

PROGRESS.

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POLYMORPHIAN'S REFUSE.

The South End Polys Refuse To Parade—The Others Will Under Certain Conditions—Who is To Blame.

To the regret of a great many citizens of St. John the efforts of the central committee, which appears to have the arrangements for the reception of the Duke and Duchess of Cornwall in hand, have not seemed to meet with the approval of some of the large societies which in the past have been very instrumental in making every public affair a success.

This refers particularly to a section of the polymorphians and to a portion of the firemen. On Thursday morning resolutions appeared in the press explaining why the south end Polymorphian Club did not think they were called upon to take part in the celebration. Whether they are right or wrong Progress does not pretend to say, but certainly the opinions of the club are very decided and the members do not hesitate to give their reasons that in some way or other the chairman of the committee offended them in making it appear to the leaders of the club that they were a sort of a "make shift". It is very possible that such a meaning was never intended by the chairman, but as no explanation has been forthcoming up to the time of this writing the members agree that they are not particularly wanted in the parade. More than that they say and very truly too that the polymorphians and firemen have been very prominent in all public demonstrations of this nature in this city and that in fact no such parades have been given without their assistance.

They go further and say that the firemen were not fairly treated, at least a portion of them were not, and that a motion to withdraw the grant was very seriously placed before the central committee and passed almost without discussion. Therefore they conclude that their assistance is not desired in the demonstration.

Moreover, and with much regret it is said, the feeling has got abroad that the committee does not desire the demonstration to be as public as it might be. Instead of that the idea of militarism seems to dominate all others, and the efforts of private citizens to make the affair a general and successful one have not met with much approval. The grants for arches, for the fire works and for the illuminations of buildings are conceded to be all right, but both the polymorphians and the firemen maintain that if grants outside of music are to be given they should be included and considered in the same generous way as other organizations even they are of a military character.

In opposition to this, another polymorphian of long years standing expresses himself very decidedly to PROGRESS that these grants are a mistake and that if the polymorphians had maintained the original organization that has been so successful in the past no grants would have been required or thought of. As it is now with the Haymarket Square (the original polymorphian club) the south end club the north end club and the west end club, all distinct and with offices of their own and all in a certain sense dependent on the public for subscriptions for their town out in the event of no grant there is not much use in any one of them making a decided effort towards a respectable display. The merchants get tired of being asked first by one club and then by another, all belonging to the same order, while they would be very willing to give a very generous subscription to any one in particular. And again if the clubs except these small grants which the city proposes to give them the generous assistance that is usually afforded them by the merchants in the way of tears and decorations would not be given at all. In the past when the polymorphians made their best and greatest displays they were entirely the result of their own efforts with the assistance of the merchants who did not hesitate to loan their best teams and even decorate them for the purpose of riding the parade. This enthusiastic polymorphian said that it was not an unusual thing after a firm had given a subscription to receive a donation of material for the purpose of decorating free of charge. He was entirely in favor of the polymorph-

ians turning out, but turning out as a whole and not as divided, doing the thing themselves and not dependent upon the city in any way for grants.

The firemen are also divided, the cause and reason of which it is hard to discover. Some blame one official, others blame another, but it is quite certain that unless some conciliating influence is brought to bear in the very near future the parades so far as the South End polymorphians (at least) and the firemen are concerned will not come up to what was anticipated.

What a Correspondent Thinks.

It is to be regretted that so much wrangling or ill feeling or whatever it may be called has arisen in connection with the arrangements being made for the reception of the Duke and Duchess of York to this city.

There is no excuse for the sorry exhibition that is being made. As far as can be learned no other cities in Canada or for that matter any place that the Royal party has visited in their extended trip have had difficulties in their making preparations to receive the future King and his wife. Then why should it lie with this city to be the first to take the initiative in this respect?

There is no doubt as to the loyalty of the people in this community. In fact there is no city that their Royal Highnesses have visited or will visit, that will be more pleased to welcome the distinguished visitors than the old city of the Loyalists. Every inhabitant of St. John and the Province is proud of his mother country and British institutions. But while this is so it is also manifestly evident that there is a small feeling existing in our midst that should not exist, a selfish feeling that is narrow and bigoted.

It must not be thought, however that this feeling is at all universal. Happily it may be said it is to a very small extent, but there is enough of it to make disagreeableness and place the City in a very unfair light to outsiders. PROGRESS believes that not a single person after calmly considering the matter can find the least fault with the manner in which the reception affairs were instituted. The government of the Province and the City Council went to work openly and broadly. They asked the Citizens to meet them and discuss matters and all had a right to express an opinion. Nothing could have been more admirably arranged.

