

PROGRESS.

VOL. XIII, NO. 664.

ST. JOHN, N. B., SATURDAY MAY 4, 1901.

Board of Works Started 1901
FIVE CENT

SURROUNDED BY MYSTERY.

Halifax Has a Case of Suicide—An Act That Has Caused Much Excitement.

Suicides, like troubles never come singly. On Thursday the daily papers contained the information that two parties had become tired of life and took exactly the same means of taking their departure to their eternal homes. One of these sad events took place in St. John, the other in Halifax. The latter is surrounded in the greatest mystery inasmuch as the principal is unknown. It is the general belief that one who commits suicide must be insane, whether this is a fact or not, it must be said that almost every case of taking one's life has surrounded it the strongest proof of a deliberate attempt to commit the deed with the greatest certainty and in the quickest manner possible. Most suicides have given evidence that they consider the revolver the best weapon for accomplishing their object. The lady who shot herself in Halifax on Wednesday, Mr. Wilson who took his life here on the same day and Mr. Connor whose suicide occurred a time ago, all used the revolver as their instrument of transport into the unknown regions. Many other cases could be cited if necessary. The revolver may truthfully be called the suicidal weapon.

The Halifax tragedy cannot but be looked upon but as the act of a lunatic. A lady arrives from Boston, registers as a Mrs. Eastman, Quebec, at one of the leading hotels. Apparently she was in the best of circumstances. On her arrival she purchases a revolver, returns to her room, destroys every trace of her identity, pays her hotel bill, sits down in a chair, puts the revolver to her head and blows out her brains. This is the story of the taking of a human life, told in brief. The unfortunate woman attended to everything down to the minutest details. It is not every person, who intended going on such a long trip who would have been so particular about paying a board bill. There are not a few who take much shorter journeys than this woman, who would have forgotten such a little matter.

Then who is this Mrs. Eastman is a question that is puzzling everyone. That the name Eastman is assumed is taken for granted, otherwise the woman would never have taken the precaution to destroy all letters and erase her name from her clothing. It is a peculiar circumstance that at this very time in the States, a Harvard professor by the name of Eastman, is undergoing trial for the shooting of his brother-in-law. The theory may be advanced that the Halifax murderess has been taking too deep an interest in this Eastman trial. She got her mind to such an extent that the mind became unbalanced. It is an undisputed fact that persons of a suicidal tendency, frequently become demented on reading or hearing of the taking of human life. The supposed Mrs. Eastman is probably one of those characters. As it is the Halifax misfortune must furnish a lot of thought to the average searcher into the depths of the mysterious.

The suicide of Mr. George E. Wilson on Wednesday in this city, sad as it was, is not so mysterious. Mr. Wilson like Mrs. Eastman blew out his brains with a revolver. But his case is but a repetition of many other suicides. The ravages of disease on the human mind, producing a state of despondency which finally turned to insanity accounts for the taking of human life in this instance. Mr. Wilson was a well known young man and his early death under such sad circumstances is to be regretted. St. John has had many cases of suicide in the last few years. They have all been sad and to sorrowing relatives a community may well extend sympathy.

It is probable that the identity of Mrs. Eastman will be established within a very short time. Such mysteries are generally solved sooner or later. Enquiry made points very strongly to the fact that the lady came from St. John not from Boston. On Saturday last a lady registered at the Dufferin Hotel under the name of Mrs. Mary W. Cross. She remained at the Dufferin until Tuesday when she took the C. P. R. for Halifax. Telegrams be-

tween the two places as to the description of this Mrs. Cross and Mrs. Eastman point out pretty clearly that it is one and the same person. Those who met Mrs. Cross while here speak of her as being a quiet and very lady-like person and one apparently in very good circumstances. She registered as coming from Wollboro, N. H., and that place was communicated with.

The Associated press on Friday morning received in answer to the inquiry a dispatch saying: The supposed identification of the woman who killed herself in a Halifax hotel yesterday, as Mrs. Mary W. Cross, of Wollboro, N. H., is not cleared up here. No person of that name lives in town, but it is remembered that for several summers a Mrs. Cross and her daughter, the latter known as Mabel, came here as visitors. It is thought the daughter married a commercial traveller of Boston, and the latest report of the couple that friends of the young woman here remembered was that she was not living with her husband. The mother, at last accounts, was living in Chelsea. The description of the dead woman, as printed in the paper, tallies with that of the Miss Cross who came here as a summer visitor.

The Futurescope. The Futurescope after a rest of several days has been able to grind out a few interesting paragraphs this week. From a paper of July 1912 the following item is taken.

"The St. John hook and ladder truck purchased some years ago, still stands as an ornament in the fire station. There is some talk of levelling the streets of the city in order that the horses may be able to draw the 'elephant' should a fire occur at any time.

August 1904—Lieut. Weldon McLean had a good breakfast, dinner and supper today. He expects to retire at ten tonight and rise about seven in the morning.

