

Board of Works May 1901

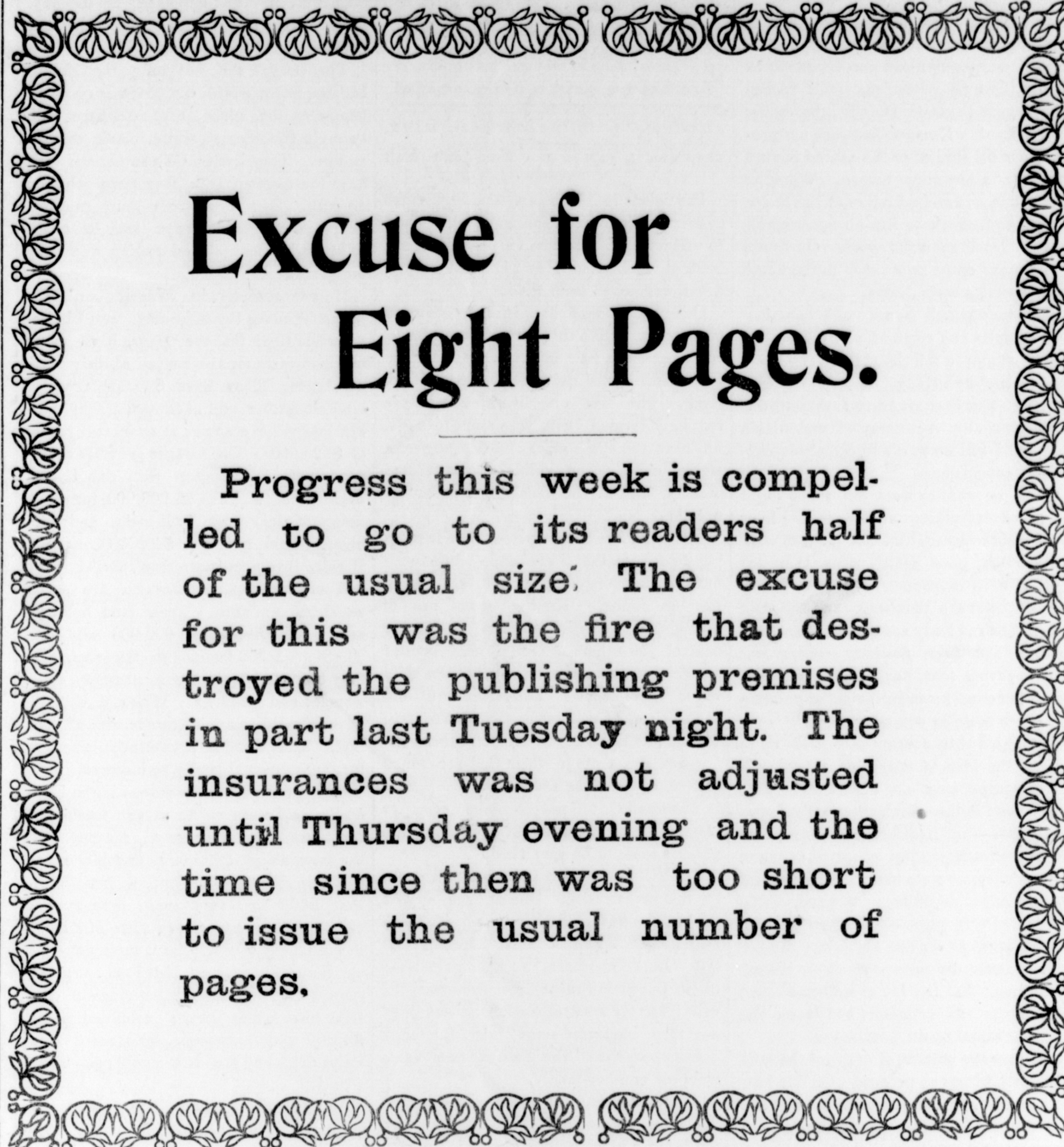
PROGRESS VISITED BY FIRE.

