

# PROGRESS.

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## OTTAWA IN MOURNING.

The Cabinet and Thousands Attend the Funeral of Miss Bessie Blair and the Gallant Harper.

The funerals of Miss Bessie Blair and Mr. H. A. Harper, who were drowned in such a tragic manner on Friday while skating, took place at Ottawa on Monday and were largely attended. Thousands of all classes of citizens attended. There were also present the Governor-General and the Countess of Minto, with Major Maude, military secretary, Sir Wilfrid and Lady Laurier, Mr. Mrs. and the Misses Fielding Dr., Mrs. and Misses Borden, Sir Louis and Lady Davies, Mrs. Sifton, Hon. Messrs. Sutherland and Scott, Fisher-Mulock, Patterson, Tarte, Justices Sedgewick, Gwynne, Girouard, the staff of the railway department, and as many of the friends of the family as the house would hold. Funeral service was conducted by Rev. Dr. Herridge, pastor of St. Andrew's Presbyterian church, at which Hon. Mr. Blair and his family worshipped since they have made their home in Ottawa. The choir of the church was also present and sang hymns specially chosen by Mrs. Blair, 'Asleep in Jesus' 'Peace, Perfect Peace' and 'Lead Kindly Light.' The service was a most impressive one. The members of the family then took a farewell look at the loved one, and then the funeral procession started from the house for the cemetery. Immediately after the hearse walked the father, Hon. A. G. Blair, his two sons, A. George Blair, and Master Donald Blair, and his son-in-law, Mr. Randolph, of Fredericton. Captain Bell, A. D. C., as representative of His Excellency, came next, and the Premier and his colleagues walked two and two. Following them came hundreds of mourning friends in all walks of life.

The floral tributes were very numerous, among the contributors being Lord and Lady Minto, Lady Ritchie, Mr. and Mrs. Fielding, Mrs. Thomas White, Mr. and Mrs. Schreiber, Hon. Sydney Fisher, Mr. and Mrs. John Connor, St. John; Miss Snowball, Chatham; Mr. and Mrs. Martin Griffin, G. E. Barbour, St. John; the teachers of St. Andrew's Sunday School, the New Brunswick members of the census staff, the Misses Eleanor McAvity, Alice Christie and Josephine Bostwick, St. John. With every token of esteem for the deceased, and evidence of affection and sympathy for the sorrowing family, the remains were laid away in a vault at Beechwood cemetery. In the spring they will be transferred to the family burial plot there.

Among hundreds of messages of sympathy, the following from the Prince of Wales was transmitted to Mr Blair by His Excellency:

'Princess and I are deeply grieved to hear of shocking death of Miss Blair. Please convey our heartfelt sympathy to her bereaved parents.'

Mr. Joseph Chamberlain cabled to Mr. Blair as follows:

'Let me express my sincerest sympathy with you and with your family in your terrible misfortune.'

The High Commissioner cabled: 'Greatly grieved at the sad news in the papers. Lady Strathcona and I sincerely sympathize with you and your family.'

Mr. Creelman, who was not allowed to talk much on Friday evening, was restored on Saturday, and had a distinct recollection of all that happened, and states that he never lost consciousness. 'It happened this way,' said Mr. Creelman: 'Miss Bessie Blair and I were skating towards the city about 5.30, with Mr. Harper and Miss Snowball a few yards behind us and on our right. We were going pretty fast, Miss Blair holding my walking stick. The evening was just closing down, and the surface of the ice looked smooth. We had no idea that we were near thin ice, and the first we knew was when our skates cut through the ice and we pitched forward. I realized at once that we were going through, and as we pitched forward I threw myself towards Miss Blair, so as to be able to catch her when she came up. I succeeded in getting a hold of her arm and keeping her up with my right. I

grasped at the edge of the ice with my left. It was pretty dark, and as we could not see how much open space there was in front of us, we turned around to get back to the spot where we had gone through, thinking this was the only way to gain the ice again.

We had only swam a few feet when I began to sink. I told Miss Blair to keep cool and hang on to the edge of the ice.

