

# PROGRESS.

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## THE END OF A BIG SHOW.

THE STAR ATTRACTION OF THE WEEK WAS WELL ATTENDED.

Features That Have Escaped Notice and are Worth Reading About—Meetings of Associations—How the Good Roads Association Went to Work.

The exhibition has engrossed every ounce of attention this week. It is the third of the annual fairs, they having been held previously only at intervals of two or three years. It is now pretty well proven that they are a success.

Of course the usual carpers and critics have gone about complaining that it was no good; just the same old story, nothing new to see. But they do not have a wholesome appreciation of things. One has only to look on the happy faces of the children, the beaming countenances of the country cousins, the business bustle and activity of the men of affairs, the absorbed attitude of the chiefs of agriculture, the expectant looks of the young men who made their stamping ground and who came not to see the fair but the fair. During the whole ten days there was an atmosphere of enjoyment everywhere.

The influence of these annual exhibitions are wide spread. It is a good advertisement for the city's business men, it is a lesson for the farmers and places before them an ideal in agriculture to strive for (there are ideals even in pigs and cows) it is a model school for the children. It may be an old story but it is a story worth repeating and that seems always fresh.

The manufacturers, machinery, art, photography and fancy work exhibit in the big buildings were about the same as last year but the agricultural and stock show was grand and in this department this is the banner year. It was a sight worth seeing to look at the spirited, high stepping patrician horses, the corpulent, aldermanic beef cattle, the plaintive, bleating, sad-eyed sheep, the ruminant cows, the stolid monstrous pigs, and then there were the little calves and litters of pigs that made their appearance on the stage of life during the exhibition and that the women pronounced just cute. The poultry show, too, was a star attraction in the menagerie of this big hippodrome three ring show. The spotted beautiful calves, the feathery coats of the birds was too sweet for anything.

And to the student of human nature there was a charm in just sitting down and watching the crowd as it swung to and fro over buildings and grounds. Town and country were on parade and in the light and dazze and excitement appeared at their best. Men and women, lads and lassies, country swains and maidens, and bright-eyed children went in for a good time. On children's day the youngsters were everywhere having a satyety of delight and one should read "Sentimental Tommy" and the description of the Scotch fair to fully appreciate what exuberance of spirit and letting off of pent up excitement there was there, and how the pennies and nickles that had been hoarded up went out for klondike nuggets, ice cream, velveteens, names in wire canary, whistles, the wonderful tops and the other treasures that were on sale in abundance. How they shouted over the fire works and went wild with excitement over the vaudeville show.

There are many points of view, the cynic's, the children's, the city man's, the babe's, and all the others. The countryman did not want to see cattle, he wanted to see the wonderful things in the variety show, he wanted to be in the electric glare and admire the costly wares in the big building, to ride in the cars, see the fireworks and the naval fight, and wind up at Mackay's tent show. The city man on the other hand delighted in seeing the colony of cattle and birds. The young fellows did not do a thing in the way of jolly-ing the girls and pulling the legs of the rustics, and so each of the 42,000 people enjoyed himself or herself in his own peculiar way, and all went merry as a marriage bell.

### Legislators Out in Force.

It is noteworthy that there have been half a hundred legislative men at the fair, members of the Dominion and provincial executives and members of parliament. Last week the names of a number were given and this week the following other notables attended the fair: G. W. Ganong M. P., F. H. Hale, M. P., Mayor Beattie, M. P., (London Ont.), H. A. Powell, M. P., A. C. Bell, M. P., (New Glasgow,) Hon. L. P. Farris, Hon. C. H. LaBillois,

Hon. L. J. Tweedie, Hon. Geo. F. Hill, M. P. P., John O'Brien, M. P. P. (Northumberland), John Sivewright, M. P. P., John Black, M. P. P., J. K. Pinder, M. P. P., C. H. Nelson the famous Maine horseman, Mayor Vanwart, (Fredericton) Messrs. Wade and Johnston, prominent Ontario stock breeders and many leading merchants, professional men, editors and officials from all over the Maritime provinces.

