

PROGRESS.

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CONDEMNS PUBLIC APATHY.

A Clergyman Speaks His Mind—People Should be More Active.

PROGRESS has more than once spoken of the little interest that the people as a rule take in public affairs. It is an undeniable fact that there are always to be found plenty who like and make it a business to grumble and find fault, but here it all ends. There is altogether too little interest taken in endeavoring to rectify existing wrong. Last Sunday evening in one of the city's leading churches, a clergyman spoke for some length of time on this public apathy and his remarks for the most part coincide with the views always maintained by this paper.

It is to be regretted that views expressed from our church pulpits are not given more publicity. On many questions, even outside of religion a minister of the gospel, has the very best opportunities of learning facts that do not present themselves to the layman, and if pulpit preaching is for the public good, it is also for the public good that opinions based on knowledge should be given the greatest publicity. It might be that all do not agree with the sentiments uttered but this is not to be expected. If opinions expressed in public whether they are from the press, the public platform or the pulpit, touch on matters of every day life, stir up an interest and make people think, they accomplish an inestimable amount of good. A sermon like that of the Rev. Mr. Richardson's delivered last Sunday, might be read with benefit by everybody. The reverend gentleman was forcible in his remarks in his condemnation of the great indifference taken by the general public in matters affecting everyday life, but it is his remarks were well founded, no fault can be found with how strongly he made them, for truth can never be made too plain.

As an example of this public apathy, Mr. Richardson took the temperance question. He said that the Scott Act was in force in several places, but it could not be said to have worked at all successfully; liquor was still sold and people for the most part by their inactivity showed that they did not care whether the act was violated or not. But coming right here to St. John. This city has a liquor license act. Under that act the bars had to close on Saturday evenings at seven o'clock. He wanted to know if these bars were closed and if they were, were the barrels in these places not kept open. There are some who say that the authorities are to blame if the liquor law is not properly enforced, but the authorities are no more to blame, maintained the preacher, than the people themselves. The people did not seem to care one way or the other. If the citizens threw off this apathy and became active, the authorities would soon find that they would have to prosecute the law and carry it out. Mr. Richardson wanted it understood that he was not preaching a temperance sermon but he simply used this case as one in showing the little interest people take in life. He referred to many other cases outside of the liquor license act altogether, as still further showing the great indifference that existed, and, if anything, seemed to be growing. It is shown in civic elections. The city is supposed and should have its very best representatives at the council board, but how many were there who cared who they consisted of. The Fabian league had lately been established in this city and that league would accomplish an enormous amount of good, if by the discussion of questions, it aroused the public interest. In an article like this it is impossible to give a full account of the views expressed by the rector of Trinity, but there is enough here stated to show that his sermon is worthy of careful consideration. This is the only place alighting and the pulpit has the power of exerting much good and not a few believe that in order to christianize the people, the basis of evil must be struck at and an attempt made to remedy existing wrongs. Mr. Richardson in speaking as plainly as he has, has done his duty. It was he who first called attention to the disgraceful state of the jail and his remarks have it is hoped resulted in much benefit. There is no reason of praising any clergyman for taking a stand,

but if the city and community are to progress good and energetic men must strike out from the shoulder and they will always receive public appreciation.

READY FOR SUMMER BUSINESS.

The Improvements That Have Been Made to The Dufferin Hotel.

The tourist season is near at hand and the different hotels have about completed their preparations for receiving their summer guests.

All of them have made everything brighter and pleasanter, but perhaps the most conspicuous among them in this direction is the Dufferin. Its very pleasant situation on the King Square always makes it a popular resort for tourists, who delight in the view they can obtain from almost any of the rooms of the house besides finding the hotel more centrally located than any other place can sojourn at. But when the interior surroundings are even more inviting than the exterior view their satisfaction cannot be gainsaid.

Mr. McCaffery, the manager, has taken special pains this year to make the interior of the Dufferin harmonize in color and as attractive in every other respect as possible. The business of the house during the winter, has been excellent and the prospects for tourist travel, so he informs PROGRESS, are better than ever they were.

The first room that meets the eye of any one approaching the house is the writing room and this which was formerly finished in dark colors is now done in light blue and the floor covered with a crimson axminster carpet. Of course the furniture and other fittings are luxurious and any guest finds it a most comfortable place to loiter in. The office and wine room and in fact every room in the house have been renovated and improved. The ladies' entrance has some suitable additions and the furniture throughout the house has been added to, particularly with a view to accommodating the wishes and needs of the modern guest. PROGRESS noted some time ago the change in the tonsorial department and perhaps it is not necessary to refer to it again except to say that it is now even more complete than it was then.

After the Band.

