

PROGRESS.

Board of Works 8May08

VOL. V., NO. 226.

ST. JOHN, N. B., SATURDAY, AUGUST 27, 1892.

PRICE FIVE CENTS.

LEE AND HIS METHODS.

PECULIARITIES OF THE MAN OF WHOM EVERYBODY IS TALKING.

His Ways Were Always Eccentric and He Carried a Heavy Load for Years—How He Used to Avoid His Office When Creditors Were Around.

It is a matter of record that Mr. G. Herbert Lee, A. M., B. C. L., etc., etc., won the French prize at the university, and that when he took "French leave" of St. John he showed a skill and ability that has never been surpassed and rarely equalled. A few weeks ago, Progress was in the possession of facts in regard to Mr. Lee's record which have since been made notorious



GEORGE HERBERT LEE.

by the daily papers. It has, indeed, been cognizant of his general unreliability for two or three years past, but as the same may be said of other men who still enjoy the confidence of the public, there seemed no good reason why he should be held up as a special example. Progress was, doubtless, too lenient with him, for the sake of his friends, but it was believed that matters were less hopeless for him than they have since proven to be.

A brief notice was made last week of a case in which Mr. Lee was an offender, though his name was not given. The sufferer was Mr. Dunn, of Southwark street, an aged and infirm man, who gave Mr. Lee a power of attorney to draw \$1,000 from his Savings bank. It was one of many cases in which the poor were made victims.

In the autobiography of Mr. Lee, published in a work issued a few years ago, he claimed that he enjoyed a good general practice, "a specialty being made of collecting." That is quite evident now, but the collections went into his own pockets, and not into those of his clients.

A great many people looked upon Mr. Lee as a nervous, excitable man, whose odd ways were a subject for amusement. His manner was that of a person who was likely to misdirect a great deal of energy through having more ambition than method. His very gait was erratic. He would walk a few steps and break into a trot as if in a chronic hurry to get somewhere. Little things annoyed him. A year or two ago he grew wildly excited over the fact that Geo. W. Day's presses were at work on the upper floor of the Pugsley building, and when Mr. Day rigged an exhaust pipe for a gas engine in the rear of the building, Mr. Lee wanted to procure an injunction. None of the other tenants in the building complained, but with Mr. Lee it seemed a very serious matter.

Mr. Lee gambled. Not with cards or other paraphernalia of the gambling house, but just as certainly, or uncertainly, by speculating in stocks. He used other people's money with the hope that some lucky day he would be able to replace what he had taken. At the last, of course, he was driven to all sorts of desperate expedients and seems to have become utterly reckless as to the consequence. Few had any idea that he speculated, because he did it so quietly. One newsdealer in the city suspected the truth, however, from the fact that Mr. Lee was always on the watch for the arrival of the New York Herald, the stock quotations of which he would scan day by day with evident anxiety and interest. He did not buy the paper, but having seen how the quotations were, would lay it down and walk out of the shop.

He appears to have had an objection to buying anything when he could get it for nothing. In his efforts to get money how and where he could, he made many notes of hand with no definite idea of how they were to be met when they fell due. He used to be in the habit of rushing into a stationer's shop, near his residence, and asking the proprietor to oblige him by letting him have two or three blank notes. Securing them, he would rush out without offering anything in payment. The stationer began to get tired of this kind of work, so one day Mr. Lee was about going away with a new batch of notes the stationer demanded five cents, informing him that he had already had about 250 notes for nothing. "If you have the gall to come in and get them, I have the gall to ask you to

pay for them," was the way the matter was put. Mr. Lee looked surprised, but said he had no change and would pay the next time he came in. "No, you won't," was the reply. "You will either pay for them now or leave them here." He left them.

From this it will be seen that not only did Mr. Lee not pay his notes, but he did not even pay for the paper they were written on.

Mr. Lee was not a man who lived beyond what his legitimate means should be. He rented a very good house and kept three servants, it is true, but the income honestly his in connection with his practice apparently justified the expenditure. He was in most matters considered to be rather close than otherwise, and was hard up for ready money most of the time.

