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## Exciting Episodes and Interesting Local Events.

The world is all a stage and that we each had more puppets at the hands of destiny has been amply demonstrated in St. John this week.

There have been many and diverse events, and of a different nature from the other, all ending to make up general whole in this 19th century life of ours.

There was some excitement in the Supreme court chambers on Monday in the matter of the Royal Bank of Canada vs. G. Wetmore Merritt, Aonla Sugar Refining Company vs. G. Wetmore Merritt and Joseph F. Merritt; and Richard O'Leary vs. G. Wetmore Merritt and Joseph F. Merritt, Edward L. Jewett was examined this morning before Judge Forbes as to the validity of a bill of sale of the household furniture given him by G. Wetmore Merritt. Examined by Mr. L. F. D. Tilley, the witness said he held a bill of sale of household goods, dated October 10th, 1901, for \$700.25, which amount he had paid to G. Wetmore Merritt by cheque on the Bank of New Brunswick at the time of the purchase, and of which no part had been refunded. At the time of buying the goods he leased them to Mrs. Merritt for five years at a rental of \$75 per year. He had asked G. W. Merritt to get the goods insured for him. G. W. Merritt got them insured for \$800 in the Imperial.

Examined by Mr. D. Mullin, K. C.; he said he understood when he first saw G. W. Merritt that the firm of Merritt Brothers were considering forming a joint stock company, and witness told him then that he was prepared to help the thing along inasmuch as others would do so. He knew that the firm was involved at the time of getting the bill of sale from what the newspapers had said about it, but it was not for the protection of the furniture against creditors he had purchased it but because he considered it a good business transaction.

In reply to Mr. Harrington, K. C., witness said it was to or three days before the purchase when he first talked about the matter to G. W. Merritt and arrangements were made then. Witness here said that he thought he had first proposed the leasing of the furniture to Mrs. Merritt, as he felt sorry for her. Mr. Harrington then asked him if he would swear that he and not Mr. Merritt made that proposition.

Witness went on to answer the question by explaining why he thought it must have been himself and not Mr. G. W. Merritt who first spoke of the leasing, but Mr. Harrington insisted on a direct answer to his question. Both questions and question got very much excited. Mr. Jewett jumped to his feet and said he did propose to be brow beaten by anyone.

Attorney General Fogaley, who appears for Merritt Bros. here, interjected that he saw no occasion for so much excitement over so small a matter. Charles S. Harrington remarked: 'You can hardly help it in a case like this.' The court then listened and quiet was restored.

Sharp words there arising from senior and junior counsel, with the judge ruling as gives food for reflection to those uninitiated in the ways of the limbo of the law. That the days of reformation are among our shores is not a thing of the past can be amply verified any day of the week even Sunday—if you don't believe it just notice the hold with which long distance skating has seized at not only the youth of Indian town, but many of the older ones, who desirous of exemplifying their 'recherches' as of yore and sought the frozen stream. Early last week Captain Jackson French and Willard Wilson skated to Indian town and back in a short time, and it is not so far that others will do the same. This was done a week ago and the high time of the season is now upon us.

The days of reformation are still with us as is duly illustrated by the Gazette. It says in a recent issue: Carl Herman Krenz, of White's Point, Queens county, was united in marriage to Lily B. Farris, youngest daughter of the late George F. Farris, of Mill Cove, on January 8 at the residence of the bride's brother, Millard Farris, of the Narrows. The ceremony was performed by the Rev. R. Barry Smith. Mr. Krenz is a prosperous and well-to-do farmer of White's Point. His courtship and marriage came about in a novel and romantic way. Although living only five miles from the residence of the bride-elect he had never met the fair young lady until a week preceding his marriage, and to use Mr. Krenz's own words, it was love at first sight. Mr. Krenz is fifty four years of age, while his wife is thirty years his junior.

walked from N. C. Scott's corner to Mill idgeville, and putting on their skates proceeded to the Willows, a distance of fifteen miles. Their time was one hour and twenty eight minutes. On the way back they traversed the ice in forty four minutes, but Messrs. Appleby and George W. Mollin claim they beat this record by six minutes the same afternoon. The record is growing slimmer every day.

That genial sergeant of the police Caples, did not like the government job with which he was recently favored (?) hence he has given up his government appointment in connection with the new immigration building in Carleton. He says he understood the situation to be different from what it is. Police duty is more remunerative. At present Duke Spencer is looking after the special officer work in the building.

Chief of police Walker W. Clarke has put himself on record as desirous of attending the National Union of Chiefs of Police which will hold its annual meeting this year on May 7th at Louisville, Ky. The Chief says he would like to go very much but that Louisville was a long way off. It is worth the expense though, he remarked.

The Baxter family of St. David street do not get along very amicably. There are several generations of that name. On Monday night there was trouble in their homestead on St. David's street.

