

PROGRESS.

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SIXTEEN PAGES.

ST. JOHN, N. B., SATURDAY, JAN. 6

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

BETTER WITHOUT THEM.

It has always been a disputed point with newspaper men as to the advisability of publishing the police court reports—those of common drunks, ordinary assaults, abusive language, etc. There are cases, of course, that come before the police magistrate and demand attention from the press in the interest of the public but it is doubtful if any good end is served by publishing the fact that "John Smith, found drunk on Germain street, was fined \$8 or 30 days jail."

Such a paragraph is passed over by the man of business. He has no interest in John Smith and if he has it is probably a feeling of sympathy, a passing thought, whether he has a wife and family who will suffer by his act. But all who know John Smith and his family will read or hear that he has fallen and been fined or sent to jail. The sorrow of the wife, mother or children is greater, their misery keener than it would have been otherwise. His children may have to hear the taunts of playmates and learn that their father has earned for them a measure of sorrow they did not know before.

Worse perhaps than this however is the effect upon the man himself. There are many instances where the fateful court has had much to do with a man's downward career. But for that he would have had a greater incentive to reform but the task is harder when he has to hear the jokes of his fellows and feels that all men know of the disgrace that has fallen upon him.

There are newspaper readers who take a morbid interest in police court affairs and the ordeal that does not provide that sort of reading does not suit them. But they are not the best class of the papers, patrons and the question may well be considered whether it is not better to take the risk of disappointing them. In this city the complete police court record is not published in all the papers. Those that do are asked almost daily to keep this man's name out on account of his family. There is always some reasonable excuse and it is hard to refuse but then why should the laborer, John Smith, be shown up and the merchant, John Brown, escape notice? It has been done and, no doubt, will be done again but it is repellent to a journalist's ideas of justice. On such occasions the thought returns with increasing force. "Would it not be better to dispense with such news altogether?"

THE REASONS FOR THE WAR.

It is strange that even to this day there is much misconception of the cause of the war in South Africa and it is not an uncommon thing to hear disputes as to whether there was sufficient reason for the interference of England in the affairs of the Transvaal. In spite of the fact that for years the columns of the newspaper have been filled with stories of the grievances of Englishmen and Americans in South Africa, there are men today who do not know what the war is about. In order to appreciate the justice of the conflict it is well to know the facts and we propose to give some idea of the principal grievances of the foreign resident in the Transvaal as outlined by a member of the Imperial South African Association of which Lord WINDSOR is chairman.

In regard to numbers the Uitlanders represent between one-half and three-fourths of the population of the Transvaal, and although they pay from five-sixths to nine-tenths of the taxation of the country, they have no share in the government. The

taxation paid by the Uitlanders is more than £16 per head, "a burden probably unparalleled in any other country," and about 90 per cent of the Uitlanders are British subjects. With regard to freedom of the press, such a thing does not exist in the Transvaal. According to the press law of 1896 read in connection with the amending law of 1898, the president of the South African republic can on the advice and with the consent of the executive, forbid the circulation of printed matter entirely, or for a time, at his discretion, and it is within his power to prohibit the circulation of any newspaper he chooses. This power has been exercised more than once. Open air meetings can only be held with the sanction of the government, and indoor meetings can be broken up by order of the police in terms of the law. Next, there is a grievance which raises the question of religious equality. Under the constitution of the Transvaal no Roman Catholic can ever be admitted to be president, or a member of the executive council or a member of either of the Raads and it is a fact that no Roman Catholics are appointed as officials in the Transvaal.

It is admitted, even by the inquiries which have been conducted by the Transvaal Government, that the administration of the finances is bad and corrupt and that there is no proper system of audit or control. On this point we have the report of the Inspector of Offices in 1897, in which he states that the defalcations of officials amounted to £18,590, and only a few hundreds had been recovered. Between 1883 and 1898 the debates in the Volksraad show that on advances to officials there is no less than £2,398,500 unaccounted for. The secret service fund, according to the estimate for the current year, amounted to £36,000, which is more than the amount voted in the British Imperial estimates; yet that sum has been habitually exceeded. In 1898 it amounted to £42,500, and in 1896 to £191,800!

The Liquor Law was passed in 1897, but it was habitually evaded. Under that law only 88 licenses were allowed in Johannesburg, but, as a matter of fact, no less than 438 licenses were granted. A Transvaal Commission has reported on this subject, and they point out that this abuse of the Liquor Law has resulted in the ruin of a large portion of the native population, in disease, accidents in the mines and other crimes, and the Commission also point out that from 20 to 30 per cent of the natives employed in the mines are incapacitated owing to this abuse of the Liquor Law.

