

PROGRESS.

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Hounding Mayor Sears.

According to the opinion of some of the aldermen the mayor of St. John was in a fair way to create consternation in the British Empire because he sent a message of peace and good will to Canada's High Commissioner on New Year's day.

"May New Year's blessings rest upon her Majesty, bringing peace with honor," were the words of this thoughtful and loyal utterance.

And yet the effect of a red rag on a bull was nothing compared to the disturbance this message raised in the minds of Aldermen Millidge and Christie. The former was the first to get excited and he broke out in the shape of a resolution that represented the Mayor as hoping that Great Britain might make peace with honor. He sprung it upon the board of works and then the fun began. The Common clerk was directed to see the mayor and request him to call special meeting of the council the next day at high noon in order that the loyal aldermen of the city of St. John might repudiate the idea that they would encourage the thought of peace with honor.

The mayor said it was not convenient to call the meeting at that hour but he would do so at an early date. This would not do and the deputy mayor was approached with a requisition to call a meeting.

Now the law says that when the mayor refuses or neglects to call a meeting when presented with a requisition the deputy mayor can do so. He was not presented with a requisition but this is what happened and Wednesday morning at twelve o'clock the most of the city fathers gathered to deliberate how the false impression they considered the mayor's telegram would have could be removed.

Everybody anticipated a warm time and they were not disappointed. Ald. Millidge moved his resolution and those who held the telegram the mayor had sent in their hands saw at once where the attempt at misrepresentation came in. He supported it in a speech that was about as intelligible as his speeches usually are only that he had more grotesque gestures than ordinarily. Alderman Christie was the second and the first man to begin the battle was Ald. Colwell. He did not mince words and Christie and Millidge winced so under the ridicule he heaped upon them that they broke out in interruptions. He characterized the meeting "as a tempest in a teapot," a most ridiculous exhibition, and the most silly thing he had ever heard of in his life. In his opinion the mayor had the prerogative to send such a despatch and he could not and should not be blamed for it.

Ald. Christie—The mayor had no authority to send such a despatch and I am astonished at Ald. Colwell appearing here as his champion.

Ald. Colwell—I entirely repudiate such an accusation and regard the personal remarks of Ald. Christie as disgraceful and used for some political purpose best known to himself.

Ald. Christie—(rising in some excitement)—I want Ald. Colwell to understand that his censure is of no consequence to me and that I have no idea it will detract from the honor and reputation of Ald. Millidge or myself. It is I who am young as Ald. Colwell it is not in New Brunswick I would be but in the Transvaal with a musket on my shoulder. If after partaking of the New Year's hospitality of the mayor he comes here to champion him.

Ald. Colwell—I rise to a point of order. Ald. Christie has accused me of coming here and champion the mayor and insinuated that I am disloyal.

Ald. Robinson—No, he didn't.

Ald. Colwell—I'd like to ask the reporter.

Ald. Robinson—You have no right to ask the reporter.

Cries of order, order.

Ald. Christie—Ald. Colwell ought to have a skin as thick as a rhinoceros if he comes here to attack me and Ald. Millidge.

Ald. Seaton—I take issue with Ald. Colwell—(Ald. Colwell, interrupting, You would do that naturally) and I am in sympathy with the resolution as prepared. Though old to take up arms, I have served and will serve again it is necessary. Peace without honor is a disgrace.

At this point Ald. Allen burst out laugh-

ing and left the room.

Ald. Seaton, (getting angry)—Ald. Allen may laugh but I mean every word I say.

Ald. Allen (returning)—Mr. Deputy Mayor, I beg Ald. Seaton's pardon but I do not think he meant every word he said. He said "Peace without honor." I think he meant "Peace with honor."

Ald. Seaton said he did.

At this point the door of the committee room opened and his worship Mayor Sears strode in with his overcoat on holding between his thumb and finger a postal card such as had been sent to the aldermen notifying them of the meeting and in a voice trembling with anger he addressed the Common clerk.

"Might I ask, Mr. Common Clerk, by what authority this was sent to me?"

The Common Clerk—By the authority of the deputy mayor.

The Mayor—Then I warn you that this is no council meeting under the law. Of all the cowardly acts that this council has been guilty of toward me—

Ald. Robinson and Christie, interrupting with exclamations.

The Mayor—I want nothing to do with you, I am mayor and I am speaking. You have not complied with the act and I warn you that your acts are illegal as this is no council meeting and you are liable for anything that may result.

Ald. Christie—We will take the responsibility.

The Mayor—(turning to Ald. Christie)—And as for you Ald. Christie let me tell you that the people are waiting for you. They have several times given you your warning and your time will surely come.

The Deputy Mayor—Will you wait, your worship, until I can explain.

The Mayor—"I will wait for nothing"; and walks out of the room.

The deputy mayor then inquired of the common clerk what had taken place at the interview he had with the mayor and Mr. Wardroper replied "The mayor declined to call the meeting."