It cannot be conceived that there was a disposition on anyone's part to slight or overlook a single individual in the appointing and selecting of committees. Mistakes might have been made, but such mistakes are unavoidable errors; on such occasions should be overlooked. If some thought they had not been treated properly, it would seem to have been more in keeping with patriotic principles to have buried small differences and to have worked in the public's interest. The firemen and some Polymorphians have refused to take any part in the coming celebration. While these parties had a perfect right to decide as they have done and while St. John feels proud of the efficiency of these bodies, yet at the same time their action on the present occasion is refusing to do honor to the coming distinguished visitors is open to considerable criticism.

The turning out of the firemen and the Polymorphians would have added much to the success of the undertaking. There have been times when the above bodies have taken part in proceedings of far less importance than the coming celebration. At those times there did not appear to be any petty feelings on the surface.

Unfortunately the criticism and bitterness towards the general committee is not confined to the Polymorphians and firemen. Some of the North Enders have their complaints and west enders it should have more rights and so it goes. Everyone is not pleased and those who are displeased are not making it pleasant. Then there is the complaint that there is an unfairness in the awarding of contracts and that there are protests in certain

quarters about the selection made by the government of the Royal residences. There are numerous other fault finders, but enough have been mentioned to show that the controllers of reception arrangements are meeting with considerable opposition.

It is deplorable, as has been stated that such a state of affairs exist, but people do not lose faith that all will not come out right. The town seems to be troubled with a critical kind of fever at the present time. Mr. Carnegie after going handsomely to the leading cities in the United States and the Old Country, had to come all the way to St. John before he was made the subject of attack. It is said that cranks make the wheels go round. It is about time then that St. John was taking a turn and it is to be hoped that it will be a turn for the better. Those at the head of the present reception committees are men in whom the people should have confidence. They will meet the difficulties at hand. The Duke and Duchess will be received in no better shape anywhere than they will right here in this city. In spite of all, the commercial capital of the province will take no back seat in the way of entertaining. It has a reputation in this respect to keep up and it will not be found wanting when the time comes.

DR. JOSEPH MORRISON DEAD.

A Leading Citizen Who Has Suddenly Passed Away.

During the past week the public has been considerably interested in the case of Dr. J. A. Morrison against the St. John street railway. It has proved one of the most important cases that has been tried in St. John for years. The chief witness has been Dr. Morrison himself.

Thursday one of his counsel asked the adjournment of the court until Monday owing to the serious illness of the plaintiff. The request was granted. On Thursday evening it was heard with surprise that Dr. Morrison lay unconscious at his home.

Still greater was the surprise when the people of this city learned on Friday morning that the doctor had passed away. The strain of the trial seems to have been too much and it is presumed lead to the bursting of a blood vessel in the head.

Dr. Morrison was one of the best known citizens of St. John. Besides being noted as a specialist of high standing and one enjoying a most lucrative practice, he took the greatest interest in many public matters.

He always was a leader in the political ranks and on more than one occasion was a candidate for political honors. In the Orange, Masonic and Temperance bodies he was a foremost figure and during past years has occupied many of the highest offices in these bodies. His early demise deprives St. John of one of its most intelligent and energetic citizens.

Comes Off Next Week.

The Exhibition which opens at Fredericton next week promises to be first class, particularly in the Agricultural line. As the different railway and steamship lines have offered very low fares and as it is a very pleasant time of year in which to visit the capital, no doubt a large number will visit Fredericton. The management have worked very energetically to make the affair a success, and as they are men who understand their business their expectations will probably be realized. It is to be regretted that the horse races have not filled very well. This is surprising too for Fredericton has one of the best tracks in the country. St. John wishes its sister city the best of luck and may fine weather, the element so necessary towards a successful exhibition be its lot.

It Shocked St. John.

The news of the shooting of President McKinley was received in St. John with the greatest shock. People were stunned at the brief telegram that so swiftly gained circulation. And as the first report was of a most serious nature to the effect that the President could not live the feeling was very intense. Since the event a deep interest has been taken in the different reports sent out and the daily papers have met with a ready sale. As there were many Americans in the city at the time the different hotels became quite centres of conversation. There were a number in St. John who have seen McKinley and had the greatest respect for the man.

NO JEST ABOUT THIS.

The Lord's Day Alliance Must Have Sworn Evidence To Support Their Charges Against The Chief.

There was a feeling of subdued interest around the government offices in this city Thursday afternoon, when Premier Tweedie entered about three o'clock and prepared to hear the investigation into the charges made against the chief of police by the the Lords Day Alliance. The premier had been appointed a commissioner by the governor of the province to conduct the inquiry and he was all ready at the appointed hour of the day named.

President Fotheringham of the Lords Day Alliance was there also and he was supported by all the signers to the very strong memorial with the exception of Mr. Joseph Allison.

The preliminaries of reading the authority of the commissioner and the charges as set forth in the memorial having been got over the premier was about to call upon the signers to bring forth their evidence when Recorder C. N. Skinner entered and announced in quiet tones that he appeared for the chief of police. The chief too was present watching the proceedings in an anxious way. This is the first time that any regular charges have been formulated against him and it is no wonder he is anxious. Time and time again the safety board has tried to get at the fact of charges that have been prepared but in most cases the interest died out and the chief did not have to worry much if any about the matter.