Much talk has arisen over the state of Queen Square since the band concert on Wednesday evening. It is said, and the authority for the remark seems quite reliable that the excellent spot received quite a shaking up this week. Some blades of grass were trodden down, the gravel on the finely preserved walks has received some pressing, while many of the thoroughfares got a dressing down in their weed cultivation, but take it altogether it is thought it will take a very few millions to set matters right. There are all kinds of persons in this vicinity and all must have their say. There are those who have kept up a continual howling because there have been no band concerts, then there are those person who grumble whether there are band concerts or not, if the bands do not play Wagner they shouldn't play at all, then there is another class of people who complain because carpets are not laid out for the genteel public to walk on, and now this week comes forth another species of humanity, that weep with lamentation because patent leather boots did not trespass on Queen Square on Wednesday evening last. According to some reports that beautiful spot has been completely destroyed by an unfeeling public. How thankful we should feel that the good Queen is not alive today, to have to see the destruction of her beautiful Square.

The Nixon Case.

The Robert Nixon case which was referred to last week as being before the Police Magistrate, for preliminary examination, has been given a somewhat additional interest on account of another charge being preferred against him. The young woman with whom it is alleged he was too familiar has, through her relatives, brought a charge of adultery against Nixon. This was before the magistrate for a few minutes the first of the week. There did not

appear to be any witnesses present and after a few minutes conversation with the lawyers, Judge Ritchie remanded Nixon until Friday morning. His counsel Mr. Mullin objected to any commitment on the first charge until the second had been looked into. The impression is that Nixon is getting a fair share of imprisonment without very great effort being made to complete his examination. If the evidence is not stronger than has been given there is great doubt if he can be held upon the charges made against him.

RELIGIOUS PROGRESS.

Denominational Conventions—The Presbyterians Make a Most Favorable Showing.

This is the season of religious gatherings. The Presbyterians have been meeting at Ottawa. The Methodists opened their convention at Marysville on Wednesday and on the first of July the Episcopalians meet at Fredericton. All denominations seem well satisfied with their past year's work. Dr. Warden the newly elected moderator of the Presbyterians has given an interesting sketch of the progress of his body during the past century. He said that the last century opened with twelve Presbyterian ministers, and Presbyterian population of 30,000 in districts which now formed the Dominion. The present century opened with 1,300 ministers in active service and a Presbyterian population of 850,000. Two years ago the church had devoted itself to raise \$1,000,000. It was gratifying to know that \$1,400,000 had been subscribed instead of \$1,000,000. Instead of \$400,000 debts on church property there had been subscribed upwards of \$800,000. There was \$400,000 paid in cash out of \$560,000 subscribed for the other portions of the fund and in a few months before it was closed \$600,000 would have been raised.

About the Suspension Bridge.

A correspondent writes PROGRESS that the Suspension bridge is not in as good condition as it might be. He evidently does not refer to the iron bridge because he says that the flooring is broken in several places and the planks uneven. It may be that he is correct, but certainly it such are the facts the care taker of the bridge has no doubt reported the matter to the proper authorities for in such a structure as this with so much flooring it would not be an unusual circumstance if in the spring of the year some of the planks became warped and out of place but at the same time it should not be a difficult matter to make the repairs.

The Tail of a Dog.

Mr. Wetmore of the S. P. C. A., has been called upon to take action in the case of a man charged with biting the end off of a dog's tail. It is a strange case. Was the man hungry or is he an indulger in cigarettes? St. John has its experiences from the end of a dog's tail up to the sentencing of a criminal to days to get out of the country.

PROGRESS CONTENTS TODAY.

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- PAGE 4.—Editorial, poetry, news of the week and other topics.
- PAGES 5, 6, 7, and 8.—Social happenings from all over the provinces.
- PAGE 9.—Anecdotes of Famous People that make interesting reading.
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- Births, marriages and deaths of the week.

EVENTS OF CITY LIFE.

Many Interesting Happenings That Occupied Attention During the Week.

Perhaps the coolest man in the court room on Thursday was the prisoner Cameron, while the jury of twelve men were out deciding whether or not he would be an inmate of the penitentiary for the next few years. There is no doubt that Cameron can be cool even in court room because he has had lots of experience with courts and lawyers. He knows pretty well how to defend himself, what lawyers to engage, and no one is better acquainted with the distance he can go without getting into the clutches of justice. Sometimes he makes a break and it is upon these occasions that he has become intimate with the police court, the judges, and the interior of the jail. The charge against him was a serious one but the jury evidently did not think that the party who preferred it was just as innocent as she might be and so they divided. The majority of them, however, being in favor of acquittal. What Mr. McKeown, the prosecuting attorney for the crown means to do is not stated but it is hardly probable that he will insist upon a new trial.

THE CHARGE AGAINST NELSON.

A Mystery Surrounds a Serious Offence—Evidence that is Conflicting.