Ald. Colwell—The mayor declares that he did not decline to call the meeting.

The Deputy Mayor—Mr. Colwell—

Ald. Colwell—Mr. Alderman Colwell, if you please.

Ald. Allen spoke for a few minutes in a quiet strain pointing out the difference in the resolution which said that the mayor hoped that Great Britain might make peace while the telegram expressed the wish that the year might bring peace. He did not think the mayor disloyal or that there was a citizen who could call him disloyal and to emphasize that his worship's heart was in the right place and his intention all right, he read the telegram that he sent at the same time to Captain Weeks the words of which were, "Success to Ours."

Ald. Christie who had been out for a few moments returned at this point and accused Ald. Allen of being the mouthpiece of the mayor. If his worship had an apology to make they were willing to accept it.

Ald. Allen—I object strongly to being misrepresented by Ald. Christie. I am not the mayor's apologist. I have not even seen him to wish New Year's greetings. I am pointing out the difference in the wording of the resolution and the telegram.

The remarks of Ald. McGoldrick were made in a calmer vein than any of the aldermen. He expressed the belief that all of the council were truly loyal, all willing to do what they could to assist the motherland in the great conflict. And the mayor in his opinion was a loyal as any of them. He had met him that morning and his worship had distinctly stated that no requisition had been presented to him.

The Deputy Mayor—Mr. Common Clerk, take that down please.

Ald. McGoldrick—I am simply stating what the mayor told me. I do not come here as his mouthpiece or apologist but I do want to say that I have no belief in and no sympathy with this talk of disloyalty that we have heard something of during a short time past. I think we are all loyal, all entirely in agreement with the council in its action when the first contingent was made up. There is not a man present who would not do all he could in the present war and

be proud to stand behind the mother country.

So far as this phrase goes there may be some diplomatic meaning connected with it that I cannot understand but I do not believe the mayor meant anything other than a most loyal citizen could mean and as he has said, the requisition was not presented to him then the calling of this meeting is a pretty high handed piece of business.

The Deputy Mayor—It that is the case this meeting is totally illegal.

Ald. Christie—He said he would not call the meeting at the time specified.

Ald. Colwell—Did not the mayor say he would call it at an early date? I want Ald. Christie to understand that I have said has not changed my feelings. This meeting is simply a demonstration of

Burchill's New Year's Box.

Officer Thomas Burchill received a New Year's box which was as unexpected as it was disagreeable. Those who remember the McKelvey investigation—and who does not?—will remember the farcical way it ended and the reason for it.

Burchill was probably the innocent cause of the sudden termination of the affair and the explanation which Chief Clark made to Mr. McKelvey and which was accepted by that gentleman. This was how it happened. Some days after the departure of the contingent Mrs. Earle met Burchill on the street and began to

complain of the way she was used at the station. The officer told her about the McKelvey affair and the investigation that was to be held in the rear future and upon this information she saw McKelvey who added her to the list of witnesses for his case.

It was after this that Capt. Jenkins went to Mrs. Earle and endeavored to persuade her not to give evidence and, she said coupled the advice with something in the nature of threats.

When Mr. Pugsley got Capt. Jenkins on the stand at the investigation all of this came out, but not before it had transpired that Burchill had the conversation noted above with Mrs. Earle. Burchill was also summoned, and then and there Mr. Pugsley spoke of the peril of the officers who gave evidence against the chief. This was pook pooked at the time but note what has happened.

When PROGRESS heard that Burchill had been transferred to the North End, a representative of this paper began to make enquiries as to the cause. Burchill was not seen and has not been seen since the McKelvey investigation, but he has many friends on the force who have noted what has been going on and they say that since the McKelvey investigation neither the chief or Capt. Jenkins has spoken to him but have bided their time when the public might forget the cause of their offence to make it as unpleasant as possible for him. This has been done at last and Burchill removed from the district he lives in and sent over to the North End.

The men who live in the North End do not mind serving there but it means a good deal to a man who has his home and his family in the South End to be sent to the North End. From other sources PROGRESS learns that the chief does not agree with the idea of the people that Burchill is one of the best men on the force but, after all, the people and not the chief of police have the real and final power over the force.

Speculating in Tickets.

One often hears of the moves of speculators in opera house tickets in the United States but such things are but little known in St. John. Still the success of the Christmas performances in the Opera house, the demand for tickets and the lack of even standing room encouraged a number of young men to buy up the tickets early in the day and then peddle them out at an advance. This was the reason one heard on the opera steps that the "tickets were all sold" but that a few could be had from the speaker. Jack Wild stood there with about a hundred in his fist and the price of 35 cent tickets were 50 cents, and of the 50 cent seats 75 cents. Perhaps this will be a lesson for the people to buy in advance but still the speculation custom is not one for the opera house to encourage.

An Enjoyable Reception.

