will be iron stairways with a landing level with a window on each flat. They will be on much the same plan as those upon the Parks cotton mill and will be perfectly safe for the smallest child to descend. The people will agree that the move is a proper one. Too many safeguards cannot be had against danger from fire. In the event of a calamity from this source we would find it difficult to exonerate those in authority for not taking action sooner.

ENGLISH AND FRENCH.

The students of the two largest educational institutions in Canada created a tumult in Montreal when they heard of the relief of Ladysmith. The English students attending McGill university led by a few hot heads, tried to make trouble for the French newspapers and Laval students paraded the streets in their turn and pulled down the Union Jack floating above the Star office. An attempt has been made to make political capital out of the incident and the end may not be yet. The province of Quebec is very largely liberal or followers of TARTE, an ex-conservative and present minister of public works. This gentleman's public utterances have not always been judicious. He is an excitable Frenchman and makes more trouble for the government than all the other ministers. The fact that the premier is also a Frenchman does not tend to allay the bitterness that has arisen, though he has spoken always in a calm and dispassionate way in regard to the differences between the English and French.

Canada is an intensely loyal country and practically the only objections that have been made to lending our support to

England have come from the French representatives and the French press. English Canadians are not disposed to tolerate such an attitude, especially at the present time when France and Great Britain are not on the most friendly terms. The fact that there are a few French Canadians in the Canadian contingent is not sufficient to offset the impression that Quebec is not in sympathy with the rest of Canada in assisting England in the Boer war. The recent incident in Montreal has only made the feeling more bitter. We in the maritime provinces can hardly understand the gravity of the situation. To think that Frenchmen would be as loyal as English Canadians can hardly be expected. The masses will follow their leaders and the opposition of TarTE to the Canadian contingent, the resignation of prominent French members of parliament as a protest against Canadian assistance is enough to indicate what course they are to pursue.

Canada cannot afford to have such internal differences. If the support of the French is necessary to the existence of the government the sooner we learn whether the majority of them are loyal to Britain or not the better. Consideration does not depend upon Quebec and if the feeling of bitterness and differences is not allayed soon the English people will demand a man who is firm enough to grapple with the situation.

THE QUEEN AND IRELAND.

The announcement of the Queen's proposed visit to Ireland comes in the nature of a pleasant surprise. When the Prince Consort was alive this was not a rare event but since his death the journeys of her majesty have been confined to Scotland and the south of France. This is the season for the Riviera but it is believed that the attitude of the French people, their grossly insulting cartoons of England's Queen and openly expressed hostility have had much to do with the change in her plans. It will be surprising if the action of Her Majesty in remaining away from France will not have a serious effect upon the Paris exposition. The example of royalty is all powerful in England and has a great effect upon Americans and the colonists.

Apart from this aspect of the case the visit of sovereign to Ireland is tangible proof of her regard for her subjects in the Emerald Isle. Her greatest generals are Irishmen, and the regiments that have suffered the heaviest losses in the South African war are Irish. This then is a fitting moment for the Queen to show her appreciation of the ability and loyalty of the Irish in the army. That the idea is her own shows her good sense and feeling.

As a part of the British Empire, Ireland has a good right to the attention of royalty and her proximity to London makes it possible for her Majesty to bestow this signal mark of approval upon her. It is the best rebuke that REDMOND and his disloyal followers could possibly have. No one can deny the hospitable nature of the Irish people and there is no doubt but that they will give their aged queen such a welcome that she will not be able to forget it.

In some parts of the continent the complaint is made that the winter has been mild and in consequence trade and business has been bad. But is there not another side?—the consumer has not had to buy so much. It is certainly no calamity to the consumer that his needs are diminished. If one ton of coal keeps his family comfortable where two tons would be needed in an ordinarily severe season, and he puts in the bank the price of the extra ton, surely neither he nor the world has suffered. The money may be a real addition to the wealth of the community. Nor is he the worse off because he has not needed a pair of overcoats. Sooner or later general business will get the benefit of the saving made possible by the check to business, that is, to expenditure, caused by the mild winter. The check is in any case but temporary and unimportant, and every good condition noted a year ago prevails today. Merchants, however, do not always look at the loss of trade in this light. They say that the trade lost on a wet Saturday never comes back. This however, cannot be true. If it rains Saturday and the people are prevented from buying ghae they need they must do so later. Of course this will not apply to licenses but if the money is not spent on license on a wet Saturday it will probably go for something useful the following week.