The Teamsters Protection Union and the Council are having a little tilt on Tuesday. The Board of Works heard Mr. Scott E. Merrill as representative of the Teamsters' Protective Union, which asked that the city should pay union rates, viz. \$2.50 a day for single and \$4 for double teams, an amount of 50 cents in the first case and \$1 in the second. Mr. Merrill held that the men had made a careful study of the cost of the keep of horses, etc., which amounted to more now than for many years past. They placed the drivers' wages at \$7 per week. The cost of horses and slovens had to be considered. Altogether it appeared that a teamster must get \$13 a week to keep himself going. Men in this business did not average six days' work per week. Some objection was made to the proposed increase, but it was finally agreed to recommend to the Council that the rate asked for be paid.

In days gone PROGRESS has told the story of the Rev. (F) Walton's escapades. The latest to come to light according to a New York despatch of Jan. 27 is that unless members of his flock raise \$25 within a week to pay his fine, Rev. C. B. Walton, pastor of the First Baptist church of Rockville Center, L. I., will be sent to jail. He says that he is without funds to pay the fine. Mr. Walton was recently examined in supplementary proceedings brought because of his failure to pay \$500 borrowed from a woman who now lives in Nova Scotia. He was ordered not to collect \$111 due him for his services as pastor. In defiance of this order he told his landlady to collect a part of the sum for his board, and because of this he was fined \$85. Mr. Walton admits borrowing \$500, but says he has no money with which to pay the debt.

The question of having sick and disabled sailors admitted to the St. John Public Hospital was considered by the Local Government this week and the conclusion arrived at was that it would be inadvisable to have the practice continued. The government has drawn the attention of the officers of the commission to its view and requested him to have the matter considered by the commission so that the government may be approached with a view of having the marine hospital established in St. John.

It is up to the Common Council and the people as to whether the head of the fire department, Chief Kerr, shall or shall not receive a \$300 increase of salary. His present stipend is \$1,000. The new work would make it \$1,300. Some of the aldermen are of the opinion that the job is worth the money, others think differ. In the words of a philosopher of to day 'you pay your money and you take your choice.'

There is one dismaying voice in the Common Council against St. John holding an exhibition this fall, even if a grant of \$500 would meet the matter. Ald. Christie has set himself down in a fast footed manner as opposed to exhibitions in general and the St. John one in particular. The North End aldermen made some caustic remarks as regards past exhibitors and their usefulness in assisting the city. The matter has caused considerable comment.

The Haymarket Square Polymorphians never do things by halves. They intend holding for their merry carnival at the Victoria rink next Friday night. Many new and amusing features are promised. A barrel of fun with \$40 worth of cash prizes therein is. The boys should be extended the big and loving hand.

Who will be our new Mayor? So far Ald. Colwell is the only candidate in the field. There are said to be many dark horses however. Rumors are rife with several names. Some peculiar canvasses will, it is said, be put forth by some of the candidates to be.

It is even hinted that there will be some combination voting. For instance the colored men, so it has leaked out will unite upon the man that will safeguard their interests. He will have a nice job if the St. Phillips Church matters in any criterion.

Dog days passed away with the sunshine last summer. Last Thursday was dog day in the city court. An action was commenced on behalf of E. J. Hiatt, baker, against LeBaron Robertson and J. King Kelly. The plaintiff seeks to recover \$400, the value of five hens, which he alleges were destroyed by two irascible Irish setters, owned by the defendants. He also claims \$2,500 damages caused by the dogs breaking into the henery. Mr. Hiatt lives on Mount Pleasant and Mr. Kelly is a neighbor. Mr. Robertson's dog, he alleges, spends a good deal of time at the residence of a relative of his master's and fraternizes with the setter owned by Mr. Kelly. There seemed to be some difficulty in proving positively the ownership of the dogs, for the witness who saw the slaughter of the unfortunate fowls was obliged to admit that two other Irish setters might possibly have done it, although he said the canines owned by the defendants were the only ones he ever saw around Mount Pleasant. Mr. H. H. Fickett appeared for the plaintiff and Mr. J. B. M. Baxter for the defendants. The case was adjourned until next Thursday.

The Lord's Day Alliance were entirely

ignored last Sunday. Had any of the august body visited Lily Lake last Sunday afternoon their sensibilities would probably have received a severe shock. For the skating on the lake was excellent, and it was taken advantage of by an exceptionally large number of men and boys. There was more than one member of the fair sex present, too.

It was a good and kindly act of doughty Sergt. Campbell when on the arrival of two young women from Halifax on Thursday night having come here looking for employment, called at the central police station shortly after midnight and informed Sergt. Campbell and Policeman Sullivan that they had lost \$5, all the money they possessed. Sergt. Campbell not considering the accommodations at police headquarters adequate for the two young women, arranged for a night's lodging for them at a King square hotel.

It would be a great boon to St. John to secure the CPR engines and car works for this city.