This time it is different. The charges are of the gravest character setting forth that he willfully neglects his duty by not enforcing the Sunday liquor law and the Sabbath observance act and also stating that he is prevented from doing this by those in authority over him.

The prompt compliance with the alliance demand for an inquiry must have taken those gentlemen by surprise because when they assembled yesterday they had no witnesses at hand to support the charges they had made.

There was hardly any excuse for that because Judge Forbes whose name was attached to the memorial must have known what was required when an inquiry was demanded. The other members of the Alliance seemed to have idea that all that was necessary was to make speeches or 'statements' as they called them, but COMMISSIONER TWEEDIE gave them to understand that it was evidence not speeches he wanted, and what evidence was given could not be a mere gossip or of a hearsay character.

Mr. Fotheringham seemed surprised at the nature of the inquiry. He did not know what the government wished but he was prepared to assume all the responsibility of the charges in the memorial.

Premier Tweedie—The government has no desire in this matter at all. I have been appointed to make an inquiry into the serious charges contained in the memorial and it will be necessary for you to produce your witnesses and have them examined under oath, then when you have finished your case the chief of police will be at liberty to call his witnesses. Mr. Skinner will then have the right to address the court and you or your counsel will have the opportunity of replying.

Mr. Fotheringham was evidently at a loss what to do then and he asked what the other memorialists had to say. This brought a few words from Rev. Mr. Steele to the effect that they had no information that day but the president had come prepared to make a statement.

This brought forth a suggestion from Judge Forbes that subpoenas issue in the regular way and an adjournment be made to some other day. The recorder observed daily that it was peculiar after such serious charges had been made that there was no evidence.

Rev. Mr. Steele—We were ignorant of the course of procedure in such a case. More than that we do not wish to appear as prosecutors.

Premier Tweedie—But you have made charges, serious charges and asked for an inquiry.

Recorder Skinner—You knew enough to make the charges.

Judge Forbes—But there are no charges.

Premier Tweedie—How could any charges be stronger (and then he read from the memorial the charges against the chief) I presume that when you signed your name to this document you had some evidence.

Rev. Mr. Fotheringham—I am convinced that the government has done right but we are placed in the peculiar position of appearing as prosecutors of the chief of police and will have to make statements that may seriously affect his position.

Premier Tweedie—We have nothing to do with that.

Recorder Skinner wished to have those words taken down but the premier did not think it was worth while. Then the chief's counsel asked for specific charges, so that he might be prepared to answer them when the inquiry was held again.

Judge Forbes did not think the Lords Day Alliance wished to be placed in the position of pressing specific charges against Chief Clark.

Premier Tweedie—But you have made charges against Chief Clark, very serious charges in my opinion.

Recorder Skinner—It is quite within your power to refuse to give me those specific charges but you cannot treat this inquiry as merely fishing for information. You are absolutely seeking the destruction of the chief of police. You may not be aware of it but this is what you are doing. I do not mean to be offensive.

Judge Forbes—But that is very offensive.

Premier Tweedie—Confine yourself to the matter at issue. I propose to investigate these charges fully.

Judge Forbes—There are two specific charges and we propose to sustain them against the chief of police.

The exchange of words had by this time become somewhat hurried but everybody was reduced to normal temperature discussing a suitable day to adjourn to. It was settled at last to adjourn for a week and Judge Forbes placed his office at the disposal of the Alliance that afternoon to consult and decide upon their course of action.

The earnestness of the government in ranging on this investigation has had the effect that PROGRESS predicted. The Lord's Day Alliance must put up a case now or hold its peace after this. They realize and the evidence must be produced to support their charges. To this end it is said that the witnesses will include hotel men and liquor dealers. In fact the observance of the Lord's day seems to have narrowed down to the sale of liquor. To prove that this is 'openly' done will be a difficult task and the Lord's Day Alliance must have some evidence that is important and conclusive.

Better Look Out.

The report is published in many of the Provincial papers that one of the A. D. Cs of His Honor the Lieut. Governor has ordered a suit of clothes from England. This suit it is announced will be worn by the A. D. C. when he accompanies the governor to St. John on the occasion of the Duke of York's visit. A report of this kind may not seem important, but if duly considered it might be thought to be very serious. Before the young man is allowed to appear would it not be a good plan to first have an inspection of the suit by the St. John Reception committee. The clothes might be very grand and might put the Mayor's gown in the shade. This would never do. The City Council and St. John should look after its rights.

Death of an Aged Resident.

The death and funeral of Mrs. Charlotte S. Hatheway this week caused much regret among all her old friends who knew and esteemed her while she lived in this city. She died at the residence of her daughter, Mrs. A. M. Bauld, in Halifax, at a good old age. Her remains were brought to St. John for interment and the funeral was held from Stone church. J.T.B.