

PROGRESS.

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TALK ABOUT THE MASONS:

Society of Progress—Leading Men who Have Filled the Office of Grandmaster and Their Successful Work.

The gathering of the members of the Grand Lodge of Free Masons, is always one that is looked forward to with much interest by a very large number of individuals throughout New Brunswick. The annual conventions of the great order have always been largely attended and their work as far as the public is able to see has always shown that Free Masonry as it exists to day has been the promoter of much good and one of the greatest benefactors of mankind.

The annual session which convened here on Tuesday last was largely attended and proved as successful as any of those held in former years. The society has ever

choice. It may feel confident that it has placed at its head a gentleman who will not be found wanting, and at the close of his term of office the masons will have no reason to feel dissatisfied at the step they took on Tuesday evening last. But it is not only to the fraternity itself, but also to Judge Trueman as well, congratulations are due. He may well feel proud of the distinguished honor that has been conferred upon him for it is an honor of no small magnitude to be chosen as the head of such an able body of men as the masons undeniably are.

The report of the grand Treasurer of the order could not but have been highly gratifying. The report showed a most healthy state of affairs. The balance to the credit of the Masons which at the beginning of the year was \$1,228.45 has been increased over two hundred dollars, while included in the expenditure of the year was the payment of \$500 in reduction of the debt.

One of the most pleasing features in connection with the gathering here this week, was the very pleasant excursion tendered by the retiring Grand Master to members of the order. This excursion which consisted of a trip on the steamer May Queen to the Cedars and returned was one of those enjoyable affairs not easily to be forgotten. The sail took a little over three hours and a half and was most delightful in every way. On the trip the health of Judge Forbes was proposed by Recorder Skinner in one of that gentleman's neat speeches and the Grand Master was most happy in his reply. The 34th annual session was a most successful one in every way and closed another year's good work.

THEY HAD A PLEASANT TIME.

Upper Province Pressmen and Women Visit New Brunswick and are Entertained.

The press excursion from Ontario were in St. John Monday and made the most of a very pleasant day. The local press assisted the ninety or one hundred representatives of these Western newspapers to become better acquainted with the winter port of Canada and if one might judge from their cordial thanks these efforts were keenly appreciated.

Clambakes are not unusual in this part of Canada but they are something of a novelty in the west and so it the local committee sought particularly to add this feature to the entertainment furnished the visitors they could not have succeeded better. The bake was held at McLaren's Beach a very suitable location and convenient to the Shore Line railway which conveyed the party from and to the city.

Mr. Chas. Jackson's success as a manipulator of clam bakes is so well known that it is not necessary to dwell on that feature of the affair.

The visitors were well pleased and that was the main point. Some enjoyed the excellent bathing, others the shore promenade and all of them the scenery and clambake. The speeches of the talkers of the party were bright and witty and yet serious enough to convince their hearers that their trip had been instructive as well as enjoyable.

While here they were guests at the Dufferin and Victoria hotels and went away with a good impression of St. John hostilities. From St. John to Fredericton by boat and thence via the Canada Eastern to Coatham was the route.

They were given a splendid reception everywhere and left New Brunswick for Quebec with the ideas of the Maritime Provinces that will do much to efface erroneous impressions that have prevailed so long in some parts of Upper Canada.

The special train that carried the party was provided by the courtesy of the Intercolonial railway and it was not half done either. Sleeping car accommodation was provided, as well as meals on the train.

Keep to Economy.

The expense of supplying the mayors of the different Canadian cities with robes for the coming Royal visit, will not be at all small. A correspondent suggests that the robe of the Lord Mayor of London may be borrowed and passed around from one Mayor to another during the visit. To make it different from the London Mayor's robe it may be worn upside down. If we must have fluckeyism let us have it at the smallest possible cost.

Mr. Allan's Death.

Another one of St. John's well known citizens have passed away. Mr. Harris Allan who died on Wednesday evening was a man who always took a deep interest in this city's affairs. For a long time he represented Queens ward at the council board and was always highly esteemed for his many excellent qualities. His decease adds another to the long list of well known citizens who have joined the great majority within the last few years.

There is a Difference

In the South when a man is charged with committing an indecent assault he is given ten minutes in which to say his prayers. In the north when a man is accused of a similar offence he is given ten days in which to go south. The former is supposed to represent the anti-civilized mode and the latter the civilized.

The Last Day.

Today is the last day of summer and a beautiful summer it has been. It has been a long time that the people of St. John have had the pleasure of looking back upon three finer months than those just ended. Now for a fine autumn.

SOME SERIOUS CHARGES.

Clergymen, Merchants and a Judge Say Sunday Violation is Openly Permitted by Chief of Police.

Police investigations do not seem to be at an end yet. Just when the people were beginning to hope that the quarrellings and bickerings were ended and that the trial in the county court over the Torryburn scrape and the Napier-Campbell investigation would wind up the business, a memorial appears in the press from the Lord's Day Alliance which makes charges of so serious a nature that they cannot be passed over either by the safety board or by the local government.

This memorial is signed by prominent clergymen such as Reverends Richardson, Freeman and Fotheringham, by such merchants as Joseph Allison, Wm. Parks, and professional men in the person of Dr. Morrison and His honor Judge Forbes.

These gentlemen surely would not sign such charges as are made without they had undoubted proof of the truth of them. One cannot imagine even their enthusiasm leading them astray to this extent. They have put in strong language what many people believe but which none have so far been able to prove.

To make out a straight case there must of course be something more particular than is implied in the general statement "that legal restrictions upon the sale of intoxicating liquors, beers, groceries etc. on Sunday are persistently and openly violated and the police of this city apparently make no effort to enforce the law".

This is the charge as made to Chairman Eaton of the Board of Safety and it is couched in such language that it cannot be disregarded.

