

# PROGRESS.

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PR. FIVE CENT

## THE POLICE CAUSE TALK.

And as Usual the Reason Centres Around the Pet Sergeant Of the Chief.

The aldermen have at last taken hold of the complaint of Officer Napier against Sergeant Campbell and in an unmistakable fashion, at their meeting on Wednesday afternoon, decided that the chief of police should hold a proper and full investigation into the matter.

It does seem strange that it is necessary for the civic rulers to interfere in such a simple affair, but the fact remains that although Napier made the charge a considerable time ago no effort has really been made on the part of the chief to ascertain whether Sergeant Campbell was guilty or not of the offence laid at his door.

There is no doubt that in making the charge Napier has taken his position in his hands. If through want of evidence or through any miscarriage of justice Sergeant Campbell should be found not guilty the youthful officer who has had the energy to stand up and brave the opinion of his chief might just as well hand in his resignation. He has, however, able counsel in the person of Dr. Stockton, who, it may be assumed, will not permit any such investigations as have been held before this with out raising his voice against them. So far as his letters up to date to the council read they place the chief of police in an awkward position. The "investigation" which the chief said he held was more in the nature of a farce than anything that has occurred in police circles for a long time. To call the accuser into his office in the presence of the accused, who had been there some time before, and ask him in an off hand way what he had to say regarding the charge against Sergeant Campbell (the accused) is about as ridiculous a piece of investigation as can be imagined, and then because Officer Napier (the accuser), having left his case in the hands of Dr. Stockton, answers that it will be necessary for him to consult him before he replies, the result of the investigation is handed, into the aldermen in such a distorted form that they think the affair amounts to really nothing.

It is well known on the force, though it can only be whispered, that, so far as Campbell is concerned, he can do no wrong in the eyes of the chief. For some years PROGRESS has explained this from time to time but it seems to be only recently that the righteousness of this officer has been placed very prominently before the public. When that new police regulations were to be enforced it was no surprise to those who were in the secrets of the force to learn that Campbell would be one of the chief sergeants selected by the chief. There were older men on the force, who had been sergeants even before Campbell joined, who had done their duty year after year without making themselves objectionable to the people or servants to their chief. They did not stoop to shovel sidewalks, to carry ashes or to carry horses. They had too much respect for themselves and for their position to do anything of this sort. They did not even wish for pleasure excursions to Spruce Lake and the opportunity to build wharves and row boats and such like for the pleasure of their superior officer and in consequence, when promotion was the order of the day they were left in the rear. It has remained for the chief to select as his favorite on the force, a man who has made himself so thoroughly objectionable to a large portion of the citizens that they look with a suspicious eye upon any piece of apparent cruelty that comes under their notice in the nature of an arrest when this officer makes it.

Napier's charge against Campbell is to the effect that he made a false charge against him which caused his suspension and that all his efforts to secure redress from the chief have failed. The chief in making his report to the council from the star chamber investigation—if it can be called an investigation takes the occasion to say that Napier has given him more trouble than any other man on the force. If this statement is true it is a wonder, with the power that the chief has, that Napier has remained a policeman.

But it is pretty well understood that

Napier has been as good an officer, if not a better one, than many of those who seek and have the chief's favor. He is popular with the people, always presents a neat appearance, apparently finds no trouble in getting along with the rougher element and is rather inclined to assist a man who is under the influence of liquor to his home than to drag him roughly to the police station to lie there all night and either forfeit eight or ten dollars or to be an object of public contempt on the following morning. Napier is not known to make three o'clock arrests for the sake of getting home and having a sleep. It would be well for the force if as much could be said of all the men on the roll.

Let the investigation go on. It is a pity it could not be a proper one and include all the charges it is possible to make against this favorite sergeant.

Bad judgment, bad temper and whiskey caused a very serious and disagreeable disturbance at Torryburn on the afternoon of Tuesday last, the day on which the Bishop's picnic was held on the beautiful grounds there.

The disturbance did not occur on the grounds but on the premises of William Newcombe, a tavern keeper who is licensed to sell liquor nearly opposite the present railway station at that place.

Newcombe looks upon picnic days, more particularly upon those on which the Bishop's and St. Peter's picnics are held as being harvest days in his business. This is undoubtedly correct, for a number of those who attend the pleasure party in the afternoon have found it more congenial for them to be at the bar of the tavern than to loiter on the grounds and enjoy the simple and innocent sports that are held there.

This year was no exception to the rule in fact, by evening there was a greater number of the rougher element present than there has been for some time. Mr Newcombe endeavors to guard against any serious disturbances in his place by securing the services of police officers from the city the sight of whose brass buttons and batons have in the past been sufficient to quell any disturbances that might arise.