The women of Halifax must be giving the venerable DEAN GILPIN the benefit of their opinion just now, for in a recent sermon he said that, as he would probably not preach many more sermons he wanted to speak, in a particular sense, to the women of the congregation. Now-a-days women had so few books that were worth reading, they had no conversation,—they had only talk, and he regretted to say that

this "talk" was generally personal and made up too largely of scandal, and thus too often the characters of individuals were being assailed and ruined by thoughtless and sometimes malicious scandal. He recommended the congregation to read a book called the "Autobiography of a Scandal," and thought they might make many discoveries and get considerable benefit therefrom. Another matter he regretted to know was that certain women, from whom better things were expected, were becoming addicted to a habit—a foreign habit—of using "swear words" in their conversation when they wanted to make it a trifle spicy. This most reprehensible practice, he assured his hearers, was a very poor accomplishment, as the thoughtless girl of the street could easily excel them.

Even the Truro News is mad at the non-chalance of Halifax in respect to the successes of the British in South Africa. It says that "Halifax found out late yesterday afternoon, probably by phone or wire from Truro, that Ladysmith had been relieved, and so in the evening they "celebrated" in good style. Their day demonstration and celebration were simply disgraceful to that walled city by the sea," and the boasted headquarters of the British Army and Navy in North America."

In answer to which the Halifax Recorder seems compelled to state that "for a spontaneous demonstration the evening proceedings were very animated and quite a success". They should have been in St. John that day.

JOYS AND WOES OF OTHER PLACES.

Taking Good Care of Himself. (Cor. in Annapolis Spectator.) Jack Frost was around in good shape last Tuesday.

Digby Neck on the Block. (Digby Courier.) Telephone connections with Digby Neck has been cut off this week.

Armless Celebration. (Moncton Paper.) At Halifax last evening a gunner while firing a salute had his arm blown off.

Such Sacrilege! (Digby Courier.) This is the time of year that when you are asked for your umbrella you can truly say it is Lent.

Because It Isn't Felt. (Digby Courier.) A subscriber asks why is a kiss over the telephone like a straw hat?

It Would Be Rather Difficult. (Albert Maple Leaf.) Correspondence from "Observer," B. T. Carter, "A Reader" and other matter cannot get in this issue.

A Sporting Freak. (Carleton Sentinel.) Football in the roller rink Saturday night.

Paradise Lost, Alike! (Paradise Cor. in Annapolis Spectator.) A Bean Social is on the carpet for next Tuesday evening, and a whist party also, same evening this week, is talked of.

Carleton County Currency. (Hartland Advertiser.) Shaw & Dibblee, Hartland, wants 60 cords green hardwood, in exchange for fertilizers, lime, brick, nails or any other hardware.

Kill the Women, Then Liberty. (Western Chronicle.) President Kruger's plan for staggering humanity is to fill the Boer trenches with women as an indication of their determination to maintain liberty.

Rebellious Bridgetown. (Bridgetown Monitor.) The small-pox scare hasn't visibly affected Bridgetown yet. It looks as if the recommendation of the Council will have to be changed to a mandate, before precautionary vaccination becomes general.

A Journalistic Daniel. (Woodstock Paper.) Quite a number of accidents have occurred in the town lately, and it is said that some people claim that they can see in them a direct providence of God, as they claim that the sufferers are of the world, worldly.

Moral—Mind Your Own Business. (Maple Leaf.) Charles Daly, who went to Sussex last week to look after some logs on his wife's property there, had the misfortune to have one of his legs broken by some logs rolling upon him.

