

WILL THEY INVESTIGATE?

The Accuser of Detective Ring Said to Have Left the City for the West.

The scandal in police circles and the suspension of a well known officer, Detective Ring in connecting therewith has been the talk of the town this week.

Sometime ago when certain statements were made by the magistrate of the bench and followed up by this journal exposing abuses that were said to exist in the police forces there was a great deal of indignation by the patrolmen and their friends in as much as suspicion was cast upon all or nearly all of them.

At that time no names were mentioned, although those who were in the secrets of the inner workings of the force claimed to be able to give instances of police protection and the prices paid for them. There is not any doubt now that this kind of thing has been going on in the city of St. John for a long time. It is said, and no doubt truly said that it exists in other cities, but that can hardly be claimed as an excuse for the existence of it in the city of St. John. Some days ago two or three officers, who were very active in searching out doings of their associates obtained a statement from Pearl Nason, the proprietress of a place of resort on Britain Street to the effect that she had at different times given money to Detective Ring for the purpose of ensuring her protection against raids. The charge was a most serious one and was supposed to be kept very quiet, but in some unaccountable manner particulars of it appeared in a morning paper and the fact was of course generally known that the officer was under suspicion.

This gave the chief an opportunity that he did not hesitate to avail himself of, and in a few hours Detective Ring was under suspension. No investigation has been held as yet, although it was stated on Thursday that an attempt would be made to get at the facts on Friday. Detective Ring very properly demanded that he be allowed council to assist him in defending himself against such a charge, but according to his own statement the chief was not inclined to grant him that privilege. The investigation, it was stated, would be thoroughly private and only those interested permitted in the room.

This will not satisfy the citizens at least, who are intensely interested in the result of the investigation. They pay the police and it is quite within their right to demand that the investigation should be of the full and open character and open to every taxpayer who contributes to the support of the department.

The announcement yesterday morning that Pearl Nason, who had made the charge against Ring was absent from the city, having gone to the States, came in the nature of a shock. PROGRESS could not ascertain before going to press whether it was true or not but the general impression was that it was quite true. Another thing that is likely to enter into the affair is that the government, who appoint the chief of police may have some suggestions to make regarding the character of the investigation. It is understood that for some years the complaints of the citizens have been such that at different periods the government was inclined to investigate the affairs of the police force and now the opportunity seems to have arrived. There is a new premier and a new attorney general in power now and they may not be indifferent to the generally expressed wishes of the people.

Detective Ring says that he is innocent and that the charge is unfounded. His friends will hope that he can prove what he states, though if his accuser is no longer in the city, it is doubtful who can give evidence against him. He has always been regarded as a good officer, and the charge comes as a surprise to the citizens generally.

General opinion concedes, however, that if there is to be an investigation it should be of the most searching character. Don't let it stop with Ring. Let it be open and above board, allowing the press representatives to be present so that the people can get at all the facts.

There are plenty of things to investigate besides the giving of hush money. Those

in the liquor business know a thing or two about the demands of some officers. They will not say they are open but a peculiar tribute is levied upon some of the dealers. With some it is liquor that is never paid for, with others it is something else.

And yet the men who take these things from men in the business would be indignant if it was hinted that they were bribed. They look upon such gifts as perquisites of their calling and think it no harm to accept of such courtesies.

PROGRESS told some time ago of an officer—he is no longer on the force—who was open and above board in his demands, who did not hesitate to borrow money from hotel men and others in the business and laughed at them when he was asked for it. The complaint that was made to headquarters resulted in a change in his methods which eventually, however, lost him his job.

But what can a chief expect from his force when he permits one of the sergeants to be in constant attendance on himself, when he allows him to do such menial work as attending to the grooming of his horse, the removal of snow and ashes from his premises, etc., etc. Men who do these things are not the right sort to protect the city.

Other names besides that of Ring are mentioned in connection with the police sensation. It would not be fair to mention them until the charges are made officially, but current reports indicate that the exposure when it does come will be complete and startling.

It is to be hoped so.

The crusade against vice in New York has again brought out the familiar accusation that certain wealthy citizens who are ranked with the better element rent out their property for immoral purposes. This sort of reprisal is certain to accompany any effort in the direction of reform. It is by no means confined to New York. It is a spirit which is practically universal in its operation.

That is what every advocate of public morality and decent government must expect. Slander and vilification is the certain portion of the person who dares to oppose popular abuses and scandals. The criticism of feeble and dishonest officials always causes an arraignment of the advocate of purification and a general malignment of the sponsors of reform.

This sort of thing makes the correction of evil practices under the sanction of municipal or state authority a task which is more or less unpleasant, but the results, where the work is undertaken in good earnest and with a righteous purpose, yield an ample compensation for the hardships and indignities endured in carrying it out.