The next grievance is that connected with the appointment of judges. The judges are all subservient to the President, and can be dismissed by him at pleasure, and, in the words of the present Chief Justice, the oath which they are called upon to take is one which no man can take with self-respect. Then there is a very important grievance with regard to the administration of the police, whom Sir ALFRED MILNER has described as harsh and arbitrary in their treatment of individuals whom they happen to dislike. It is well known that the police can enter houses without a warrant, and can treat people with the grossest brutality, and, though temporarily dismissed in consequence, afterwards be reinstated. This is a very serious hardship for British subjects, and it is an infringement of their rights under the convention of 1884. Another hardship, also an infringement of that convention, is caused by the Alien Expulsion Act of 1896, under which the president has power to expel any Uitlander without any trial whatever. The Transvaal Government has claimed the right in time of war, either to compel the services or to seize the property of British subjects, and to levy a special war tax upon them.

Then, again, although the English language is generally used, yet it is forbidden in public documents and proceedings. In schools it may not be used after Standard III, and the regulations are such that, out of £63,000 which is raised in Johannesburg, only £650 is spent on British children, and no grant is made to the voluntary schools, which are some of the most excellent in schools in the Transvaal.

Then there is the dynamite monopoly, a monopoly condemned by the Volksraad commission. There are, however, other monopolies which, by increasing the cost of living, affect the Uitlander in the Transvaal, such as the monopolies of matches, papers, chocolate, wool, starch, mineral waters, soap, oils and other articles.

There is another grievance in regard to the municipality of Johannesburg, that there are 25,000 Uitlander electors to 1,000 Boers, and yet the Boers elect an equal number of members, the chairman of the council has to be a Boer, appointed and paid by the government, and the decisions of the council, when arrived at, are

subject to confirmation by the executive. In 1874, before the first convention, the franchise could be obtained after one year's residence without real estate. In 1882, after the first convention, five years' residence and registration were required. Registration since then has become more and more complicated, and at the beginning of the present year it took fourteen years to obtain the franchise, during twelve of which the candidate was neither a British nor a Boer subject, and had to take an oath which successive colonial secretaries have described as offensive and superfluous. Anyone who reads the new franchise law passed in the present summer will come to the conclusion arrived at by Sir ALFRED MILNER, that under the present law it remains within the power of the Transvaal government to refuse the franchise to anyone, owing to the extremely complicated regulations and conditions which are attached to it. It should not be forgotten that in their demand for the franchise the Uitlanders have been asking only for the re-establishment of rights which now exist in the Orange Free State, and which existed in the Transvaal itself before and after the Convention of 1881. In fact, South Africa is really one country, in which two races live, in every district but one, on a footing of political and social equality. In that district, the Transvaal, one race is the subject of the open contempt and oppression of the other. It is idle to talk of peace and unity while these conditions prevail. From the year 1892 onwards, a succession of appeals have been made by the Uitlanders to the Transvaal Government for a redress of their grievances. In 1892 the first great public meeting was held, and a deputation conveyed to the president of the republic the resolutions which were passed. The answer of the president was characteristic, for he said: "Cease holding meetings and be satisfied. Go back and tell your people I shall never give them anything. I shall never change my policy. Now let the storm burst." In 1894 there was another petition to the Raad for the franchise signed by 13,000 people, and that was rejected with ridicule. In 1895 there was a petition for the franchise again signed by 38,500 persons, and after a debate that was also rejected, Mr. JOSEPH declaring that if the petitioners wanted their rights they would have to fight for them. As far as Johannesburg is concerned it is really doubtful whether any considerable number of the people there were aware of the Jameson Raid; at any rate they were not responsible for it; but, both before and since that time there have been many acts of constitutional agitation, and it is a mistake to represent that the Uitlanders have not taken the constitutional steps placed within their power. Of course when appeal after appeal to the Transvaal Raad failed the Uitlanders petitioned the High Commissioner and the Queen.

The death of Hon. E. E. BAKER removes from Yarmouth one of her foremost citizens—in fact he might well be called the most enterprising man in the province of Nova Scotia. He had great faith in his province and particularly in Yarmouth where he encouraged any enterprise that would be of advantage to the place. The adornment of the town, assisting to furnish it with a splendid hotel, providing it with connections with great centres that any place might be proud of was but part of the task Mr. BAKER set himself. He has met with opposition but he was able at all times to keep pace with his opponents. If the enterprises that he started succeed as well under his successors as they have when managed by him they will be an enduring monument to his ability and foresight.