There were many pleasant receptions on New Year's day but none of them were more successful than that the Empire club gave to a few of the friends of the members. Their rooms, which are in the Stockton building on Prince William street, are comfortably fitted up and the arrangement for the entertainment of the guests were such that they enjoyed themselves thoroughly for two or three hours. An orchestra furnished music and there were good songs and recitations. Light refreshments were served and when the guests departed many congratulations were extended to the members of the Empire upon their quiet recreation home and the success of their New Year's reception.

Mr. Watson's Sudden Death.

The death of Mr. E. N. Watson, a master in the Rotherham school was a surprise to all who knew him. He used to come to the city every Friday or Saturday and remain until Monday at a city hotel. He was a fine looking young man, tall, splendidly formed and an athlete. While seeming to enjoy good health he must have been suffering for some time from the malady from which he died for it was a common thing for him to drink two pitchers of ice water during a night. His sudden illness and death was the more regrettable as he was away from home and the news went to his people during the festive season.



HON. IORNE F. BAKER,
President of the Yarmouth Steamship Company, Who Died This Week on the Train Between New York and Boston.

tempest in a teapot. The mayor may make mistakes but he is loyal. There is no necessity for this resolution which is perfectly ridiculous.

Ald. White made a pacific, regretful speech, agreeing with both parties and suggesting a compromise by placing the exact words of the mayor's telegram in the resolution. It almost seemed as if the position of the mayor and the council was becoming similar to that of Charles the first and his parliament. There was no doubt the mayor had some rights and he thought one of them was to send such a telegram which was certainly lawful. He gave the mayor credit for the highest motives but perhaps he was not happy in the choice of his words.

Then he moved his resolution agreed to by Ald. Millidge and some mention was made of cabling it home.

Ald. Allen—Cable it home! No, no.

Ald. Christie—That's the intention.

Ald. Colwell—Is it as fast as that?

Then as one alderman looked at the other, somewhat in consternation, Ald. Allen remarked that if such a cable was sent it would remind the people strongly of a small paragraph that sometimes appears in the papers that John Smith of Black street was not the John Smith fined yesterday for drunkenness.

Ald. Keast attacked the mayor as disloyal and while he repeated that he did not come here to parade his loyalty he made a speech that might fairly be construed that way.

Ald. Maxwell—The resolution is all right. I do not think the mayor understood the meaning of the phrase "Peace with honor."

Ald. Millidge—The message does not reflect upon the mayor but rather on the extent of his understanding.

The deputy mayor before putting the resolution said he had simply done what he considered was his duty. Then the resolution passed, nobody voting nay and two or three saying yea.

In an interview the next day the mayor told of his conversations with the common clerk. According to his plain statement no requisition was served upon him and under this fact the meeting of Wednesday was entirely illegal and the cable sent to Lord Strathcona was not the expression of the council at all. How the bill of eighteen or twenty dollars for that cable can be paid will probably be thrashed out.

Around town there was the keenest indignation at the attempt to hound and humiliate the mayor and the action of Aldermen Christie and Millidge will not likely soon be forgotten.

MEEL'S HILL PLACE FOUND OUT.
She had a snug retreat for liquor sold Without a License.

Amelia Francis keeps on Shiffeld street. Her place is well known to the public and the inspector of liquor licenses has also heard tell that once in a while there is a drop of something takin' in Meel's place.

Last Saturday night she went to Toza Burns in company with another "lady" and it was reported had brought her supply. Now the inspector lives down in that quarter of the town and he heard about this.

So about half past eight he went to Shiffeld street and asked Officers Amos and Rankine to go along with him. They did so and when they went in the Francis place there was a lot of trouble in Amelia's eye. She had an idea what they were after but she put on a bold front and told them to go ahead and search for she "didn't sell nothing."

A nice believing young man might have taken Amelia's word but Inspector Jones has grown even more skeptical than he was when in journalism and he set about to prove or disprove the words of the proprietress. She was left in charge of officer Rankine and after the lower rooms had been searched Amos and the inspector went to a little room at the head of the stairs.

Nothing could be seen, the room was a sort of pantry and over the window that gave light to it was a shelf about three feet long and eight inches wide. On this were some bottles of preserves.

"There doesn't seem to be anything here, Amos," said the inspector.

"No, sir, there does not seem to be anything," returned the officers. And yet both kept looking. All at once the inspector said: "Isn't that a crack there," pointing behind the bottles of preserves.

Amos looked, pushed against the wall and the slide flew back and ten bottles of liquor were taken out. While this was being done, Amelia came up to the door which had been closed and the fastening turned and inquired, "What yer doin' in dere."

"We will be out in a minute" said the inspector.

"Let me in" said she, "I surely have a right in dere."

Just then two bottles clinked and the sound was like a spur to Amelia. Down stairs she went and out the door and Rankine after her. She did not escape but was brought back and the case was so clear against her that the magistrate fined her.