Something of mystery surrounds the charge against young Nelson of the North End preferred by Captain Brennan of the May Queen. The Captain relates and it might be said almost unwillingly that Nelson came to him upon the arrival of his boat on two occasions and obtained the letters entrusted to him by customers of D. J. Purdy and Messrs. Nase & Sons. These letters it appears contained money the exact amount of which is not known and it was upon this serious charge that Nelson was arrested. When before the magistrate Nelson was willing to prove an alibi, to prove his good character and to show in other ways that he was not guilty of the serious charge. He was not allowed out on bail at first, but his counsel Mr. Hazen succeeded in obtaining his release at \$500 security for his appearance.

Captain Brennan in his evidence was positive that Nelson was the man but there are several others who are just as positive that on that particular day and hour Nelson was attending a baseball game between the Roses and Alerts. It is quite a difficult matter to pick out any particular face in a crowd, unless the owner of it is particularly well acquainted with you and be able to swear to it days afterwards.

Nelson has always had a good reputation in the north end is popular with every body and no one would suspect him of being guilty of doing such a thing as he has been charged with.

Judge Ritchie was somewhat indignant because the newspapers expressed themselves in this way and in a few sarcastic words said the case had been tried by the newspapers before reaching him. It may be that in some cases the newspapers do err in this respect but it is so seldom that they can say a good word of any one charged with a serious offence that they should not be blamed if they have an opportunity of doing so.

The mystery surrounding the purloining of the letters will probably not be explained in open court but it is a somewhat open secret in the North end.

A Place for Band Concerts.

The suggestion is made in view of the dilapidated condition of Queen Square after the recent band concert, that if a band stand is to be erected it should be located on Market Square. This seems to be a central point for all demonstrations and celebrations and there is no really good reason why it should not be selected for band concerts. There is plenty of room for all the people who could attend. The location is central and the music would not only delight those who are near at hand but also the important business section surrounding it.

Close it up.

It has required the presentation of a petition to the Chief of Police asking that a disorderly house on Britain Street be closed up. For some time it has been known that this house has existed and it is

strange that the public have never thought it worth while to put it out of existence. They were very active in putting down other places of similar repute but this one has been allowed to remain. It is hoped now that the petition will bear fruit, if not, why not?

CIGARETTE HAS ENEMIES.

A Toronto Man Says It Has Reduced the Penitentiary Age.

The cigarette smoker is coming in for some notoriety these days. Since one of our physicians has made the statement that cigarette smoking affected the mind of one of our youths, there are not a few to be found who believe that a smoker of the article stands in dangerous peril. A Toronto gentleman who says that he has made a study of the subject, states that the habit has been instrumental in reducing the penitentiary age from 32 to 22 years. As a means of counteracting the habit of smoking cigarettes, he recommends that employers should not employ boys who are addicted to it. This plan he thinks a good deterrent from a practice that is blighting the prospects of many an otherwise hopeful life.

Band Concerts.

The first of a series of band concerts was given on Wednesday evening by the Carleton Cornet band. The evening was a beautiful one and the music was enjoyed by hundreds. The promoters of these concerts deserve every credit. This city has excellent bands and the citizens can look forward with much pleasure to the treat in store for them these summer months. No time should be lost, however in having band stands erected in the localities where the bands are to perform, as an elevation makes quite a difference to the spectators as far as hearing the music is concerned.

Sale Of Unclaimed Goods.

It was an interesting auction sale that took place yesterday on Prince William street. It fell to Mr. Gerow's lot to put up a number of articles which have been unclaimed from the various offices of the Canadian and American express companies in the Maritime Provinces. No bidder knew what a parcel contained and so the bidding was quite amusing. Some bargains were struck while in other cases one could hardly be said to have got the worth of the money. Some of the goods put up were addressed to the following: "A crib to N. Henderson, St. John, a bundle to W. C. Pitfield & Co. and a keg to J. Ready. All these were unclaimed and went with the others. G. E. Foster did not consider it worth while to take out a bundle addressed to him at Apohaqui. Several buyers of trees refused to pay the express charges. The list was an interesting one.

Tourist Travel.

The summer travel seems to have set in and if it keeps increasing at the rate it has started St. John will have far more visitors than ever before. There has been regular St. John weather this week and strangers cannot help being pleased with our lovely climate. One day this week there were fifty-four registered at one of the leading hotels in one day, while at another the register showed forty-three. The tourist travel is now a fixture.

The Programme.

The committee of the city council are considering how the Duke and Duchess of York are to be entertained. The citizens are also put down for meetings. It is not known how many meetings it is going to take but the final result will be, arches, military turnout, fire works and a lot of hurrahing. That about the programme and it can be all arranged in a short time.

Record Keeps Up.

Dan Cupid is keeping up his June record. On Wednesday he succeeded in joining the hearts of no less than eight couples in this vicinity. The month is not finished yet and the story is not all told.

Umbrellas Made, Re-covered, Repaired
Dunal 17 Waterloo