Some of the Nova Scotia newspapers are beginning to kick at the "free" business. They seem to be just waking up to the fact that newspaper men live up to the truth of the quotation, "It is more blessed to give than to receive," but the plaint of the good old Acadian Recorder has a spice of sarcasm in it. Here it is:

It is a very curious thing that often there are affairs in connection with which everyone except the printers are supposed to be paid, and the papers are actually asked to contribute more than anybody else—a decent time, perhaps, a day. If a paper is charged up what they give free in this way it would be found to amount to a surprising sum; and often these who are most zealous in this respect on the press are of a class who spend their own reading at some institution where the papers also go free. It is certainly a great trade—the "free business"—in connection with the publication of newspapers.

All Canada will smile at Toronto's choice of a mayor. This great city has chosen E. A. MACDONALD for its chief magistrate—a man whom, two or three years ago could not have been elected to any position. He has always managed to keep before the public, however, in some way or other, at one time publishing an annexation sheet for the purpose. In spite of this fact, today, when all Canada is shout-

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ing for Queen and country and sending thousands of her sons to the front, MACDONALD is made first citizen of the most important city in England's greatest colony! How the New York Sun and other American annexation sheets will parade this fact!

The Yarmouth Times has discovered that the county is a veritable gold field and upon the authority of an "old miner" gravely announces the fact in many places coarse gold can be washed from the soil, and he is certain that paying leads run through the very heart of the town. In fact cellars have been cut through gold bearing veins.

The Klondike will please take a back seat.

There is a small civic war in Moncton and the Times speaks of the council as a body of Boers and the mayor as Kruger AYER. South African terms are becoming popular.

POEMS OF YESTERDAY AND TODAY.

Our Marching. I saw the might of the Empire In a dream as the flag's as snook; I heard the heart of a nation Pulse out from rank to rank; I felt the weight of their marching And I heard their harness clank; Clink of the metal traces— And the heavy guns replied; Clank of the bill and sabre Swinging a long the side; Foot, and horse and guns, And my heart was mad with pride.

Highland and Lowland men, And men from the Outer Seas; Brave hearts from England's heart— True hearts from the Colonies— Shoulder to shoulder they went With no red coat to their knees.

I saw in the roads before them Fortress and barricade, And a people who cried defiance— Saloon and inn and road; Then I heard the voice of the Empire Roll back to the last brigade.

I saw the ray, red tunics Swing forward, rank on rank I saw the ray, straight lancers In a parade, back to flank. I saw the sun's red rays And I heard the harness clank.

But tonight could I see of them That had blocked the way and defied— Nought of the sunken people That had spat at our royal pride, Saw the sun die of shame in the road, And blood on the mountain side. —Theodore Roberts in the Canadian Magazine.

The Rapid-Firing Pen.

Oh, we've heard from Weston Churchhill, And we're breathing free once more. He has gallily skipped to freedom, Past the outpost of the Boer. Now he's telling how he did it— Telling of and of our rank. Bazing deu!—bott d'volleys From his rapid firing pen.

We have lost all thought of Buller, Baden-Powell we forget, As we do not care if Methuon Is or is not fighting yet. For we're hearing now from Churchhill— He is calling thick and fast. "What had he for dinner Tuesday?" And "how long I think 'twill last."

He's unnumbered his ink battery And is telling what he's doing. It is "I did this" or "I was wise. "It maybe, but I think not." "As I said to Mr. Kruger;" "How I say the armoured train;" "What I wore when cast in prison;" "How I got wet in the rain."

Roberts may as well turn back, now; Kitchener, come home again Churchhill's putting down the warfare With his rapid use of pen. He is telling a about it. Is a manner but he-wise. He is firing hourly with eyes Of the biggest kind of "ye. —Baltimore American.

Plaint for Briton and Boer.

Alas for the Boer and Briton! Alas for the Briton and Boer! Let us pray to the God of Peace. Let us curse the God of War! Let us pray for the slugs when strife shall cease, And all nations worship the God of Peace and curse the God of War.

There are desolate homes on the veldt. There are decaying hovels and huts. Dead are the dead. Maimed the maimed. Drowned other matters are. From English dais and Scotland's glens; from Irish cuts and hills of Wales. Comes sighs and sobs and funeral wails. And sigh and sob and tear for tear. The Transvaal mourners weep their dear.