Brainless as Well as Boneless. (Exchange.) To honor the occasion, Mr. Lilly, manager of the meat department of the Maritime Pure Food Co., on Tuesday manufactured some boneless pressed Beef's head and presented samples to the President and other officials of the company.

The Bible, Shakespeare and Restigouche Telephone. (Restigouche Telephone.) The inexperienced journalist who takes objection to our references to his articles, which, when once published, are open to discussion, must not forget that even Shakespeare and the Bible don't escape criticism.

Halifax Lethargy Deepened. (Digby Courier.) There was hardly a street light in Halifax last Friday night. Electric light posts from the previous day's storm were down in every direction. The "electrics" could not run and the tram service was completely demoralized. Telephone communication was interrupted all over the city. Only 400 telephones out of 1400 were operating in Halifax Monday.

How About This "Advt." (Truro Searchlight.) Mr. Wm. R. Geldert continues in the work of

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social reform. The reformation of "Bill" as he is familiarly called, is genuine. He has been in the depths, and is therefore in a position to effectively appeal to those who were once where he was to come up higher.

The Crust of Society. (Amherst News) Our town lock-up was the scene on Friday last of a marriage ceremony, an unfortunate occupant, Caleb Sewa Babcock, son of Caleb Babcock of this town, securing his release from durance vile on the condition that he took unto himself a wife, Miss Catherine May White, also of this town. The girl who is only fifteen years of age, had her parents consent and the ceremony was performed, the couple afterwards returning home together, on his getting released from the chairman of the poor committee.

Old Bull Unearthed. (Langville Cor., Annapolis Spectator.) Last Friday night a large number of guests assembled to trip the light fantastic at the home of Mr. Oliver Goldsmith. Mr. Seth Gesner of Belle Isle furnished the music, and suffice it to say, Seth could never have played better. His certain reputation as a violin player is thoroughly established in this community now.

VERSES OF YESTERDAY AND TODAY "A. P. A." My parents never thought they'd give me trouble with my name. When they generously christened me Abijah Parker Ames!

I do not mix in politics, and yet I registered. Alter a scene which puzzled me before I said a word. For I stammer so I thought I'd write and give my name that way.

I got in the short ribs at which I thought they would have broke. And a voice almost as brutal as that poke roared in mine ear. "You blanketty, blanketty blanketty, blanketty black, g' out of here!"

I did not know what I had done, or why I had been done. I knew, however, I had best look out for number one.

And when I got a confidential clerkship I felt sure My blundering initials could worry me no more! My business letters put my lawyer bosses in a glee Until they saw my signature, and then they fired me!

For every one of them was signed, as I recalled next day, "McManus, Egan & Rafferty, Attorneys—A. P. A."—Judge

Who Killed Paul Kruger? "Who killed Paul Kruger?" "I," said Billie, "with my little puller I killed Paul Kruger."

"Who saw him die?" "I," said White, "with my searchlight I saw him die."

"Who caught his blood?" "I," said French, "in my little trench I caught his blood."

"Who'll toll the bell?" "I," said John Bull, "for I can pull—I'll toll the bell."

"Who'll dig his grave?" "I," said Bader-Powell, "with my little trowel I'll dig his grave."

"Who'll sing the hymn?" "I," said Mother, "for I know the tune—I'll sing the hymn."

"Who'll be chief mourner?" "I," said Steyn, "for it gives me pain—I'll be chief mourner."

Chorus—As the Boers of the States Fell weeping one and all When they heard of the death of poor "Oom Paul!"

When they heard of the death of poor "Oom Paul!"

When they heard of the death of poor "Oom Paul!"

When they heard of the death of poor "Oom Paul!"

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THIS COLUMN FOR STRAIGHT TALK.

[A number of letters have been received by the Editor of PROGRESS which has been withheld because of the time honored rule that the name of correspondent must always be sent, in confidence. But a second reading of some of these communications show them to be of public interest and exceptions will be made. This must not be understood as encouraging anonymous letters and when any correspondent makes charges and assertions requiring proof his or her name must be sent.