A Case of Getting Left.

The appointment of a new chairman of assessors to take the place of Mr. McRobbie who recently resigned from that position has been the cause of much discussion during the past few weeks. There were four gentlemen in the race, Arthur W. Sharp, chief clerk in the assessors office, Charles A. Everett, exhibition secretary; Ald. Tufts and Char. McLaughlin. All claimed to be in the race and each thought he had a chance of winning the coveted plum. But the fates willed otherwise. At a caucus held in the city hall, Thursday afternoon, the polling for the position resulted in the selection of Mr. Sharp. He received eight votes, the other gentlemen obtaining but one each. The three gentlemen who still remain without office have their doubts as to the veracity of a great many of the members of the council. They all had promises enough to fill a hat, but none of them had friends to secure the office.

He Told Who He Was.

There was an amusing occurrence at the Bank of Nova Scotia the morning that the Sheriff's checks were given out to the returning officers and their clerks. Of course the lucky recipients were waiting to get them cashed as soon as they could go to the bank, and the teller, who did not know all of the people who presented

themselves, asked each in turn if he was the man named in the check. When Mr. Murphy, from the North End, went to the wicket he was asked the same question.

"Who am I?" he answered, "I'm Tom Murphy of Lansdowns ward who helped to give Mr. Blair a majority of 58 on election day. That's who I am." And the teller smiled as he handed him the cash.

Ora P. King Nominated.

In spite of the severe storm the Convention at Hampton last Saturday was a great success and the selection of Ora P. King as the candidate of the local government party gave much satisfaction. Mr. King is a young man but he has evidently given much attention to the local politics of the province if the address that he made to the electors can be taken as any evidence.

He spoke pleasantly and clearly and held the attention of all present.

There was a considerable amount of speaking talent present, and Hon. Mr. Pugsley, Col. Donville, Mr. G. G. Scovil, Hon. H. A. McKeown and the Premier were all upon the platform. The prospects for the election of Mr. King are very bright, and he and his friends are confident of success.

Both Order and Cash.

A good story is told of a South Wharf merchant, who is rather noted for his generous impulses. A well known character determined to use him for his own ends and so after a pitiful tale he asked for the gift of a quarter of a dollar to get something to eat. The merchant knew a trick worth two of that, so he thought, and he gave him an order for the meal to cost 25 cents. The man took the order and knowing where the residence of the business man was went to his wife with it and persuaded her to cash it. She wished to retain the order but his plausible story of having to return it to the merchant induced her to let him keep it. In this he got 25 cents and the meal too. The merchant is by this time quite sure that he is not thoroughly conversant with all the tricks of the professional medicant.

The Campbellton Round House.

Mr. George McArthur, who returned from Campbellton a few days ago to spend a week or two with his family in this city has been, for the last two months, busily engaged in erecting the Intercolonial Railway round house at Campbellton. The structure is a very complete one in its way and will be finished in a few weeks. The building itself and the stalls capable of accommodating 15 locomotives have been erected already. Mr. McArthur, who is a contractor, is now engaged in putting in a turn stile, the old one being used in the meantime. Before he returns to Campbellton he says that it is quite probable he may visit Newfoundland, where it will be remembered he was a very active builder after the big fire in St. Johns.

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THAT NON RESIDENT VOTE.

It is Said to be Legitimate and Placed According to Law—Many Names Left Off the List.

The fact that a large number of names have been added to the non resident list at Rothesay has led to considerable discussion as to the qualification of the persons who have secured the right to vote. The revisors it appears, placed the names upon the lists upon the application either of themselves or some of their friends and it would appear that they did not discriminate against persons of either political persuasion. PROGRESS notices in the public list two or three of the first names upon it are young men who are known to be excellent conservatives and probably do not object to the fact that living in Kings County as they do a portion of the year they have been accorded the right to vote in the non resident district. It is said and no doubt correctly that there are many people living in St. John or outside of Kings Co., who own property in that constituency and yet are not on the non-resident voting list. As a matter of fact for some reason or other, probably because of error, some 100 names of persons who were upon the list in November and September, many of whom voted at the elections held then, have been left off the present list.

Some notable examples of this can be pointed out, and it, as one paper says, an injustice has been done by the addition of more names than could probably qualify, a greater injustice has been done by the error that omitted the names of those who have had the privilege of voting in the past and who have the necessary property qualifications. Not so many years ago some 50 or 60 gentlemen of this city acquired an interest in a tract of land in St. John county. They paid the taxes and were placed upon the voters list. Those opposed to them in politics called the vote the "swamp vote." That did not alter the fact that the revisors considered their interests in the county sufficient to allow them to exercise the franchise. It is a very common thing for fishing clubs throughout the adjoining counties to have sufficient property to permit the members to vote and that a large number of gentlemen who seek the franchise at Rothesay have determined to so interest themselves in the purchase of property and pay the tax thereon in order that they may have a vote in Kings Co. The objection to it cannot be any more serious than it was in the case of the "swamp vote" in the county of St. John. PROGRESS understands from reliable authority that the Rothesay vote will be a property vote and that the plans of the same have been prepared and that each person whose name has been added to the list will be able to show that he is fully qualified.