An Exciting Scene on Newspaper Row—A Story of a Conflagration.

Fortune raps at every man's door, so does misfortune. Life is made up of experiences of all kinds, some are of little interest, others are somewhat exciting. This week **PROGRESS** has had its full share of the exciting kind. It was shortly after seven o'clock on Tuesday evening, when most good people had retired for the night, that the fire alarm broke the quiet stillness of the air. It was with much difficulty that the number could be ascertained but after some delay twenty three became quite distinct. Box 23 is situated on the corner of Germain and Church streets, in one of the most important sections of the city and the one in which newspaper men especially have a deep interest. The word soon spread that **PROGRESS** building on Canterbury street was in flames and crowds of humanity poured in that direction. The news was unhappily but too true, and as the fire apparatus began to arrive smoke was found issuing in dense volumes from the upper story windows. It soon became evident that the firemen had their work cut out. The entrance doors were soon smashed in and the Salvage Corps lent their best energies to covering up the exposed desks and stock. The task was a difficult one. The smoke filled the building from cellar to roof and time and time again a retreat had to be made. It was more than the strongest could stand. After the smashing of many windows, the atmosphere was somewhat cleared but still the smoke rolled in clouds down the stairs and shafts and filled the offices. It was found impossible at first to descend to the cellar floor where is situated the large presses and folders of **PROGRESS** and the big wharfedale press, boiler and engines. At length an entrance was effected through the back and with difficulty the men succeeded in placing the large rubber coverings over the machinery, not until however, much of the water which was being poured into the upper part of the building had found its way through the floors. In the meantime the firemen had placed their ladders to the upper windows in the building, the windows soon submitted to the axe and the glass fell in quantities to the walk below. The crashing of the glass could be heard for blocks away. Two streams were taken to the upper story, but here on account of the smoke the firemen found it impossible to enter and from the tops of the ladders the streams were poured in through the broken sashes another hose was taken in through the business office and from here the stream was played up through the elevator opening. The volume of water being thrown in the building was very large and soon made itself felt. It came down through the ceilings in such quantities that it was next to impossible to stand under it. The office floor was soon covered by nearly three inches but by cutting holes in various parts an outlet was made but the water by no means ran off as quickly as it came.

On the second floor of the building is situated the Freeman's editorial rooms in the front part while in the rear **PROGRESS** has its job office. The firemen succeeded after much hardship in effecting an entrance through the windows in the front part and it was at length discovered that the flames were situated in the walls that divided the two offices. It was impossible on account of the smoke to enter the job offices and here as in other parts of the building the windows had to be smashed, but by the time the men could enter the job rooms the and water had done considerable damage. It was then found necessary in order to get at the flames to chop down the intervening walls, an undertaking that formed no light job but at last the difficulty was overcome and after an hour's hard fight the flames were subdued. It was a most awkward fire to get at and the firemen worked under serious disadvantages, but every man did nobly. How the fire originated has not been determined.

The thanks of **PROGRESS** are due to all of those who assisted in this somewhat difficult and trying experience. The firemen did nobly and deserve the warmest praise for their timely saving of a valuable property. The Salvage Corps were there in force and prevented much damage while good friends assisted in saving what was portable and easily moved. The insurance on the building amounted to \$4000, half in the Commercial Union and half in the



Excuse for Eight Pages.

Progress this week is compelled to go to its readers half of the usual size. The excuse for this was the fire that destroyed the publishing premises in part last Tuesday night. The insurances was not adjusted until Thursday evening and the time since then was too short to issue the usual number of pages.

London and Lancashire. The loss on this was \$277 while the loss on the plant amounted to \$2,600. The appraisal was as prompt as could be expected and so far as any pleasure could be had from such an occurrence was derived from the satisfactory efforts of Messrs. Clinch and Dunning, and Mr. Machum the newly appointed agent of the Law, Union and Crown. Mr. Dunning is the agent for the Ottawa Insurance company, and Mr. Clinch for a long time represented the Northern.

The New Dock.