She replied in a fearless way, 'Oh, don't mind me, I can swim, look,' and she struck out against the current. At this time I saw Harper and Miss Snowball skating towards us. Harper was throwing off his overcoat and gauntlets. I shouted to him, 'For God's sake, Harper, don't you come in too.'

He replied fearlessly: 'What else is there for me to do?' and plunged towards Miss Blair who was swimming against the current about ten feet from me. I had been under water and up again before this happened. This is how I became separated from Miss Blair. I had taken in a great deal of water and was well nigh strangled, but I managed to keep my head and shout for help. Shortly after Harper plunged into the water I went down again, and when I regained the surface I was under the ice, and the current had carried me away from Miss Blair and Harper. When I felt the ice over my head I struck out with my fist in a forlorn hope of breaking through. My hand went through and I forced my body up through the ice. I cleared myself of all the water I could and started to shout for help. I was completely exhausted and had a hard time to keep from going down. I shouted time after time for help, and at last I heard a response. I shouted to save Miss Blair, that she was in the water with Harper. The voice which responded to me was Treadgold's. He had come up the river with Miss May Blair, and hearing my call, came to my assistance. I repeatedly called to him to save Miss Blair, and he as often told me that Miss Blair was all right. I asked where she was and he said she was over on the bank with the rest safe. I then asked where Harper was, and Treadgold told me that he was all right also. I replied that they could not be, as they were in the water. Treadgold, having been with Miss May Blair, thought that I was referring to her, and this, I suppose is how the confusion took place. About the same time that Treadgold arrived on the scene Miss Snowball returned from Gattineau Point with a man named Blais, who had trailed a punt over the ice to the open water. The fact that Miss Snowball had time to go to Gattineau Point and return before Treadgold got to the scene shows how long he had been in the water.

I did not see either Harper or Miss Blair after I broke through the ice. They must have been drowned while I was struggling to get through to the surface. I must have been there at least ten or fifteen minutes before Treadgold got to me. When he did he showed presence of mind and at once took the responsibility of getting me out. Blair, the man from Gattineau Point, and Treadgold got the boat into the water and rescued me. As soon as I came on the ice Miss May Blair skated up and she said, 'Why, it is Mr. Creelman.' I said 'yes' and where is Miss Bessie? She replied, 'Oh, my sister, my sister is gone.'

'After they had rescued me they took me to a house on Gattineau Point where I got warmed up a bit and then proceeded to my room here. I am feeling all right, but I can't say how I regret the occurrence. I did all in my power to save Miss Blair, and had I not gone under and been carried away from her by the current I believe I would have succeeded.'

Rev. Job Shenton, Dead.

Rev. Job Shenton, one of the best known Methodist clergymen in Lower Canada, dropped dead as he commenced to eat his dinner in his Fairville home on Wednesday. Mr. Shenton and his wife sat down to their mid-day meal as usual, both in the best of health, Grace was said by the venerable pastor and shortly after

—without a sound—he fell to the floor. It was a terrible shock for Mrs. Shenton. Help was summoned. Dr. J. H. Gray soon arrived. He said death was due to heart failure. When the sad news spread about the adjacent town it could hardly be credited. Mr. Shenton had been about in the morning, stopping and chatting in his usual happy vein to this one of the towns-men and bowing pleasantly to others. He appeared to be hale and hearty and was seen almost up to dinner time on the street. Then he disappeared within the parsonage, and in the short space of half an hour it was announced he had died. The people could hardly believe it.

Rev. Job Shenton has been a familiar personage in St. John for years. In the Methodist denomination in the lower provinces he was regarded as one of the ablest preachers, an ideal pastor, a clear thinker in business affairs pertaining to denominational interests, and a man of the highest Christian character.

He was an Englishman, and received his earlier education in the home land. Coming to Canada, he was ordained in 1860, and his first pastoral charge, strange to say, was in Fairville. He married a sister of Rev. W. W. Lodge, of Hampton.

During the forty-one years of his ministry he has occupied pulpits in many of the most important circuits and churches in the Maritime Provinces, including twice in Queen Square church in St. John, five years in Exmouth street church, three years in St. John's, Nfld., three years in Fredericton; in Woodstock, Yarmouth and other places.

He leaves a widow and two daughters Mrs. (D.) McAlpine of this city and Mrs. Graveland of Winnipeg.