May 1912—Mr. George Robertson expects to take a trip to England shortly in connection with his dry dock scheme. It is said that St. John may see the beginning of the building of a dry dock some day if the water in the harbor does not dry up in the meantime.

Sept. 1914—It is expected that the freedom of the city will be granted to all persons who fail to pay their taxes before the first of next month.

Our Chief Will Go.

The city has decided to send Chief Clarke to the New York convention of police chiefs. Our gallant chief will no doubt reflect credit upon his city at that important gathering. He should make the New Yorker stare as he proceeds down Broadway with his military stride decked out in one of his magnificent uniforms. The chief desired \$125 for expenses, but the council wouldn't give more than \$100. Why it was found necessary to take off \$25 is one of those mysterious proceedings that St. John city council has become famous. If it is necessary to send Chief Clarke to New York it is but right that he should go properly and cutting off \$25 is not an action that reflects much credit on the city.

That Truck.

One of the city aldermen expresses the opinion that the new hook and ladder truck is "an elephant on our hands." There is not a few citizens who think very much the same as this City Father. That the new truck requires more than two horses to haul it is a foregone conclusion and a fire apparatus that requires three or four studs to carry it to its destination is not one of those progressive articles that people care about having in this enlightened age. The truth is that the new truck is not suitable for a hilly city like St. John, but it is not the first expensive and useless toy that the ratepayers have had to pay for, and probably it is not the last.

Lumbering at Loch Lomond.

Mr. Robert Moore, who is sometimes called the mayor and king of Loch Lomond, has shown his energy and aggressiveness by getting a large portion of his log drive

down to Misep all ready. His lumbering operations this year were extensive, amounting to \$500,000. This would not be considered much in the extensive lumbering districts of the provinces, but for Loch Lomond it is a most considerable cut. Mr. Moore has many operators with him who are quite capable of doing the work that is allotted to them.

TWO FAMED CANNONS. Colleges Which Possess Prizes of Much Value.

Dalhousie college has been presented with an old cannon, which is said to be of great antiquity, having been taken from the harbor at Louisburg where it is supposed to have been sunk many years ago during one of the old British-French hostilities. New Brunswick University also possesses a very old cannon. So in this particular the two colleges have a prize of similar value. No doubt both of these cannons have their interesting history. The one possessed by the Fredericton University, is said never to have seen the light of day. Every Encoenia night it is taken from a hole in the ground, fired off by the graduating class, then handed over to the next class who immediately bury it, and this performance is repeated annually. Dalhousie's cannon is not to be surrounded by so much mystery, as it is to be put up to the public view. The New Brunswick cannon has become valuable not so much on account of its antiquity as on account of its exclusiveness. Nobody but the graduates of the University has seen the cannon and then it has only been seen in the dark.

Honor Well Merited.

On Tuesday last Dalhousie College conferred the degree of L. L. D. on C. F. Fraser, the superintendent of the School for the Blind, Halifax. Dalhousie has been very conservative with its honorary degrees and it can be said of that institution what cannot be said of all seats of learning, that it has never made a mistake in presenting its honorary degree. Mr. Fraser's case is no exception. Few men have done more for the advancement of education than has the Halifax Superintendent. When he took charge of the school over which he now presides it was in a small and weak condition. But today, under the most able management the institution has come to be one of the leading seats of learning in Canada. What Mr. Fraser has accomplished for the blind cannot be told in a short article. By conferring the degree of L. L. D. upon Mr. Fraser, Dalhousie has honored itself.

Wealthy Bondsmen.

The suit of G. S. Mayes against Mr. Connolly, to recover \$92,000, will be watched with interest by St. John people. Mr. Connolly it will be remembered was arrested here a short time ago. The big contractor had no trouble to furnish bondsmen. Mr. James McAvity, Mr. Geo. McAvity, Joseph Likely and M. A. Finn, it is understood, became the responsible parties as Mr. Connolly's bail.

Disgraceful Streets.

The streets of St. John are in a disgraceful condition. Last Thursday the dust blew in clouds in all directions. It is about time the streets of St. John were receiving some little attention. If tourists are expected here this summer, it will be just as well to give them the most favorable impression of our town. No one could certainly have a very high opinion of the city while the streets remain in their deplorable condition.

Deaths.

The death of Geo. S. P. Hawker was heard this week with much regret. Mr. Hawker was a young man of many good qualities and his demise at such an early age calls forth much sympathy for his grieving parents and relatives. The death also of Thos. Patton on board ship came as a blow to his many friends. Mr. Patton who up to a short time ago resided with F. G. Lansdowne of Sussex, was well known in this city. His early death leaves many sad hearts.

Moose Comes High.

The "budget speech" in the New Brunswick legislature disclosed the interesting estimate that the average cost of capturing a bull moose, taking into account, of course,

EVENTS OF CITY LIFE.

Mr. Timmerman's Removal to Ontario—Many Items of Interest to "Progress" Readers.