The CPR will require for their new works between three hundred and fifty and six hundred acres of land. This land can easily be secured within a very short distance of the Bay Shore terminal. The building of the plant will give employment to many thousands of men, but it is the permanent employment after the works are in operation which will be of inestimable value to St. John. In the works when completed, no less than seven thousand men will be employed, and these will support at least thirty five thousand persons.

The advantages of this location over any other in Canada are many. All the natural requirements are present and besides these the facilities for bringing all the materials necessary to the work are better than at any other point on the line.

Car-building is undergoing a complete change and steel and iron are rapidly taking the place of wood. St. John is next door to the Dominion Iron and Steel Co., in Sydney, the largest plant in Canada, and from there could easily be brought much of the material required. The steamers sailing to the south could bring here large quantities of southern pine and white oak from Virginia or if they could not, other steamers might be put in—the industry could stand it. The winter port steamer could include in their cargoes car metals from euwland, and, in fact, everything necessary the works might be had in St. John more easily than anywhere else.

What is particularly required to bring this great industry here is immediate application and a strong enforcement of St. John's advantages by the common council and the board of trade.

### MARCONI TALKS BACK.

We Send Wireless Messages Here From Shipboard Far Out At Sea.

Signor Marconi, who sailed for Europe on Wednesday on the Philadelphia, to perfect the apparatus on the other side for transmitting wireless messages to this continent, did not say farewell to New York until some five hours after the steamship had left her pier. By means of his own system of wireless telegraphy, just installed on the Philadelphia, Mr. Marconi kept up a chat all that time with his representative here, W. W. Bradford, and was able to attend to several small matters which he had forgotten in the bustle of departure besides informing the American Line's where their ship was in response to a request from them. She encountered a fog down the bay, and they were very glad to hear that he had got out of it all right.

The messages from Marconi were received on board the French liner La Savoie, at her pier here she to being fitted with the wireless telegraphy. Among other things Signor Marconi sent word that he wanted to test the instruments on the Philadelphia with those at the Nantucket station and he asked Mr. Bradford to advise

Nantucket to lookout for him that evening. Evidently Marconi missed connections with Nantucket. Mr. Bradford was informed from there yesterday that they had not heard from the Philadelphia, and the supposition is that the ship went too far southward. Her instruments, Mr. Bradford said, were of the kind that only carry seventy miles.

### Science Could not Explain It.

A distinguished naturalist recently gave dinner to a number of learned men. At the conclusion of the repast the company went into the garden in the centre of which stood a large glass globe, on a pedestal. Happening to touch this globe, one of the guests discovered to his amazement that it was much warmer on the shady side than on the side facing the sun. He immediately communicated his discovery to his friends.

A warm argument sprang up, and in the course of the debate the phenomenon was attributed to the law of reflection or repulsion or something equally formidable.

The host however had his suspicions as to the correctness of the theories, and sent for his gardener. When he put in an appearance, the gentleman said:

'John, can you tell us why this globe is warmer on the shady side than on the sunny side?'

'Well,' replied the man slowly, 'the fact is I just turned it round for I was afraid that the heat would cook it.'

### A Double Team.

A man who was bicycling in southern France was pushing his machine up a steep hill when he overtook a peasant with a donkey-cart. The peasant was making but little progress, although it was doing its best.

The benevolent cyclist, putting his left hand against the back of the cart and guiding his machine with the other hand pushed so hard that the donkey, taking fresh courage, pulled his load successfully up to the top.

When the summit was reached the peasant burst into thanks to his benefactor.

It was good of you, indeed, monsieur! he protested. 'I should never in the world have got up the hill with only one donkey.'

### A Bug That Sleeps In A Lace Gown.

Do you want to see a beautiful bug tucked away for the winter? Go to the nearest sycamore tree and lift up a small piece of its bark from the trunk at about the height of your head from the ground. There lives the lace bug, active in summer, asleep in winter. This tiny creature is only about an eighth of an inch long and to the naked eye seems simply white. But any ordinary magnifying glass will disclose its beauty. Two long shovels of lace down the back form its wings. Its neck is surrounded by an Elizabethan ruff of lace. It wears a lace cap on its head. If you admire lace gowns, here is a real one fresh from the hand of the Great Weaver.

### Caligula's Gallies.

Prince Orsini, who is the owner of the beautiful Lake Nemi, near Rome, has facilitated in every possible way the efforts of the Italian government to raise the two galleys of Caligula which were sunk A. D. 41 off the shores of this lovely sheet of water. Sufficient has been recovered at present to disclose the astounding fact that the vessels in question measure respectively 225 feet and 237 feet in length by 60 feet and 75 feet in width. Their decks were evidently covered with splendid mosaics, and already an immense number of magnificent bronze objects, among them a beautiful head of Medusa, are to be seen at the prince's where eventually a museum is to be organized of objects in connection with the ancient alleys.