### Turned Into a Lecture Hall.

This year the exhibition was almost turned into a lecture hall. There were meetings of the Farmers and Dairymen's association, Stock-Breeders association and New Brunswick Good Roads association. These organizations have risen out of the annual exhibitions, and will do much good in improving agriculture and teaching the farmers to more scientific work. There were numerous lectures and addresses by prominent visitors, by Dr. Twitchell, editor of the Main State Farmer, and Mr. Herbert Wright a prominent Ontario stock breeder, on cattle; by J. H. Reid V. S., professor in the Ontario Agricultural college, on horses; by D. H. Knowlton secretary of the Maine State Pomological society, on fruits; and by Mr. A. W. Campbell C. E., of Ontario, on good roads.

### HURRAH FOR GOOD ROADS.

Farmers, Wheelmen and Politicians meet and talk about them.

Now let good roads come! The respected citizen in his frock coat and silk hat, the omnipotent wheelman in his tweeds and golf hose and the hardy agriculturist in his homespun and whickers have linked arms and are on their way to the throne of the powers that be crying their shibboleth of "good roads" and demanding that their prayer be granted.

Now let the men in high places tremble and let the Reubens into whose capacious pockets the bye road money has gone in the past reform their ways.

This week the New Brunswick Good Roads Association was formed with distinguished backing and with jubilant prospects. There were no less than four members of the provincial executive present who no doubt feeling that this association would be a power in the land thought they should make themselves solid with the promoters of this end-of-the-century agitation.

This road question is no new one. It has always been one of moment and of live interest especially to the tillers of the soil. It is the chief excitement and relaxation from the even tenor of their ways and to the small army of road board men, supervisors, etc., has meant substantial emolument and then the mysterious disappearance of bye-road money, especially before an election, has always been a mystery that even the honourable and astute gentleman who presided at the birth of the association could not fathom. Oh, no, they know not the guile of road politicians, the patronage, the money that finds a resting place in the pockets of those who should spend it on the roads, the money too that goes on private roads for the benefit of three or four individuals and the votes that go to government as a compensation. They knew nothing of all this, oh, no!

It is plainly a case where Uncle Josh huncoes the suave city man.

Mr. Campbell, an Ontario expert, talked about good roads at the meeting to form the association on Tuesday. He told a story. At a meeting in an Ontario rural district to which he went to deliver an address an old farmer got up and said: "Fough! what do you know about roads? a young fellow like you; why I built roads before you were born;" Then Mr. Campbell opened the rustic eyes about what he knew about roads. It is to be presumed he did, though he did not tell the meeting so.

And this calls forth the reflection that though we respect grey hairs it is the young blood that tells now-a-days, and the old blood has to keep hustling to keep pace with the young. Old ideas are played out and everything, even road making, has been reduced to a science. A man does not have to go around in a pair of knee boots plentifully covered with mud, and in a homespun shirt to show that he knows how to make roads. Mr. Campbell looks very staid and span, but he has the road-making art at his finger's end. The farmers have been content to follow old methods for years when the adoption of a few simple principles would have saved many dollars. These will now have to succumb

to modern ideas and young men and young thoughts will win.

It is noteworthy that the organized effort of the almost omnipotent wheelman have been mainly instrumental in hastening on to culmination the good roads agitation. The hundreds of thousands of young men of the League of American Wheelmen and Canadian Wheelmen's Association have united in demanding good roads and they have been heard. By organization, distribution of literature, expert instruction etc. they have produced valuable results.

Mr. Campbell is enthusiastic in his subject as shown by the fact that he talked until one o'clock Wednesday morning in the B. and A. club rooms. He says that if proper methods are adopted the roads of the province in ten years will be fit to play billiards on. Then won't the wheelmen and wheelwomen and everyone else be happy!

### AND THE BAND DIDN'T PLAY.

The Grievances of the City Cornet Band and Mr. Blizard.

The differences between the City Cornet band and the Exhibition Association have been emphasized this week by the action of some of the exhibitors who wished to introduce the band into the building at their own expense.

