

THE RING INVESTIGATION.

How the Case Was Settled—Chief Clark's Sage Advice to the Force.

Chief Clark's investigation into the charges against Detective John Ring came to an end last Monday. The outcome of it is now an old story. The detective was vindicated and everything now stands as it did in the first place.

Magistrate Ritchie's insinuations as to the corruptness of the police force have been met, in one instance at any rate, and have been found to have nothing of a serious nature in them. It was quite true the chief witnesses in the case hid themselves away—some say to Boston, others say to Sydney, and a Fredericton paper asserts they stayed at the local capital—and the case lost a lot of what the public expected would be spicy.

Still, even if these women, Brown and Nason, had held their ground their evidence might have been equally as unimportant as was Ada Wilson's, who was heard before the chief.

With no little show of officialism, and a lot of red tape pro and con, the investigation dragged on for three or four sittings. Mr. Blair conducted the case, for his client, Mr. Ring, in a quiet, easy going way, knowing that no heinous crime could be laid at the door of the official he was defending. Recorder Skinner sat at the Chief's elbow and made many of the legal balls for the premier policeman to throw. Still nothing was proved against the detective, who sat all the while as unconcerned as if he were taking in a performance at the opera house.

At one stage in the proceedings the Recorder cross questioned Capt. Fred Jenkins pretty closely as to the personal conduct and existence of the south end houses of ill fame. The Captain told a straightforward intelligible story and could say nothing derogatory of Detective Ring, although he had worked with him on raids, seizures, etc. for over seventeen years. The Captain expressed it as his personal opinion that if the shady resorts of south end were not kept there and allowed to exist without brawling and uproar, the town would soon be breaking out all over in festering sores of ill-fame, and street walking—or in other words, "picking up"—would be a very common evil.

Then the Captain enlightened the city's legal head, and the public at large for the reporters were there—of the inner workings of the demi-monde houses. The newspaper men near-



CHIEF CLARK.

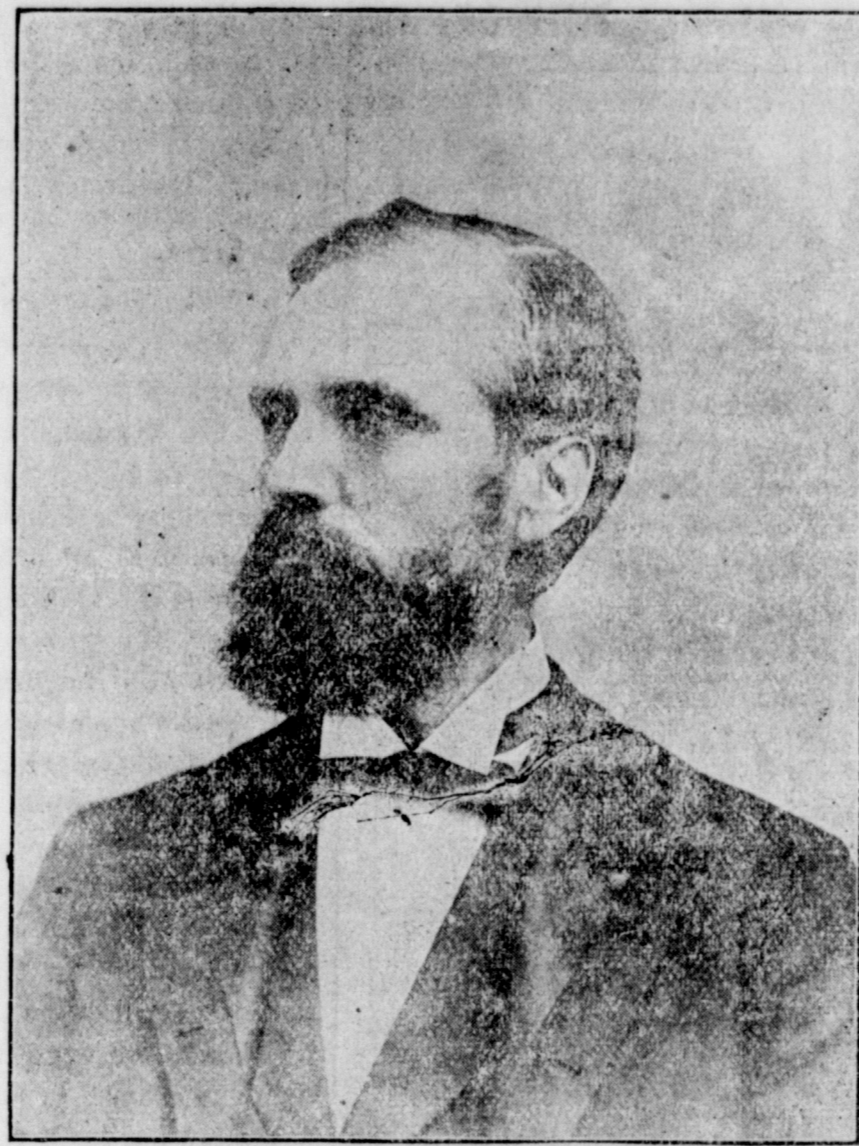
ly cracked their arms trying to catch all the Captain said for the accounted it "good stuff."

