

PROGRESS.

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PRICE FIVE CENTS

JAIL IMPROVEMENTS.

The Municipal Council Take Action Speeches Which Occasion Criticism.

The Municipal Council decided on Tuesday to build an extension to the present county jail. The step taken is one in the right direction and will meet with the universal approval. Before the vote was taken recommending the undertaking, a lengthy debate took place. Those in opposition to the construction of a new building took the ground that nothing should be done until the council provided ways and means for the extension and that the city should wait until proper authority was secured from the legislature for the issue of bonds.

These opinions were conscientiously and honestly expressed, but it is gratifying that they did not prevail. If the improvements are necessary, and all but one in opposition granted that they were, there should be no delay. If the money is not on hand at the present time, it is certain that it will be when required, and the putting off of going on with the work on the grounds of not having the finances just at present on hand, would be but shirking the business and delaying that which should be promptly attended to by the council.

The speeches delivered by some of the councillors on Tuesday contained some interesting remarks. These were not at all in good taste and would have been better omitted. One gentleman who spoke strongly in favor of the motion is reported to have said that though he strongly recommended that the extension to the jail be contracted for, he had no sympathy with certain hysterical demands for better jail accommodation. The latter part is un-called for, or it the councillor so wished to express himself he should have made himself a little more clear in his statement and told what some of these hysterical demands were. The public so far is perfectly unaware of any such demands having been made. If the advocating of these jail improvements by certain of our citizens and the W C T U are to be called hysterical demands the more the city has of them the better. It is all very well for a councillor, when he finds that the body of which he is a member, is not awake to certain reforms until those reforms are brought to the council attention, by publicly expressed opinions, to find fault with the advocates, but such fault finding is un-called for and will hardly meet with any sympathy. The jail would remain as it is now and perhaps for years to come, if somebody had not set the ball rolling and councillors or anybody else in authority may try as much as they like in endeavoring to excuse themselves, and throw insinuation abroad that some people are hysterical, but it won't work, and people cannot so easily have dust thrown in their eyes to blind them of the fact that it were demands call them hysterical or anything else that have brought about the present council's recommendation of building a jail extension.

That the jail at the present time is not what it should be, that it does not reflect credit on the city, the Municipal Council when their attention was called to it had to admit, with the result that most necessary changes will now be brought about. Let the Council then give full credit to those to whom credit is due, and grant the advocates of the reform their just and rightful reward.

Councillor Christie expressed the opinion that the jail was plenty good enough as it is. It was this same councillor who some time ago so vigorously opposed the Library scheme. Some people may be led to believe that Dr. Christie is not a very strong advocate of reforms. He is a Conservative in politics, but he seems to be no less a conservative in other lines. He is fully entitled to his opinions, but happily even Dr. Christie's opinions do not always prevail.

The member for Lansdowne ward ideas might be said to represent that class of people who think that the present jail as it exists is the best for the criminal, but most persons think that a jail where the prisoner is made to work and wash himself will

not be so suitable to the jail bird and much more suitable to public ideas as to treating those who are unfortunate enough to become temporary residents of the place.

However the jail is to be improved and extended and the public at large feel that the council have taken no wrong step, but on the other hand a proceeding that should have been undertaken long before this. Messrs Tilley and Clarke, who have the contract, are good reliable men and will no doubt do their work well.

Enjoying Their Vacation.

A select party consisting of mysterious Billy Smith, the pugilist, Paddy Fenton in the same line of business and another Smith well known about town as an ingenious schemer furnished some amusement to a party of men, women and children on Sydney street a few days ago. A poor half witted creature was passing them with a bicycle tire which had seen its best days and needed mending in the worst way—it indeed mending would have been of any use. The ready offer of the trio to do the job was accepted and then the fun began. A piece of leather was obtained at a store near by and after infinite trouble was bound upon the tire. Then the pump was used but in spite of all their assumed efforts the tire remained about as flabby as usual. Then a happy thought struck one of the party and he suggested it to the simple girl who eagerly sought the shop of a tinsmith near at hand to have the leather soldered on the tire.

Why Not Wake Up.

Mr. Carnegie has announced that he has yet very many several millions to give away. What's the matter with St. John? Isn't it time that some of the City Fathers were getting their eyes opened. If good things are going, this city might just as well as not get its share. There is no tell-

ing what may be had for the asking. A few thousands would go very well in helping to provide the place with a library suitable to its size. Mr. Carnegie's conditions attached to his gifts are not exorbitant and the citizens will approve of any action of the council at all reasonable that will induce the millionaire to come to our aid. Halifax is on the move and will probably receive Mr. Carnegie's beneficial consideration. Surely St. John is not going to be outdone by Halifax.