Since the above was written PROGRESS learns that the revised list was posted in three public places in the parish of Rothesay for the number of days required by law and that the revisors gave notice of the day the court would be held. They held their court and as the names were not objected to added them as they were required to.

MR. KING IN HAMLET.

An Appreciative Critic Gives Progress an Estimate of Him.

Everett King: it sounds like a book name, and the owner looks the dark, dreamy hero of a melancholy poem. In height, a little above the average—though not tall; lithe in movement, with a walk like that of a tiger; a face sad, of infinite pathos, somewhat bitter in expression, and crowned with majesty. A singularly striking personage, certainly not handsome; but a man once seen scarcely to be forgotten.

We saw him play Hamlet. Many actors have been successful as Hamlet; but few actors fill the imagination in that part. The writer of this, in his early days, many times, saw the late Edwin Booth, the flaxen haired Dane of Charles Fichter, the brilliant and now almost forgotten Walter Montgomery, the Hibernian Dane of Barry Sullivan and the famous Lyceum production of Irving. Of these widely different Hamlets—Edwin Booth lives fondest in memory. It is a genuine tribute to Everett King when I say his Hamlet falls little short of Edwin Booth's; it is equal to the Hamlet of Booth

when he was apparently King's age. It cannot be said that King in any way resembles Booth, or any other great actor, in appearance or in method. He is distinctly himself, and in this he is fortunate. He is the ideal Hamlet at all times; tender, bitter, haunted, mystic, imaginative, weak, strong, isolated, majestic, intellectual, and above all he bears the stamp of genius.

It would be difficult to analyze his power—we are made to feel it. He struck the true note of tragedy in his question to Horatio: "Saw who?" we were thrilled: we felt the presence of the unseen; and from then until the great ghost scenes—which are the tests of an actor's genius—he held us with bated breath in the suspense of quickened imagination. His scenes with Polonius were played with gentle irony. The closing speech of the second act—the speech beginning "O what a rogue our peasant slave am!" was a triumph. The varying expression of his countenance; The marked transition from one thought to another were executed with a skill that was wonderful and worthy of the best traditions of the stage. His scene with Ophelia was played with the tenderness of a hopeless love; He showed clearly that he had loved her; but found her frail and weak—impossible to trust, and drifting toward destruction on the dark shores of immortal woe. The pathos of his tones in parting with her will live in the memory like the sad strains of partly forgotten music. The "To be or not to be" soliloquy was not equal to many passages: he read it carefully, but not with great effect. His advice to the players was given naturally, kindly, as a prince speaking to inferiors whom he liked would have done it—to do it otherwise would be wrong and from the purpose of playing.

When he reached the great play scene, he carried us beyond anything our memory recalls. He wrought his audience to the highest pitch of enthusiasm—it was skillfully and grandly played. Other actors may have equalled King in this, but certainly they never surpassed him. Half demented, self tortured, the scene with his mother followed. (Kate Blanche, by the way, was an wholly admirable Queen Gertrude, one, next to King the best in the cast.)

On the appearance of his father's ghost he changed with lightning quickness from righteous wrath to hysterical delirium. It was horrible, we longed to cry out, but terror kept us still—the ghost vanished, a few moments later. The curtain fell, and we were exhausted.

King presented a pitiable spectacle as he stood beside the bier of Ophelia, and the dark ashes of despair closed upon his soul. The last act he played with quiet resignation and courtly grace, with one burst of frenzy as he killed the king. His death without being prolonged with useless horror was effective and peaceful as it should be. He who has been tossed about by fortune's finger at last found rest in death.

I went to see Hamlet thoroughly prejudiced against Everett King and come away firmly convinced that the laurel should adorn his brow.

How Easy to Misrepresent.

How easy it is to misrepresent a man. When Premier Tweedie was speaking last Saturday in Hampton he was suffering from a severe cold as a result of continuous travelling throughout the week. The alarm of fire was raised and as a result the people rushed to render what assistance they could. The Premier jocularly remarked as he put on his overcoat that if he could find the man who raised the alarm he would give him a dollar. Had yet the opposition papers say that he claimed some one had been paid to raise the amount.

A Dinner To Corp. Markham.

A very pleasant dinner party was given to Corp. Ralph Markham at the Dufferin on Thursday evening by his friends in honor of his safe return from South Africa. Corp. Markham is in good health and thinks of taking a trip before settling down to work again.