The removal of Mr. H. P. Timmerman from St. John to Ontario is to be regretted by the people of New Brunswick. For many years Mr. Timmerman has been the chief superintendent of the Atlantic Division of the C. P. R. and in consequence of that important position, he has been brought into contact with our leading business interest. The development of the winter port necessarily brought him and the citizens together on several occasions to discuss matters of the most important interest to St. John. In all these meetings Mr. Timmerman showed himself to be a man equal to the occasion while always looking after the interest of his great corporation he ever displayed a friendliness to this city. The C. P. R. is always ready to recognize ability in its employees and the promotion of Mr. Timmerman to the important position of superintendent of the Ontario system speaks more to his credit than anything that could be written. The chief business men here intend giving Mr. Timmerman a farewell dinner. The undertaking is a commendable one and will meet with approval everywhere. Mr. Osborne who comes to take the superintendency here, will receive a welcome and all will wish him the best of fortune in his future career.

A Corroboration.

A daily paper finds fault with PROGRESS for stating that a former secretary treasurer of York County who was behind in his accounts afterwards became clerk of the House of Assembly. The daily paper says the attack is unfair, that the Secretary Treasurer had been robbed by the employees of his office and in that way his accounts became short. This no contradiction of the story published in this paper, but a corroboration PROGRESS did not accuse Mr. Rainford of doing anything wrong. It simply stated the fact that he was behind hand and the Daily paper acknowledges the truth of the statement. In stating the truth it is difficult to see wherein there is an unwarranted and unfair attack, especially when the one that criticizes agrees with the statement.

Mr. Robertson's Return.

The result of Mr. Geo. Robertson extended trip to England in connection with the Dry Dock is awaited with interest. So far little is known as to the success or failure of his visit. Mr. Robertson is known as an energetic and enterprising gentleman and so many feel that he does not come home empty handed. Of course it is not to be expected that he comes back with a dry dock scheme in his pocket. There are no doubt many conditions requiring fulfillment before St. John can hope to have its much coveted dock but if Mr. Robertson has accomplished the way by which the scheme can take practical shape his trip will be termed a highly successful one.

A Good Sized Reptile.

Mr. Rudman Allen's store Charlotte street contains a curiosity which has been exciting much interest this week. A snake measuring thirteen and a half feet is not a reptile seen in St. John every day. This is what Mr. Allen has been exhibiting to the public this week and his visitors have been many.

Moving Day.

The first of May was a busy day for many people in St. John. Moving is not a desirable undertaking, but the weather bureau was in its good behavior so the white man's burden was not as difficult as it might have been. It was a harvest day for the truckman and so some people were made happy.

Dinner to Lt. McLean.

Lt. McLean was given a complimentary dinner at the Union Club Thursday night, by a number of his friends. The usual good time was put in and speeches of a happy order made. Mr. McLean leaves St. John followed by the best wishes of its citizens.

Chairs Re-seated, Cane, Splint, Porcelain, etc., Duval, 17 Waterloo.

the money the hunter expends while he is in the province, is five hundred dollars. But moose "come high"—but sportsmen willingly stand a tiptoe to hand pocket-books on their antlers.

Successful Entertainment.

The spectacular recital of Longfellow's poem Evangeline, given by local amateurs at the Institute Thursday evening was a highly successful entertainment. When St. John local talent undertake, they always put through most creditably and the audience who attended the Institute in anticipation of witnessing a good evening's entertainment were not disappointed. Every incident of the thrilling poem was listened to with the deepest interest and the pictures presented of the everyday life of the simple Acadians were gracefully grouped and made most artistic stage scenes.

Baseball Prospects.

The outlook for this coming season of baseball is assuming a good shape. Present indications look as if the Roses and Alerts will both have imported batteries this season. John O'Neill (Tip) and Thomas Burns will manage the Roses while the Alerts will be under the protection of last season's managers. It is very likely that "Victoria Day" will, as usual, see the old teams lined up in battle array, ready to please the public by putting up a good article of ball.

Mr. Lavers' Death.

Mr. George E. Lavers whose death is announced at Rochester N. Y., on Tuesday last was a gentleman well known throughout the Maritime Provinces. As provincial manager of the North American life assurance company he came in contact with a very large number. Of genial disposition and a man of good business principles he established for himself a high reputation and his death will be greatly felt by many friends.

Carroll Hall.

Mr. John H. Bond, for many years connected with the Victoria Hotel, has leased the handsome brick property on Waterloo Street, known as Carroll Hall and will continue on the business for some time conducted by the late Mrs. Gillespie. Mr. Bond has had the interior of the building thoroughly renovated and under his able proprietorship the place will no doubt be first class in all its appointments.

Nearing Completion.

The census enumerators have pretty well finished their work, and a very few more days more should complete the job. The enumerators are very reticent as to making any statements, but their labors in this city have gone along smoothly and their life has not been a hard one. It is likely that many of them are glad that the work is so nearly finished.

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