As they are driven together in battle, ordered to do or die. T. Atkins does. I know what it's about, Fighting farmers wenders, who? So the good Queen weeps in her castle; weeps for Briton and Boer.

And monks and nuns and widows and children weep and curse the God of War.

Who shall be damned for the slaughter? Some a pile of yellowed gold? Some a tuler, stubborn and craty? or some ice-hearted diamond knife? But I lie now to question whose the blame may be, If the case were set to the God of Peace, he would surely damn all three.

Now, blessed be those who make Peace. Even cursed be the who make War; No matter who speaks for the Briton, no matter who sides with the Boer.

Spartan Mothers.

(The last two stanzas of Alfred Austin's latest poem) The sister's sigh, the maiden's tear, The wife's, the widow's stifled wail, These nerve the hand, these brace the spear, And speed them ever velet and vale. Or life or limb, Who reads the chain, and breaks the rod,

And should it be his happy fate Hale to return to home and rest, She will be standing at the gate. To fold him to her trembling breast. Or should he fall, By ridge or wall And lie "neath some green southern sod— Who dies for country, sleeps with God.

THEY DON'T PAY TAXES.

A Man Who Knows Says 72 Montreal Men Escape Their Civic Dues.

"There are 72 Montreal men on the West side" said a gentleman to PROGRESS this week "who are not paying taxes. They follow the steamers here in winter after a steady summer's work in Montreal and take all the best jobs from our men. Montreal is really the winter port of Canada as far as profitable labor goes. These seventy-two men do not include the office staff but are carpenters, coopers, stevedores, checkers, timekeepers and walking bosses. The number of St. John men who have been to Montreal and back are not included either. The wages of these men are more than double those of a laborer and some of them will make a handsome thing out of the winters work.

"Now whose business is it to see that these men are reported and pay their licenses. It is the police why do they not set about it? Sergeant Ross is there and can make the report if he pleases. If a King's county man comes to the East side to work in the elevator he is reported and has to pay. Why should not Montreal men do the same?"

"I am not speaking by random when I say 72 men. I have the names and occupations of all of them but it is not my business to inform. Let the police do their duty."

A Thoughtful and Generous Act.

There were many kindly acts recorded of the past week or two but one of them that has come to PROGRESS attention is worth recording more particularly because it will interest many gentlemen who have in the past enjoyed the hospitality of the Beach club. It came to the knowledge of the officers and some of the members that the man who had served them as caretaker of the club house and prepared for their outings had met with an affliction that deprived him of the power of speech and a purse of nearly \$100 was made up for him. This was taken to his house New Year's afternoon by two gentlemen and there is no doubt they were amply repaid for the drive, even in that terrible storm, by the gratitude of the caretaker's family.

In Love With His Job.

The newsboys had a great time New Years. Many a small boy who had braved the cold and rain and snow during the fall and winter felt that the business was not so bad after all when he felt the jingle of dollars in his pockets New Years night. One case that came under the notice of the writer showed what a harvest awaits some boys. A little chap who had been in somewhat regular attendance on a number of gentlemen, saw them all together Monday afternoon, and as he was hurrying away some one called "Hold on." He did and went away two or three dollars richer. He is in love with his job now!

Who Was to Blame?

Those who went to Fredericton to spend New Years had ample time to examine the railway station that evening. They waited without information of the train from 8 o'clock until midnight and then were coolly informed when the St. John train did arrive that there would be no train for Fredericton that night. Fifty people then began a hurried search for quarters in the cold and blinding snow storm. Somebody was to blame. Who was it?

A Postmastership Rumor.

A rumor in connection with the postmastership removes the present official, Mr. T. B. Hannington, and places Hon. A. P. Dunn in his stead. PROGRESS has not been able to see Mr. Dunn and inquire into the truth of the rumor so far as his name is concerned and probably his answer would be non committal, but both his name and that of Mr. W. A. Lockhart have been connected freely with this bit of political gossip.

Why is This?

Why a letter sent from St. John to Boston should go to Montreal first or why a letter mailed in Fredericton should take a trip to Montreal before coming to St. John are among the things that "no fellow can find out." The two letters spoken of were important and caused a great deal of inconvenience by their non arrival and in one case when complaint was made to the inspector no satisfactory explanation could be given.

Umbrellas Made, Re-covered, Repaired Dues 17 Waterloo.