It is stated by Mr. Lee's friends that he has been in the position of a toad under a harrow for years. He started in life without means, and incurred heavy liabilities, which increased from year to year. He had more respectability than cash in entering upon an overworked profession. The most remarkable assertion made is that he was \$12,000 in debt when he was married. This would have been sufficiently appalling to a single man, but for one to enter upon a more expensive style of living when so handicapped seems akin to the act of an insane man. A good many people have, indeed, had an idea that Mr. Lee was "a little out," as they expressed it, and during the last year there have been fears that he would become positively insane. Whether he was a little "out" or



Geo. F. BAIRD, M. P., Lee's Captor.

not, his creditors are a good deal out at the present time.

Lee's conduct since his detention in Boston has been that of a weak and thoroughly unnerfed man. He is broken down and really in a pitiable state. It seems pretty certain that he has little or no money with him, for he was hard-up to the last while in St. John. On the very day of his departure he borrowed \$150 of a druggist of his acquaintance, and it is believed he had little if any more than this to cover the expenses of his journey.

The sheriff has charge of the deserted house by virtue of a warrant under the Absconding Debtor's Act. The daily papers have been accumulating in the front porch where the newsboys have thrown them, and for several days the ice man regularly deposited a lump of ice on the sidewalk to be melted away by the hot sun.

Last Wednesday the man seemed to have learned that Mr. Lee had left the city, for after leaving the ice early in the morning, he came back later in the day and carried away what was left of it. Mr. Lee had probably not paid his ice bill in advance, and the ice man doubtless thought there was no use in carrying out the contract on the chance of having the account settled.

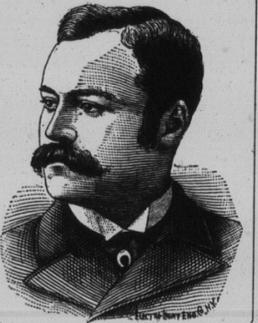
MR. LEE AT HIS OFFICE.

How He Got There, and the Daily Crowd of Patient Waiters.

Mr. Lee was always in a hurry. No matter where you met him, in the morning or in the evening, or at any other time, he was always in a rush. He never walked around a corner like an ordinary man. He would throw his arm across his chest, break into a run and save a few feet of the distance by taking a straight-away course from one angle of the street to the other. In this way he would go and return from his office every day. When he reached the Pugsley building in the morning, it was not his custom, latterly at least, to go directly to his office. He would seek the quarters of some brother lawyer and there request the office boy to go to his office and see if there was anyone waiting for him. If there was Mr. Lee would not show up. If there was not, the way was open, and once in his office he was "not at home." It was probable that he had more callers during the day than the most successful lawyer in town. There was someone always waiting to see him. If you went to interview him, you would meet from two to twenty persons either outside of or inside of his office. Needless to say he did not see all these people. They were waiting patiently for his return, while all the time he was sitting quietly in his inside office waiting for them to get tired and leave him.

His methods of borrowing money while

about the same from everyone whom he patronized were to say the least, curious. He offered enormous percentages. If he borrowed from brokers the amount of interest he paid did not seem to trouble him in the least. He was willing to pay liberal commissions in addition to short time rates, and short time rates with him amounted from one per cent. to two per cent. per month. Then when the note fell due, so long as it was not in the bank it did not seem to worry him. He had a fashion of calling on the lender, say a day or two before payment was due, and saying that he had not forgotten about that note and would call in and pay it either on the day it was due or the day after. Those whom he borrowed from, however, soon became aware of his numberless shifts to evade payment, and it was only by persistent dunning that even the smallest



J. DOUGLAS HAZEN, M. P., Representative of the Drury Estate, who has been interviewing Lee in Boston.

amounts could be obtained from him. If you met Lee in the corridor of a bank or even on the street and knew him tolerably well, he was almost sure to ask you to lend him \$10, \$20 or \$100. Not a few of his friends have sustained losses of these small amounts, about which, naturally enough, they say nothing. Last Saturday morning as he walked down town to the post office he called on a intimate friend and borrowed \$15 from him. Perhaps this was the money that took him to Boston.