Then came the Chief's judgment. It was nothing very elaborate, rather lengthy, but quite plain and business like. He said he expected Officer Ring would go on the stand and explain under what circumstance he took the money, but acting on the advice of his counsel, he did not do so. The charges made against him were criminal, and should have been tried as such. Mr. Blair, however, objected to this and wanted the Chief to strike it out of his remarks. The Chief refused.

"If it is the desire of the higher authorities that I enter upon and destroy these houses then I am ready to proceed. The question is certainly one of the most momentous with which the police and higher

authorities have to deal," said Chief Clark. So now the city is to blame if the evil of the south end continues to exist.

No doubt remembering the frequent aspersions cast upon the police force by the magistrate, the chief incorporated in his



HON. C. N. SKINNER.

judgement the following: "I have found the officers of the force under my charge as a rule, almost without exception, to be a well-intended and properly behaved class of men, shrinking from no duty as they understand it, and readily and cheerfully meeting all just demands made upon them as members of the force."

In winding up the chief said: "But I wish to here say that officers, when in the discharge of their duty they are called upon to enter these houses, should remain as short a time as possible, should under no possible state of circumstances be on familiar terms with keepers or inmates. They should receive no loans, no gifts, no favors from them. Both keepers and inmates should always be made to know and understand that their business and their houses are an offence to decency, morality and the law, and that at the least the duty of the police is to render as harmless as possible the results of the immorality which those keepers and inmates represent, and under no circumstances can they receive favors, countenance or protection from the police."

This last paragraph was sort of an electric shock to some members of the force, it is said, who in the future may give their Sunday school lessons a little closer attention.

So officer Ring is back at his old job, and the proverbial goose is high upon the rafter.

Dr. Travers' Suggestion.

The suggestion of Dr. Boyle Travers to have the central fountain in King Square—by the way, "the roped arena"—named after King Edward VII is a good one. The doctor suggested it at the Mayor's special meeting on receipt of the Queen's death news, but it was almost totally ignored. The Prince of Wales, that was, when he visited St. John turned on the water in this fountain for the first time, and many will agree with the venerable doctor that it should be named after him.

Memorial Services.

The different denominations throughout the city will hold memorial services today. At Centenary an impressive service is to be held at which many prominent clergymen will take part. The Presbyterians hold a united gathering at St. Andrews church, where Dr. MacRae is to be the preacher. At Trinity a very interesting programme has been arranged, Dean Partridge of Fredericton occupying the pulpit. At this later service the St. John Fusiliers are to

attend. The day will be generally observed as one of mourning.

Notices to Quit.

Thursday was the last day for giving the notice to quit, between landlord and tenant. PROGRESS learns that they were even more numerous this year than in years past, so everything points to a hustling first of May.

Decorations.

An American in the city this week expressed his surprise at the fine mourning decorations presented throughout the city by our leading merchants and hotels. The

SHE SAW THE QUEEN.

Interesting Interview With an Old Lady Who Saw the Queen on the Day of Her Coronation.

Just now when the whole country is steeped in sorrow because of the death of our beloved monarch and tales and reminiscences of her life are the order of the day, those who have been fortunate enough to have seen the queen sometime during her life are looked upon as beings signally favored, and many questions are asked them as to her personal appearance, manner etc. Whenever the experience is related the narrator is always able to command an appreciative and attentive audience.

But to have seen Her Majesty on the day of her coronation, to have lived throughout her long reign and to see her death and the accession of a new monarch, and still be hale and hearty it an honor which few can claim, at any rate in Canada.

Probably the only one in this city to whom such distinction has come is an old lady, Mrs. Crawford, widow of James Crawford, who resides with her daughter, Mrs. Osborne, of Forrest Street.

To a PROGRESS representative who called to see her, Mrs. Crawford related some of her experiences and though her memory is growing somewhat dim with the increasing years, still many interesting facts were given by the very intelligent old lady.