### WILL FUMIGATE MAILS.

All Mail Matter from St. John to U. S. Will be Delayed.

As a further precaution against the introduction of smallpox into the states from St. John and other provincial towns where the disease is now raging, says a Bangor paper, orders have been issued from Washington to C. E. Marshall, chief clerk of the railway mail service in Maine, to establish a quarantine car at Vanceboro for the fumigation of mail matter en route to the United States.

A second class passenger coach, with seats removed, was sent to Vanceboro from Bangor on Tuesday morning. It is fully equipped with apparatus for disinfecting and fumigation will be commenced at once.

Only mail matter originating in St. John, Fredericton, and other towns in that vicinity, will be fumigated, and this will result in their arrival here about 12 hour later than now. The Halifax mail will come through as at the present time.

### Wood Must Be Measured.

Fredericton has passed a bye-law, making it compulsory on a vendor of wood to have it surveyed before selling it. The same law ought to be in force in St. John and there should be a Public weigher of Coal also.

A Fredericton despatch says:—The new by-law passed at the last meeting of the City Council, regulating the sale of firewood, comes into force on Monday next, 16th inst., after which date all wood offered for sale by the load must first be measured by a duly appointed surveyor, so that the prospective purchaser can know exactly what are the contents of a load of wood offered for sale. The man offering the wood for sale will pay the surveyor the sum of five cents for every load measured, and the penalty for refusing or neglecting to have the wood so surveyed is \$2. The surveyor appointed at the last meeting of the council, William Turner, does not care to act, and another surveyor will have to be appointed. It is said that J. J. Moore, the Phoenix square boat builder, will likely be appointed surveyor. Wood is not offered for sale any too freely in fact, the demand exceeds the supply, and prices consequently remain high; \$3 75 to \$4 a cord is paid for good maple and black birch in two feet lengths.

### The Late John McLeod's Successor.

Dr. Ruddock, of St. Martains, will likely be the government candidate in St. John Co., to fill the vacancy caused by the death of John McLeod. It is doubtful if the opposition will put up any candidate.

## TOPICS TALKED ABOUT.

Secret Ways of a Loan Institution—The Third Canadian Contingent.

The York County Loan and Savings Company, which has a branch office in this city, is the subject of an article in the last issue of the Monetary Times. Among other things the article states:

The York County Loan and Savings Company boasts, we are told, of getting 'cheap money' from the public, attracting juveniles and perhaps others by means of their little penny box system, and stated collections. But even if they get this money at a low rate of interest, it must be a costly system when the number of collectors and clerks they employ to handle it is considered. A correspondent tells us, by the way, that a detailed statement of the salaries and expenditure of the company has never been given, from 1895 until now.

By one of the company's prospectus sheets we learn that the rate of interest allowed is four per cent compounded quarterly. And to allure children and others an attached table shows how five cents per week paid to this company will in twelve years and six weeks grow to \$40. Suppose this to be true, what provision is the company making for the repayment of its hundreds of trusting depositors. That is the important question. Its literature says: 'Any time after three years and a half, the total amount paid in can be withdrawn, with interest, on notice of not to exceed thirty days.' But it does not appear that the company is ready thus to pay, when we find that a shareholder in Ontario, whose address we have, made application this year for the withdrawal of shares at the appointed time, and was besought by the agent to leave the money in the company's hands till next year, he offering a higher rate than four per cent.

Another point comes up, suggested by article 8 of the by-laws, section 2, dealing with stock class 'C,' full paid \$100 shares, bearing semi-annual dividends at the rate of not to exceed 6 per cent, (and with respect to which the directors reserve rights as to issue and cancellation), it is said, page 6: 'This stock shall be a first charge on all the securities of the company.' What authority have the directors for so arbitrary a provision as this, and by what power can managers of a mutual concern prefer one class of shareholders by giving them priority in rights over the money of shareholders in other cases? Have the management any power to declare and guarantee a stated rate of dividend before it is earned? And is it right that such real estate operations as this company has undertaken should be carried on mainly with instalment money? It is time some explanation was had of these matters.

### OFF TO THE WAR.

Twenty More of St. John's Brave Lads to the Front.