Mr. Geo. Robertson M. P. P. who is at present in the city, speaks most encouragingly of the prospects of St. John having a dry dock. Mr. Robertson has been busy interviewing different members of the Dominion and Provincial governments with the result that he expects shortly to have the scheme take active shape. Plans and specifications are being prepared and it is thought that in a few months affairs will be in such form as to be able to call for tenders. The dock will probably cost in the vicinity of three quarters of a million, and the financial part of the undertaking is assuming such shape as to permit those interested in the scheme, of going ahead. The news is pleasing to St. John, whose citizens all along have lived in hopes of seeing the Dry Dock an accomplished fact.

Pure Politics.

Both political parties of York county have signed an agreement to run elections in the future on the purity line. There are some agreements that allow of much elasticity and an election agreement may be classed among these. It will be a unique thing to see an election run in York county without the spending of money, but strange things happen sometimes. It will be a grand thing if York county can set an example of purity in elections. There is much room for examples of this kind, but it is not too much to say that many a man will be disappointed if he does not see the coin on election day.

The Late Fire.

The late fire has put the publishers of **PROGRESS** and Freeman at much inconvenience, but as a morning paper rightly says, that it takes more than a fire to dampen the ardor of energetic and enterprising journals. **PROGRESS** has never been slow in presenting to the public the first class article and though it has to ask the in-

dulgence of its readers this week, next week it will appear as usual in its regular form and as good as ever.

Play It Properly.

The baseball games between the Roses and Alerts have thus far been fairly successful. It entirely lays with the clubs themselves whether or not this success will continue. There are a great many in St. John who take a deep interest in the game and will always patronize as long as good clean ball is played. There is a tendency among the players to talk a little too much and this tendency is in the increase. This will not do. People do not care about paying their money to hear a lot of talk. Then again a bad feeling among the players themselves is quite noticeable. It is such things as these that have before hurt baseball in St. John and unless caution is used it will happen again. Let the boys do their share gentlemanly and their award will be all right. With some little carefulness the game can be made most popular. There is the material to put up the first class exhibition. The finest teams can be got to come here, all is wanted is gentlemanly ball and the people will do their part.

Canadian Heroes.

Messrs. Fairbridge, Ardene & Lawton, barristers, of Cape Town, writing to Messrs Hanington & Hanington, of this city, say: 'We cannot let the opportunity pass without expressing our humble thanks for the very magnificent way in which the Canadian forces came to the rescue of the Empire, and for their noble and gallant services while in the field. Several of the members of our staff have taken part in the present war, and even at the present time our, Mr. T. E. Lawton is on active military service, having left the office as far back as October, 1899. Of course we, like your own citizens, are anxious that after so protracted a period matters should be brought to a close, although we prefer to put up with inconvenience for a time rather than there should be a half-hearted settlement.'

A Record Breaking Trip.

Capt. Lockhart of the Prince Edward is a record breaker. His good boat this week broke the best record from light to light between Digby and St. John by nine minutes and the captain and crew were

*Umbrellas Made, Re-covered, Repaired
Ducal 17 Waterloo.*

that much happier. The bay was smooth, the trip was enjoyable and those who landed at the company's wharf regretted that they could not spend a longer time on the water.

The Scott Act.

The Scott Act has been in force in Fredericton for some years, but that the act has been a success in the prevention of the sale of liquor is quite a doubtful question. Every once and awhile word is given out that it is the intention of the local authorities to enforce the act and for a time there is quite a little excitement. The past few weeks the Celestial has had one of those attacks and the citizens have become somewhat worked up. The city council became greatly interested but not enough so as to think it necessary to appoint an inspector, probably the council was influenced in its action by past history. The appointment of inspectors has not proved successful. The latest phrase of the case is that the police authorities headed by the magistrates have taken the matter in hand and have given it out that they mean business, so there is a great scare among the retail dealers. Just how long the scare will last remains to be seen. There have been no failures reported as yet in consequence of the action that has been taken.

A Good and Well Conducted Show.