In a Man's Memory.

It seems that Mr Solomon has not been the only one upon whom the freedom of the city has been conferred. History tells us that years ago the Earl of Sheffield was similarly honored. The latter had also the distinction of having a street called after him. Perhaps Mr Solomon requested that in his case this be not done. It Solomon street brings no more credit to a man's name than Sheffield street has, Mr Solomon may well wish to not wanting his memory perpetuated in this way. If the Earl of Sheffield could step around now he would find some interesting, if not creditable history written in the police court records regarding the street that bears his name.

His Lordship was a good man but his memory has in this case not been handed down in a goodly manner. Solomon street might have done better but precedent was against it.

Our Happy Lot.

While reports have continued to come in all week of excessive hot weather throughout Canada and the States, people in St. John sit down and smile and congratulate themselves on their happy lot. Some persons don't know how really well off they are.

Preparing the Address.

St. John is making preparation for presenting an address to His Excellency the Governor or General on his coming visit. If this has got to be done, why not get out some old address and patch it up and save trouble. His Excellency won't mind a bit: This address business has got to be gone through as a matter of form. There is blue tape in welcoming a distinguished guest just like in other things.

TOPICS ABOUT TOWN.

Last Monday's Cyclone—Some Kinds of Politics—Distinguished Visitors Coming.

The electrical storm which passed over the city last Monday was about the nearest approach to a cyclone, as cyclones are known, as ever visited this city. For a time the streets presented a regular running torrent. It was a bad time of day to be out. Some of the damage done was of a peculiar nature. On Wentworth street the stones that paved the gutters were lifted from their beds and washed down to the bottom of the hill. A load of coal which had been deposited on the corner of Pitt and Orange streets disappeared as rapidly as it was dumped there. In its flight it brought up at the corner of Duke and Pitt and crowds gathered after the storm watching the colored population of that district gather up the remains. It was an amusing sight: All the old scuttles and baskets to be found in the neighborhood were brought into play, not to mention other peculiar articles of carriage. The shirt waist was not very much in evidence nor dress suits but the happy negro cared little for appearance when such a bananza was on hand. The picture sometimes presented at a picnic was tame in comparison. Everyone was happy and broader smiles are seldom seen. Verily it is an ill wind that blows nobody good. Some party is minus a load of coal by the storm, but many hearts have been made happy. Laundry on Duke street should be cheaper now. Here was a case where some poor people got their harvest on the coal question.

Some Kinds of Politics.

Politics in York County have assumed an interesting stage. In this noble County there is to be a bye-election for the Dominion House, strictly run on purity principles. Probably the purity will be established more in words than actions. Without speaking disparagingly of York it will be unique to see an election run or

attempted to be run without corruption. Dr. McLeod and Mr. Gibson are the candidates. The Frederick Gleaner, which at the last election strongly supported Dr. McLeod just as strongly opposed the step taken by that gentleman and some of his friends in unseating Mr. Gibson. However if the newspaper reports are to be believed at the convention which nominated Dr. McLeod for this election and which was unanimous the Editor and proprietor of the Gleaner was present. There seems to be a little inconsistency somewhere. It would seem that while the Gleaner is opposed to Dr. McLeod's nomination, the editor and proprietor of that paper favors it and people are now wondering whether the Gleaner or its owner is going to come out on top. Up to the time this article was written the paper appears to be sailing along on neutral waters.

Distinguished Visitors.

On Monday the Governor General and party will arrive in St. John and will receive a warm welcome from the city of the Loyalists. The programme that has been arranged for the visit is a good one. In the morning His Excellency will receive an address at the Court House, after which the party will view the turning out of the fire brigade. In the afternoon the visitors will be driven about the city and visit interesting points. In the evening a reception will be held at the Court House Tuesday morning a trip about the harbor will conclude the programme. It is the first visit of their Excellencies to St. John and they will no doubt carry away with them most favorable recollections of the Liverpool of America. They will see here a lively built City and one that will compare favorably in comparison to its size with any in Canada. A loyal people waits to welcome them and may their visit be an enjoyable one.

At the Bay Shore.

If this afternoon proves fine Bay Shore should prove quite an attractive spot. The 62nd band will give one of their delightful open air concerts at that spot and pleasure seekers will no doubt enjoy themselves. The shore is extremely well patronized this summer, the best of order is maintained and no better place can be found in which to spend a pleasant time.

Mr. Sage's Visit.

Russell Sage the New York millionaire comes to St. John in the interest of the Shore Line railway, a railway of which he is the chief owner. It is to be hoped that Mr. Sage gets onto the fact that the Shore Line railway is not a sure line railway.



Who Looks Like This Man?

PROGRESS

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