On Thursday evening the twenty brave lads, who volunteered for South Africa, were given a great send off by their friends and the public generally. All the evening until the hour of departure they filled the station with a good-natured jostling throng, crowding about the several departing men for a good-bye shake and a hearty 'good luck' for each of them during their adventures of the coming year. Among the number present were his worship Mayor Daniel and several of the aldermen. Lt. Col. McLean, Lt. Col. A. J. Jones, Lt. Col. Markham, Lt. Col. A. J. Armstrong, Lt. Col. J. R. Armstrong and several other officers of local militia corps.

A few of them wore the faded khaki of those who had fought in South Africa before, one or two wore the uniforms of city militia corps, but the great majority were clad in ordinary civilian clothes. Lieut. Ralph Markham, in command, wore his Hussars' uniform with his Transvaal medal with its five bars on the breast of his tunic. He had considerable difficulty in assembling his men from the well-wishing crowd, but before the Boston express arrived, for which the Halifax train was waiting, had them all gathered in the comfortable colorist sleeper provided by the I. C. R.

On the Boston express came the Fredericton contingent, Messrs. Finnamore, Tibbits, Phillips, Jones and Ryan.

Nearly all of the boys bore some substantial tribute of the affection of their friends. Fred Bettle, who had served with B Squadron, C. M. R.; had been presented by several of his friends with a pipe, tobacco, a compass and a revolver on Wednesday night, when a farewell supper in his honour had been held.

The train left the station sharp on time, and as it rolled out the doors of the shed was followed by a roar of hearty cheers, the memory of which should remind the departing soldiers during the work and danger to come, of the eager interest with which their every movement and accomplishment is watched by the folk at home. They reached Halifax Friday morning and will be drilled the until they embark.

Those who went were:

- Frederick W. Addy, farmer, 147 Union street.
- Frederick W. Bettle, clerk, 182 Exmouth street.
- Martin J. Burns, plumber, 280 Duke street.
- Henry T. Comeau, carpenter, 88 Charles street.
- John C. D'Azill, wire-worker, 34 St. Paul street.
- Claude McDavidson, railway clerk, Hopewell Cape.
- Chalmer A. Deirah, blacksmith, Harland, N. B.
- Robt. M. Fairfowl, stevedore, Edinburgh, Scotland.
- Samuel E. Fox, farmer, 249 Brussels street.
- James McD. Gilchrist, farmer, Cambridge, Queens county, N. B.
- Christopher Graham, street railway conductor, Lakewood, St. John county.
- John R. McCully, surveyor, Chatham.
- Herbert McIntyre, teamster, Murray's mills.
- Wm. Parry, guide, Gagetown.
- Rowland Penny, laborer, St. Johns Newfoundland.
- John N. Rawlins, fireman, 65 Douglas avenue.
- James A. Ross, laborer, Prince of Wales, N. B.
- Alfred Simpson, laborer, Clapton, England.
- John H. Williams, fireman St. Stephen. N. B. Caldwell, age 22.

### CLERGYMAN'S RATE DOUBLED.

After Jan. 1 They Will Pay 3 Cents a Mile on Railways.

Heretofore clergymen have been granted a reduced rate on Canadian railways, paying only one and one-half cent per mile, while other passengers were assessed three cents a mile. After Jan. 1, 1902, clergymen will have to pay full fare, as after that date the railways will entirely discontinue the issuing of reduced rate ticket on account of clergyman between points in Canada to points in the United States and from points in the United States to points in Canada. The use of trip clergy permits will be entirely discontinued by the Central Passenger Association and forms of annual and time clergy permits are not to be honored by ticket agents in Canada.

### Mr. Chapman Is Busy.

William R. Chapman, besides being director-in-chief of the Maine, New Brunswick, New Hampshire, Vermont and Northern New York Music festivals, is the head of the famous Apollo club in New York, conducted the first concert of the season of that organization at the Waldorf-Astoria last week and it was the most brilliant of all those which he has given during the past six years.

The soloists were Mme. Isabelle Bouton, Miss Annie E. Otten and Willis E. Bacheller, all of whom sang at the last festival. At this concert Mr. Chapman introduced a new tenor, Dr. Lawson from whom he expects great things.