It was over two years ago that Progress first exposed the actions of Mr. Lee in relation to the case of Mrs. Osborne, who sued the then town of Portland to recover damages for an injury she received from falling on the street. Mr. Lee, whom her husband before his death had told her to trust in everything, and who had managed his affairs for her, was intrusted with her case. He settled it with the town of Portland for about \$150, and when making up his bill of expense he called on Dr. Andrews the physician who attended Mrs. Osborne and asked him what was the amount of his bill. "It all depends who has to pay," said the doctor. "If Mrs. Osborne has to pay it will not be much, if the town is to pay I may as well receive my full fee." "Well, about how much would it be?" said Lee. "I do not suppose," said the doctor, "that \$20 would be out of the way." "Call it \$40,00," said Lee and I will see that you get your money. So in his bill of expenses to Mrs. Osborne he included Dr. Andrews' bill at \$40.00. He might have made it \$80 for that matter, for Mrs. Osborne never received one cent of the \$150, and she says he even refused her the price of a load of coal when she needed it. Dr. Andrews' collector succeeded a year afterwards in securing \$15 from him.

THEIR WAY OF ENTERTAINING.

Halifax Men Issue Invitations and Ask the "Invited" to Share the Expense.

The generosity and openheartedness of certain Halifax gentlemen, lately spending their summer holidays at Digby, will in future never be called into question, writes an occasional correspondent of Progress.

The incident which led up to the establishment of this belief is undoubtedly worthy of record, as, although Digby people will never forget it, those living elsewhere should, it is thought, be benefited by their experience.

Several of these highly cultured individuals (moving of course in the "upper ten" while at the garrison city) wishing, as they said, to show their appreciation of kindness received from residents of Digby, extended invitations for a dance at the Myrtle House for Monday evening last to a number of Digbyites and a larger number of summer visitors, most of them ladies on whom they "danced attendance." Towards the close of the evening the Digby men were politely informed that their share of the expenses was \$1.38 each, payable on demand. Although always ready to assist strangers in a case of "hard up," Digby boys received this modest little request as an unexpected honor, appreciating the kindness of their entertainers in saving them all troubles as to the inviting of their guests, and the general arrangements of their party.

MEN WHO ARE NOT IN IT.

THE FIREMEN'S RELIEF ASSOCIATION IS PARTICULAR.

Drawing the Line as to Membership in an Organization Intended for the Benefit of All—Men Who Will be Rejected if They Apply for Admission.

As was announced last week, the St. John Firemen's Relief association will not have a picnic this year. The season is getting too far advanced to make the necessary preparations, for one thing, and the chief engineer has had something to say about it, for another thing. He told the men plainly that he did not propose to ask the men to do anything for the association so long as it pursued the narrow policy of excluding from its ranks a certain class of men. By this class he meant members of the fire department who are Roman Catholics.

The association was organized in 1882, and its constitution begins with the following broad and philanthropic preamble:

Whereas, it is desirable to draw closer the ties of human sympathy, and strengthen the bond of brotherhood between the members of the Saint John Fire Department, by the formation of a society, having for its object the relief of sick and disabled members of the Fire Brigade; it is therefore resolved that the undersigned members of the Saint John Fire Brigade shall form themselves into an association for the purpose of effecting uniformity in the administration of relief, and render pecuniary aid to each other during sickness or accidents incident to human life, and let union and friendship be their motto.

The intention of the organizers was to render eligible any member of the department who should pay the \$5 entrance fee. There was no intention to define any line of demarcation as to politics or religion. If a man was fit to be a fireman and took the risks which the others took, he was supposed to be justly entitled to the sick and funeral benefits for which the constitution provided.

The original constitution provided that any regular member of the department "may become a member of the association" by making application in writing, etc. There was nothing as to his being elected, nor was it in contemplation that he could be rejected. The association was intended for all. Subsequently a provision was made that the applicant should be elected by a vote of two-thirds of the members present at any regular meeting. In the original order of business there was no mention of balloting or voting for candidates.