This year his application for this sort of assistance was complied with by the chief of police sending his deputy chief, F.W. Jenkins, and his chief and favorite sergeant, Campbell, to guard Mr. Newcombe against any harm that might come to him from turbulent and whiskey laden people.

The morning passed off pleasantly and the officers enjoyed the day quite as much as any body. Indeed PROGRESS is not quite sure whether their presence was required at all in the morning or if they were in evidence, but they were certainly there in the afternoon until quite a late hour in the evening. As the day wore on the boys began to feel the effects of long ales and short whiskeys and while there were several little "scraps" nothing of any importance resulted. No body was hurt and no body expected to be. As the time approached for the departure of the trains several of those about Newcombe's found that there was hardly space in the bar for their accommodation. Certainly the trade was a rushing one and it was just as difficult to get out of the place as it was to get in. Sergeant Campbell, so the story goes, stood in the doorway and was not just as gentle in his handling of those who blocked the entrance as he might have been. His presence there acted upon a certain portion of the crowd in just about the same way as a red flag effects a bull. Many of them had felt his strong hand before and some of them knew that their condition at the time of arrest did not warrant the rough treatment they received. There is an old saying that chickens come home to roost and certainly Sergeant Campbell was at the close of that day quite able to certify to the truth of it. His first encounter was with a young man named O'Neill and this seemed to be the signal for a decided rush upon him and later on upon deputy chief Jenkins who came to his rescue. The boys were not sober and they soon became ex-

cited and maddened at the free use Campbell made of his baton. No body will attempt to say that he did not make a proper use of it because he was in danger at even the beginning of the fight of getting a bad beating. It was only natural that he should defend himself and those who saw him do it give him credit for putting up as strong a fight as was ever made by an officer in these parts against a gang of assailants. Jenkins did not appear so prominent in the fray probably because his baton was wrenched from him before he had an opportunity of using it. He received a severe blow on the forehead with it. Both men were knocked down, kicked and bruised and tumbled about until wiser council prevailed and the gang desisted from their attack.

There are so many sides to the story that even at this day it is difficult to get at the right one. There is no doubt that both parties were in the wrong. In the first place Campbell was aggressive where he might have, by conciliation prevailed upon the crowd to do what he failed to effect by force.

A gentleman who knows both the police and the crowd well asserts with confidence that had Officer Boyle been in Campbell's place there would have been no disturbance whatever. There can be no justification of the wholesale assault upon both officers. If one or two men committed a breach of the peace or fell under their displeasure that was no reason why all their friends should rush in and commit a wholesale and aggravated assault upon the constables. Deputy chief Jenkins and Sergeant Campbell were not there as police officers but as county constables. They are sworn in to do duty as police officers in the city of St. John and in the county they are only constables. However four of the assailants of the officers were arrested, three others besides the one mentioned namely, Doherty, Daley and Connolly. Examination of them was postponed from Wednesday until Thursday evening when Campbell gave his evidence and one or two others. At the time of writing, Officer Jenkins was unable to attend court.

### An Excursion Up River.

Mr LeBaron Robertson has chartered the steamer Flushing and proposes running an excursion to Ashland Farm in order to give any who wish to see the yacht races an opportunity of doing so. The trip will no doubt be a pleasant one.

### They Looked Well.

The Knights of Pythias had a beautiful day for their annual turnout to decorate the graves of their deceased brethren. The order never appeared to better advantage than it did on Thursday last. The flowers were beautiful and the ceremony a most interesting one.

### Wants a Proper Sidewalk.

Mr. James DeLeon of Indiantown complains of the street department not providing a proper sidewalk in front of his premises. He says that the matter has been brought to the attention of the alderman for the ward repeatedly but nothing has resulted. He is justly indignant.

## PROGRESS

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## OBSERVANCE OF THE LAW.

The Sabbath as a Day of Recreation—An Act That Produces Much Criticism From Certain Quarters.

Since the Governor-General's visit there has been more or less discussion over the Sunday Observance law. The Alliance that exists in this city has been most diligent in their attempt to enforce a strict keeping of the Lord's Day. In this they have worked most conscientiously and though certain steps they have taken have not always met with universal approval, yet no one will say that the alliance has not always acted along the lines of what it considered its duty.

There are many in the community, however, and good christian people at that, who do not believe in the Sunday Observance law as it exists. They claim that it is too stringent in some respects, while it is less so in others. While all agree that the Sabbath should be properly kept and laws to that end should be made and enforced, there remains much ground for contention just how far these laws should go. The press of the country recognize that much fault is to be found with the present state of affairs but it has little to say on the subject. The reason of this no doubt is the press is afraid of giving offense. It is one of those subjects that it does not like to touch upon and so the public gains no knowledge from this source what the actual state of public sentiment is.