The boxing exhibition at the Pastime Club on Union street, Tuesday evening met with the keenest approval of all who attended. The bouts were good, the contestants doing their level best and the management Messrs Keefe and Powers, were energetic in their efforts to get events on as quickly as possible. Space prevents any extended notice of what was a good and well conducted show.

Amateur Opera.

Mr. Collinson has commenced rehearsals for the comic opera, "Pinafore," which he has arranged to present at the opera house for three evenings during the latter part of June. It is some years since the popular opera has been sung in St. John and that together with the fact that the talent will be entirely local, should without doubt secure its success.

Distinguished Passengers.

The steamer Commonwealth which sailed for Europe Wednesday included among its passengers many distinguished Canadians. Among these were the Hon. A. G. Blair, Hon. David Mills, Hon. W. S. Fielding, Judge Bingham and Archbishop Kane. These gentlemen visit Europe partly on business and partly on pleasure.

THE CENSUS RETURNS.

The Work Of the Enumerator—What the Cities Will Show.

There has yet been no announcement of the work of the census enumerators, that is as to their work of the increase or decrease of the different parts of the country. Many interesting stories are told of the trials and tribulations of the census man and it may be that some day the enterprising writer may present to his readers some amusing stories. Many of the questions that had to be put have led to no few amusing instances, especially those that related to the industrial side of life. For instance, a merchant in St. John who carries on a small candy business was asked the question how many barrels of sugar he used in a year. The merchant replied that he could tell pretty well how many pounds he used, but not barrels. This was not satisfactory to the interrogator because the only question printed for him to ask was as to barrels, and how many pounds of candy could be made from a barrel. As barrels differ considerably in size, it can be seen that the merchant was not in a position to give a satisfactory answer. Such questions as those were numerous with the census man and when he visited the harness maker he was met with the same difficulty. Here the question allowed to be asked was how many hides were used in a year and how many sets of harness could be made from them. The clever maker of such question never seems to have considered that hides like barrels differ in size and the framers of the census questions will probably realize when they begin to look over many of the answers that there was something wrong somewhere. The census man has earned every dollar he has made, and to the man who is of an exact disposition his temper at times must have been sorely tried. As to the numerical standing of some of the cities there are all kinds of conjectures made. A Halifax man told **PROGRESS** that he had it on the most reliable authority that the Nova Scotia capital would show a population of forty-three thousand. If this is true Halifax has made a considerable gain during the past ten years. Fredericton it is expected will show an increase of one thousand or at the rate of one hundred per year. This gain is a substantial one. Just what St. John will do it is difficult to say.

But its inhabitants live in hopes that a handsome increase will be shown. From what has been gleaned unofficially there is little doubt that mostly all the cities in Canada have felt the good times and that their population will show to advantage. Of course the greatest gain made by any one place in proportion to its size is Sydney. It is thought that that place and its vicinity will show something like twenty thousand. The growth of the west has evidently been steady and Winnipeg's increase has been very large, making that city one of the first now in the Dominion. Montreal and Toronto have gone ahead at an enormous rate. The population of the whole country should show over six million. The exact returns will be awaited with interest.

Well Known Here.

The death of Mr. D. C. Blair of Toronto is heard in St. John with much surprise and regret. Mr. Blair in past years was a frequent visitor to this city, where he was well known as a most estimable gentleman. He was a keen curler one of the best and not a few have thought the best fight of the stones in the Maritime Provinces. The games in which Mr. Blair skipped against the Thistles and St. Andrews will always be remembered as great exhibitions of curling. As a cricketer also the deceased was in first rank and Toronto will miss the deceased in its gentlemanly sporting line.

Happy June.

The wedding month has started out well and cupid is keeping up his June record. During the past week the number that has been discovered with "Two souls with but a single thought, Two hearts that beat as one" have been numerous. The weather man has done his part well, and Wednesday he smiled upon many happy couples. Wednesdays in June are great days. Judging by the number of marriages that have taken place and those that are booked ahead, marriage can hardly be said to be looked upon as a failure.

Will Appear Next Week.

The second installment of the serial *The Mystery of Muriel's Life* will appear in next week's edition.