One would suppose, ordinarily, that unless there was something decidedly wrong with a man, he could pass a two-thirds vote in any organization. Most societies are much more strict, and there are bodies in which even one black bean will reject. To all intents and purposes, however, there might as well be the requirement of a unanimous vote as of a two-thirds vote, when an applicant for membership in the Firemen's Relief association happens to be a Roman Catholic. He is "not in it."

Nobody of that faith tries it now-a-days. Three years ago, Father McGourty, a call man, of No. 2, made application and was rejected. There was nothing alleged against him, but he had been taught to believe in transubstantiation, while those who rejected him had not. Last year J. O'Leary, a call man, of No. 1, also made application and was rejected. There was nothing against him either, save that he adhered to the faith of his fathers. Had he been a protestant by name, whether he had any religious belief or not, he would have been accepted.

There are other call men who have not applied, and will not, because it is morally certain that they will be refused admission. There is no sound reason why such men as Michael Reynolds, of 2, John Colohan, of 1, and John Duffy, of 5, should not be members of an association designed for the mutual relief of all St. John firemen—an organization intended "to draw closer the ties of human sympathy."

There are a number of permanent men, protestants, who are not members of the association, but there is no doubt they can be if they so desire. It is otherwise with such men as Barney Corey, of 3, Michael Finnigan, of 4, Arthur Delaney, of 5, Hugh McLroy, of H. and L. 3, and Lawrence Mahoney, of H. and L. 1. These men and their families should have an equal right to any benefits which other firemen get in case of disability or death.

When Chief Kerr claims this, some of the members of the association say that he is "influenced by Kelly and Connor and McGoldrick," which is by no means a new allegation.

District engineer Brown is a member of the association, and so is district engineer Blake, but district engineer Blackadar is not. The latter was one of the founders, but dropped out when he was in the common council. It he wants to get back now, he must be voted for as if he were a new member.

The reserve fund, out of which and the assessments some \$1,500 was paid last year, has been accumulated in part by the entertainments for the benefit of the association, and in part by donations of various kinds. Where there have been gifts, they

have been given, presumably, for the benefit of the firemen of St. John, and not for the protestant portion of them alone. When appointments are made to the force, the question of religion does not enter into the matter. If the man suits in other respects he can believe in any creed he pleases or no creed at all.

As one third of the population is Roman Catholic, it is not to be wondered that that church is represented on the force, and it is likely to be just as often as the first good man whose name is down for a vacancy happens to be of that faith. And the same remark will apply to members of the Loyal Orange association. There is no "religious test" required in a man who is needed to fight fire.

The objects of the Firemen's Relief association are excellent, and if carried out according to the original intention should have the cooperation and support of all classes of citizens. It may be otherwise if questions of class and creed are to be kept to the front as they have been.

BOYS IN FOR BUSINESS.

They are Up Bright and Early and Off to the Country for Lilies and "Cat-tails."

The number of boys who go into business on their own account and make the best of the summer season grows larger every year. On Charlotte and King streets young fellows with lilies and other flowers that are irresistible on a fine day solicit attention at every corner. Some of them do quite a trade. They are out early in the morning, off to the lakes and swamps, make up their stock in trade, then come to town.

Lilies go like hot cakes at one cent a piece, ten cents a dozen, and cat-tails are a fad for home decoration.

A young fellow who pushed his calling in Progress office the other day said he made from \$1.00 to \$2.00 a day from the sale of cat-tails. He got them out at Red Head, and usually brings in over 100. These he sells for two cents a piece, or 20 cents a dozen, and never has any over.

People buy them in all quantities from one to a dozen or two dozen, and they are in demand at the stores around town as well as in private houses.

The boys usually work in companies and there are some very young ones in the business, who manage to make lots of pocket money.

A Great Race Meeting.

The advertisement of the Halifax races in September, which appears on the eighth page of this issue shows that the interest in trotting has increased wonderfully in the capital of Nova Scotia. It has never lacked encouragement in the Province, because such towns as Truro, Kentville, Yarmouth and Amherst own probably the fastest horses in Eastern Canada, and each of these towns has a splendid race track of its own. But in Halifax running races have hitherto been more popular than trotting. The splendid purses, however, offered for this meeting would indicate a great revival of interest in the trotting horse in Halifax. The meeting will extend over three days, and since the riding ground is a member of the National Trotting Association and the officials of the course gentlemen who know their business thoroughly, the meeting should be a successful one.