The Religious Intelligencer, an organ of the Baptist denomination in this Province discusses at some length the question of Sunday observance and among other things says:—

"It is generally, if not universally agreed that the setting apart by God of one day in seven, one day of rest succeeding six days of labour, is a wise and beneficent arrangement for man. The Sabbath was made for man, by Him who made man and knew perfectly his condition, constitution and needs physically and morally. The uniformity with which the worth and importance of regular periodical cessation from labour, has been affirmed, wherever the question has been intelligently investigated, is strikingly remarkable. Philosophers, physiologists, political economists, social reformers, priests and statesmen have made elaborate researches upon this subject and always with the same results. They all declare that the rest of one day after the labor of six, is essential to man's health and longevity. Indeed the importance and need of this institution is so apparent that the observance of one day in seven for rest from labor, has become a civil institution amongst the most enlightened nations of the world."

With the sentiments here expressed, few if any will disagree but they do not touch the real question and that is what kind of a day should constitute a day of rest. For example is an enactment that prohibits a man from obtaining a glass of soda water on a Sunday, or if he should take his family to the Park on a Sabbath afternoon, prohibits him from purchasing lemonade, laws that tend to make the day one of recreation? Might it not be said that such restriction have the very opposite effect?

All laws interfere with a man's liberty more or less, but if legislation is made that limits one's freedom, and the freedom it curtails is harmless, then it has no right on the statute book, and it is just this that many persons are asking if the Sunday Observance law does not do. Laws may be made prohibiting one from taking a walk or drive on Sunday and innumerable other acts may be passed and all called Sunday Observance laws, but the enforcement of such would not make the Sabbath a better day. Instead such legislation would tend to make man look upon the seventh day, not one of recreation, but one of deprivation and anything but a kindly feeling may spring up in connection with the Lord's Day.

People in a free country like Canada must be allowed to think and act for them selves, so long as their actions do not interfere or are contra to public morals. They want to feel that the Sabbath is indeed a day of rest and not one in which they must become slaves to severe laws. Little fault can be found with many if they

think that their day of rest is beginning to be a little too much hemmed in. There is reason in all things and those who are so anxious for the upraising of mankind should not be slow in looking at matters from a broad standpoint.

### NOT REPRESENTED.

Persons Who Were Not Invited to Attend the Late Functions.

The recent visit of Lord and Lady Minto to this province was much enjoyed by all. That their Excellencies were greatly pleased with the hospitality extended to them on all sides, is quite apparent. Persons everywhere joined with enthusiasm in making their short sojourn amongst us one not easily to be forgotten. New Brunswickers well know how to entertain their guests and in the reception given to the governor general and his estimable wife the province fully sustained its past record for hearty and magnanimous receptions.

It is quite true that one hears much criticism from certain quarters, and some of it no doubt, is quite reasonable about the way the vice-regal party were received and of the manner in which they were entertained. This is not unexpected. It would have been impossible to have carried out the affair entirely to the satisfaction of all. Mistakes were bound to occur. Some of these mistakes did not detract from the enjoyment of our visitors and need not be dwelt upon. Others, however, which no doubt were occasioned through neglect are to be much regretted inasmuch as they have given cause for ill feeling in some quarters and among certain people.

In this latter connection may be mentioned the omission of extending invitations to the Bishop of St. John and the Bishop of Fredericton to be present at any of the functions. Those two dignitaries, the heads of two of the most important denominations in the Province, as far as can be ascertained, received no recognition. Such should not have been the case. The question of religion does not enter into the right or wrong of the matter. If other denominations besides the Roman Catholics and Episcopalians had their head residing in this Province, they were just as much entitled to be thought of. In a christian country like ours the three great forces are the State, the Church and the Militia, and though it is true that there is no established church here, at the same time it would be regrettable to think that the Holy gospel were not considered one of the greatest powers in the land.

The passing over of the Bishop of Fredericton was more striking than the omission to honor the bishop of St. John from the fact that in the former case, their excellencies visited the Cathedral at Fredericton and were received by His Lordship and though right after this visit to the church the vice regal party were entertained at dinner by the governor of the province, the bishop did not figure as one of the guests. Fault can scarcely be found if some persons not only Episcopalians but others who are leaders in religion feel annoyed that though at this dinner, the State, the militia and education were represented the great cause of christianity was not considered. It is hoped the error was an accident but such accidents should not be allowed to occur.

### A Great Convention.

The Knight Templars are making extensive preparations for the reception of the Grand Priory of Canada, which convenes here next Tuesday. An interesting programme has been arranged, including parades, receptions and entertainments of various kinds. Hon. Senator Ellis who is at the head of the order in the Dominion will preside at the convocation. It is expected that some three hundred Knights will be in attendance.

### Still Coming.

The tourist travel still keeps up and the American boats still continue to bring their hundreds of travellers. All are delighted with our beautiful climate.