Where is the Barristers Society? TO THE EDITOR OF PROGRESS:—I see that Mr. Geo. F. Gregory denies that he is the instigator of the charges against Judge Vanwart. This may be true enough but is it not true that somebody should "bell the cat?" Is a judge so powerful that he can do as he pleases and no one protest? Let us hear then from the church people of Margerville, the Free Baptist denomination and the many others who misplaced their confidence. Where is the Barristers society? JUSTICE.

It Would Appear to Be. TO THE EDITOR OF PROGRESS:—The assertion of the police magistrate that the police spent too much time about questionable resorts seems to me to demand a investigation. The patrolmen, I understand, are very indignant and no doubt many of them have a right to be. But is not the magistrate's statement a proper subject to investigate? BRITAIN STREET RESIDENT.

The Chamberlain can Give you an Idea. TO THE EDITOR OF PROGRESS:—Can you tell me how many Montreal men have paid their licenses to work in the city this winter? LABORER.

Look Out for the Sleeve Puller. TO THE EDITOR OF PROGRESS:—There is nothing more annoying to our wives and daughters who attend a pleasant afternoon matinee at the Opera House than the hawk-eyed scoundrel who hovers about the entrance insulting and accosting them as they exit. A couple of Saturdays ago a well known and prominent hotel figure indulged in the role of sleeve puller and narrowly escaped a severe chastisement. Things have come to a pretty pass when we cannot safely allow lady members of our household to enjoy an afternoon opera and no doubt many citizens would ratify the patrol of a brass buttoned protector who would keep his eye on the "sleeve puller." A PARENT.

What Does It Mean? TO THE EDITOR OF PROGRESS:—I see by the papers that Inspector Geo. R. Vincent is charged with neglect of duty. What is behind all this? Where is the darky in the wood pile? If the people of St. Martins do not want liquor sold in the parish Mr. Vincent should respect their wishes and, if necessary, keep a man on watch night and day to prevent violation of the law. But are there not places nearer home selling liquor week day and Sunday without a license? Everybody knows that there are—doing it openly too. Are the people in Simonds less conscientious than those in St. Martins that they permit these things? OBSERVER.

The Mayoralty Contest. It is stated that Count deBury is bound to be a candidate for Mayor. The general impression is that the Count will only be sorry once—and that is all the time. This will not be his first attempt and it may not be his last. The opinion of his best friends is that there are other positions the Count could fill with greater acceptance than the chair of the chief magistrate. It would keep Dr. Daniel out if the Count should run and he would be further assisted if Mr. Wallace and Mr. Moulson retired from the contest. But Mr. Wallace thinks of the 1000 votes he got last year and Mr. Moulson, they say, is also confident. Mayor Sears has nothing to say but is reported to be completing his committees in a quiet way and getting ready for the civic battle.

The War Song. The new popular song "Change Front on Pretoria!" is already being sung about town. Its a patriotic war song with a distinctive Canadian flavor, and is sure to become all the rage. Dr. J. M. March of this city wrote it, more to St. John's credit.

'You appear to have a taste for horses.' 'Taste for horses! I rather guess I have. I was in Kimberley during the entire siege.'

Faces in the Street. They lie, the men who tell us in a loud, decisive tone. That want is here a stranger, and that misery's unknown;

For where the nearest suburb and the city proper meet. My window sill is level with the faces in the street—

Drifting past, drifting past To the beat of weary feet— While I sorrow for the owners of those faces in the street.

And cause I have to borrow, in a land so young and fair, To see upon those faces stamped the look of Want and Care;

I look in vain for traces of the fresh and fair and sweet. In sorrow, sunken faces that are drifting through the street—

Drifting on, drifting on, To the scrape of restless feet; I can sorrow for the owners of the faces in the street.

If all the world's indeed a stage Then every actress should be greater, And everyone might be the rage If she'd become an elevator!