Drinking Beer During the Sermon.

The Mission church was pretty well filled with red coats Sunday morning, and after a long march in a hot sun, many were by no means comfortable during the service. A number of them were thirsty and thought more of satisfying their thirst than in entering into the spirit of the occasion, and taking an active part in the service. The gas room of the Mission church is on the Paradise row side, near the chancel. It has a door leading to the street, but this is closed by a wire netting. Sunday morning a number of thirsty red coats got in the room, forced off part of the netting with their bayonets and made an opening large enough to pass a bottle through. Some small boys who were waiting for the soldiers to come out, were sent for beer and passed it in through the opening to the thirsty ones. This was kept up for some time, while Rev. Father Williams preached an excellent sermon on the duties of the soldier.

Mr. Martin's Opinion.

In the report of the superintendent of streets, Mr. George H. Martin, that official, in reference to King and Queen squares, takes occasion to remark that, "last spring 200 evergreen trees and shrubs were set out on these squares, and from present appearances, I believe that a large part of them will live and grow, and eventually be quite ornamental." This report is addressed to the director of public safety, by whom these trees were purchased without authority from anybody. From the present appearance of them, it would seem that Superintendent Martin is not an authority on forestry.

RULES FOR THE CONTEST.

If You Are In for the Silver Service Make a Note of them.

Those who are collecting coupons for Progress silver service will please observe the following conditions:

Coupons may be sent in up to and including Wednesday, Sept. 28th, but Saturday, Sept. 24th is the last day the coupon will appear.

All who are trying for the service must send in what coupons they have collected before Friday, September 2, in order that



some progress may be made with the count. Those who do not send in the coupons in their possession before that date will not be considered in the contest.

Coupons should be sent in sealed envelopes upon which is the name and address of the sender.

It is highly important that the above rules should be fully observed. Progress has good reasons for thinking that there are many thousands of the coupons collected and ready to be sent in. As soon as they arrive they will be counted in the presence of the circulation clerk in the counting room and recorded opposite the name of the sender. Any other lots sent afterward will be counted and recorded in like manner.

LOOKING OUT FOR HIS FRIENDS.

People who Do Not Hobbob with the Police Have no Show in St. John.

"If a man is not a particular friend of a policeman, he hasn't much of a show these times," said a gentleman Wednesday. "In other words you must take a back seat. One of them made me feel pretty ugly last night just before the Boston boat came in and if it had not been that I did not want to make a fuss there might have been trouble."

"I was standing on the head of the floats, on the look out for a friend from Boston. There was quite a crowd and I was in the front row, but there were a number further down the floats than I was. The policeman on duty was talking to three friends, and suddenly turned round to me and asked me if I was waiting for anybody. I told him I was."

"Well, get back then," says he, and I knowing it was against the rules to go on the floats and thinking he was going to make all the crowd move, stepped back without saying anything. Imagine my feelings when I heard him tell his three friends to step into my place, while not another man in the crowd further down the floats had to move. I had to exert myself to get into a position where I could see the person I was expecting coming up the floats; while the policeman's friends stood smiling in the front row."

Where Will You Send Them?

One of the very best evidences of the recognition of Progress as a first-class advertising medium is the very general patronage of the educational institutions, three columns of their announcements appearing in this issue alone. Anyone who turns to the third page of the paper will find them, and, if interested in the educational development of the maritime provinces as represented by its higher institutions of learning, something in the nature of a surprise awaits them who will carefully read the well thought out productions of the schools and colleges situated by the sea.

It will be seen at once that there are boys' schools and girls' schools, colleges for men and colleges for women and one institution at least where ability and not sex is all that is necessary for a degree.

There are business colleges and short-hand schools, music schools and at least one very excellent private school for those present who prefer that English system of training and study. Then there is a military school or a school where coaching for the army is made a specialty.

Progress directs special attention to this page this week. There may be some parents who are hesitating where to send their children. The advantages presented by these schools should decide them.