It may be true that groceries are sold on Sunday but it will be news to nine tenths of the people who are used to seeing the grocery shops closed on Sunday just the same as the dry goods stores. Milk is one of the articles sold by the grocers and it is no doubt correct that some small corner groceries do supply their customers with fresh milk on Sunday just the same as other days. In fact there is one clergyman who can be named if necessary, who gets his supply of milk on Sunday from the corner grocery just the same as he gets it on Saturday. The argument might be made that it is no greater harm for the grocer to sell milk than the milk man, but no doubt all these things have been explained satisfactorily by the Alliance.

To say, however, that there is "open violation" of the liquor law and other Sunday regulations is certainly going too far. Mr. Fotheringham and Judge Forbes both know—and so do the rest of the signers—that when they go to church on Sunday morning they can see no sign of the "open" sale of liquor. They know that the licensed saloons are closed; they know that the grocery stores are closed and that there is no "open" sale of groceries.

The inspector and the police will tell them and truly too that there is not a hotel bar "openly" selling and that it is impossible for anyone to enter a hotel bar on Sunday. That is believed to be true of all the hotels, and certainly it is true of the first class ones. They may serve guests with liquor in their rooms or at the table but is there not some provision in the law covering this?

But if the charges made to the chairman of safety are grave what must be said of those addressed to the premier of the provinces. After repeating the statements about the open violation of the law and the repeated failures to get any satisfaction from the chief of police these prominent clergymen, merchants and judge make the startling charge conveyed in the following paragraph.

"It is commonly reported that instructions not to enforce the law have been given, and that these emanate from a source which the chief feels bound to obey. We as citizens and rate-payers respectfully request that you will cause a full and satisfactory inquiry to be made with a view to ascertaining why the police force of St. John is so remiss in its duty and who it is that interferes with the execution of the law."

The chief of police as appointee of the government is answerable to it for his official conduct. If the inaction of the police is not in consequence of his orders, it is at least with his knowledge and consent. The principle involved is a most important one. If one law may be set aside, so may any other, and the legislation of the province be rendered nugatory whenever the interests of this secret power, seemingly above the law come in collision with it."

The meaning of this is clear. The chief of police is charged with willful neglect of his duty and that he is supported in this course of action by those "whom the chief feels bound to obey." Now, who this party or parties are need not be surmised because the statement is made in another sentence that "the chief of police is an appointee of the government and answerable to it for his official conduct."

Premier Tweedie is not the man to permit such language to go unchallenged. There is no need for the government of the province to protect any of its officials. This is especially true of its St. John appointments. The premier when he was simply provincial secretary expressed himself plainly upon this matter. It is not probable that he has changed his opinion. If the Lord's Day Alliance can prove their charges against the chief of police then it should and no doubt will be sufficient reason for a change to be made.

For years there have been all kinds of memorials presented to the government in regard to police matters in St. John. No wonder the executive is getting weary of this repetition, no wonder the appointment of the chief was offered at one time to the city council if that body cared to accept the responsibility.

Now the climax has been reached. As stated above men in the position of Judge Forbes, Mr. Joseph Allison, Mr. Tilley and the other citizens as well as Clergymen do not sign charges such as these memorials contain without some evidence satisfactory to them.

Let us have the investigation and let us have the evidence.

Another Serious Case.

York County has now an indecent assault case. It will be interesting to watch the outcome of proceedings. The man arrested charged with the crime, is not one of high life nor has he any influential friends. In this respect the man is to be pitied, being friendless justice will probably have to take its course. The public may feel safe, however, in predicting that the York County man if guilty will not be given ten days in which to leave the Province. Let us watch the outcome of events.

PROGRESS

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Hon. A. I. Trueman the Newly Elected Grand Master of the Free Masons.

been one in progress and its report for the past year show that its great prosperity still continues. Looked at from any standpoint whether religious, social, charitable or financial, masonry has nothing to feel ashamed of. Its working for good has been felt on all sides and its power cannot but be recognized. It is not surprising then that the order should be one of growth and continual advancement.

The Masonic order in New Brunswick has always been most fortunate in having at its head gentlemen of ability and individuals who gave much of their time and energy to push on the work of masonry. Among its grand masters have been some of this province's best men. One has got but to look at the list to feel convinced that the order in selecting its head did so with the keenest foresight. Among those who have occupied the grand mastership in later years may be mentioned, Senator Ellis, Judge Peters, Alex McNichol, J. T. W. Whitlock, Dr. Walker and Judge Forbes. All these gentlemen not to mention others have proved themselves to be worthy leaders of a worthy order. Dr. Walker and Judge Forbes particularly have given considerable of their time and contributed much in the way of entertainment to the fraternity. The latter could rightfully and conscientiously say as he did say on Tuesday evening last that "throughout the two years I have presided over this grand lodge, there has not been heard a jarring note, and the zeal and faithfulness with which the work of the order has been conducted evidence that the noble principals of our institution have not only been preached, but practiced."

Judge Forbes retired from the grand mastership at the convention this week. He has good reason to feel satisfied, in withdrawing from the position, with his two year's service. He has done his work well and to the satisfaction of all.

The Hon. A. I. Trueman who has been elected to the important chair should prove a worthy successor to the late incumbent. Judge Trueman as he is familiarly known stands very high in the Masonic order. For years he occupied the distinguished position of Eminent Commander of St. John's Encampment besides many other distinguished offices. In all of these he ever showed himself a good mason and one who had the interests of the order at heart. He is a man of good address, very popular in the community, but what is perhaps best of all he is one who works honestly, energetically and faithfully at the duties he has to perform.

The Order is to be congratulated on its



Hon. J. Gordon Forbes the Retiring Grand Master of the Free Masons—An Office he has Filled with Honor.