Mrs. Crawford was born in Ireland 82 years ago. She came to this country with her parents and settled in St. John when a small child and while still a very young girl entered the employ of Col. and Lady Dalton, who were in this city for a short time, on their return from the West Indies, where the Colonel had been stationed, and were enroute to Europe. With them Mrs. Crawford says she travelled for two or three years. They arrived in England some few weeks before the coronation of the Queen.

Lady Dalton was of very high family, being closely related to the Duke of Roxbury and many other personages of royal birth. This was of course a great advantage to the young girl and as her employers were very considerate and warm hearted people and had taken a great fancy to the young Canadian, she was made much of and taken to every place of interest.

The one scene which stands out freshest in her memory is that of the royal procession, on coronation day, which Mrs. Crawford states was grand and impressive. As the carriage drawn by eight cream colored horses and bearing the young queen and her mother, the Duchess of Kent, approached, at the request of Col. Dalton, she was lifted on high by two of the horse guards and from this exalted position was enabled to obtain a good view of the queen, whom she describes as being very slender and exceedingly pale, but with a certain grace and dignity that was indeed queenly.

The fireworks and scenes of jubilation that followed the crowning of our lamented queen were described at some length by this venerable lady, on whom the weight of four score years has fallen so lightly.

Mrs. Crawford still enjoys good health and during the fine weather is able to take short walks and pay visits to her friends. She is an interesting talker and an hour passed very quickly in such pleasant company.

A FREDERICTON HERO.

Now in Montreal Undergoing Treatment to an Eye Injured in Africa.

PROGRESS publishes today a cut of Norman P. McLeod of Fredericton, who has had to go to Montreal lately to have his eye, injured in Africa, treated by a specialist.

Norman P. McLeod is the second son of Rev. Dr. McLeod of Fredericton, and is about twenty-three years of age. He is a splendid athlete. He attended Acadia College for two years with the class of '98 and while there played half back on the University football team, and alternated from the pitcher's box to the first base on the college nine. In the annual sports he showed up well, and captured first place in a number of the events. He then went to the U. N. B. and while there captained the foot-ball team, and held for one year the trophy for the best all-around athlete. After leaving college, he worked for a

time in the United States and came home in order to enlist with the Canadian contingent for South Africa. He was enrolled in D battery and served throughout the campaign, with considerable distinction. Shortly before his detachment came home, he was injured in the left eye by sand and



NORMAN McLEOD.

gravel thrown up by an exploding shell. While in England he was treated by a specialist, and since his return on the Roslyn Castle he has gone to Montreal for further treatment. It is hoped that he may receive a permanent relief.

A Year's Vicissitudes.

A year ago St. John was anticipating the success of General Buller in reaching beleaguered Ladysmith. Flags were fluttering all over town and British hearts were filled with patriotism in view of the great struggle in South Africa. Little did the citizens expect a short twelvemonth would see the same buildings decked in sombre shades and veiled portraits of our dead Queen in every window. From joyous expectancy to deepest gloom. Years of history have been made since last February first.

Mr. Hunter's Removal.

The removal from St. John of the Rev. Stanley Hunter is a loss to St. John. During his short pastorage here he has made many friends by whom his departure will be much regretted. The Rev. Mr. Beers who succeeds Mr. Hunter was given a reception Wednesday evening and the new incumbent comes here warmly welcomed by people generally.

PROGRESS

CONTENTS

TODAY.

- PAGE 1.—This page speaks for itself. Read it.
- PAGE 2.—King Edward VII—Some facts regarding our new sovereign.
- PAGE 3.—Musical and dramatic news of the week.
- PAGE 4.—Editorial, poetry and other selected reading.
- PAGES 5, 6, 7, and 8.—Social happenings throughout the city and the Maritime provinces.
- PAGE 9.—Fight for a Great River—Main lumbermen are up in arms. The Cause of Women—Queen Victoria reign has proved a great benefit.
- PAGES 10 and 15.—Concluding chapters of that interesting serial "Her Ladyship's Secret."
- PAGE 11.—Sunday Reading—An interesting article on religious affairs in Cuba from the pen of Charles Palmer.
- PAGE 12.—The Kind of Husband I should choose for my Daughter—A timely question answered by prominent women.
- PAGE 13.—Facts and fancies from the realms of women.
- PAGE 14.—Fate led the Rescue Ship—A thrilling tale of the sea.
- PAGE 16.—Demon and Pythias—A short story. Births, marriages and deaths of the week.