It will be remembered that the band and Manager Everett could not come to a satisfactory agreement before the exhibition began. Mr. J. Everett wanted the band to play as many or more afternoons than evenings and gave the preference in this respect to the military bands on the ground that the association was under obligations to the local military people for the use of grounds and buildings. The band took the view that as the oldest organization of the kind in the city they should have had the preference and that military influence should not enter into the matter. However, the City Cornet Band was not engaged and many of their friends thought them unjustly treated.

Then Mr. B. B. Blizard representing the Sale firm of Messrs. J. & J. Taylor comes to the front and asks permission from Manager Everett to give a band concert in his space. Mr. Blizard says that the manager assented at first but asked a few minutes later what band it was. When told it was the City Cornet, Mr. Everett said he would have to place the matter before the committee. Even then the matter might have been arranged had Mr. Blizard been willing to take Thursday evening, but having chosen and, as he said, been promised Tuesday evening he was not willing to do this. The committee would not give the requisite permission and high words resulted.

The reasons advanced by the committee for refusing Mr. Blizard's request was that the Artillery band was playing upon the same floor and that confusion would result. This might have been over come by playing in turn, but it was pointed out that the crowd that swarms about any band would completely choke the aisles surrounding and leading to and from one of the most important and attractive portions of the exhibition. This rather settled the question for the caterer would have been looking for compensation if the entrance to his lunch room had been obstructed.

Then some amusing stories were put in circulation that the band proposed to go anyway, consent or no consent, and that the association proposed to employ additional public force to keep them out.

And then another funny thing in connection with the affair is the story that Lawyer Charles A. Stockton proposes to sue the association for \$5,000 damages on behalf of the firm of Messrs. J. & J. Taylor.

### The Bitter With the Sweet.

As White, Colwell & Co., once upon a time Messrs. White & Colwell, lived in amity. But now their paths have diverged and they are rivals where once they were helpmates. They have been trying to see who could dispense the most sweetness at the fair and who could be the most scrupulous and scathing in letters to each other and in the press over a little matter of \$5 which one firm claimed from the other for infringement of advertising privileges. How ever neither seed complain for they have both got more than \$5 worth of advertising as a result of their difference.

### Change of Sallage.

Patrons of steamer "Clifton" will please note that on and after Monday Sept. 27th. she will resume her three round trips a week. Mondays, Wednesdays and Saturdays leaving her wharf in Indiantown at 8 p. m. instead of 4 p. m. as heretofore.

## FIGURES OF THE FAIR.

SOME INTERESTING FACTS ABOUT THE EXHIBITION.

The Number of People Who Bought That and Guesseed at This—Suggestions for Another Show—Mackay's Entertainment Match the Same as Usual.

Although the exhibition is an old story that will stand annual repetition yet it would enhance its interest and make it a greater success financially if some distinctively novel features were introduced. Progress will offer a few suggestions for the directors to employ their cerebral cells in working on during the coming year.

They might, for instance, have a baby show, which would be a decidedly interesting feature of the live stock exhibit, or, better still, they might have a convention of the pretty women of the city. If they had that Sir Wilfrid would come down here every year. It might be called a lady's day and they might be placed in charge and given a chance to put into execution the unique and clever ideas which their fertile brains are bound to evolve.

Then how would it do to have a wheelmen's day. The cyclists are a power in the land and they should have an opportunity to assert themselves in the way of a fancy dress or decorated wheel parade in building or in some other way.

The scribes of the provinces might also be given a day when they might be entertained by the city newspaper men and sent back home with a glowing account of their reception and warm feelings toward St. John that would find expression through the medium of printers' ink and thus add kudos to the city, its exhibition and its press.

Next year the city should strive for nothing less than 60,000 people and thus show that St. John is really the Maritime hub and a city of progress.

Figures talk and the following that have been gleaned tell something of what the exhibition was:—

About 44,000 paid admissions are recorded for the ten days ending last night, against 41,000 last year, and 52,500 in 1895. Including complimentary admissions, etc., about 46,000 attended the fair.

During the eleven days of the exhibition period, nearly 100,000 people rode in the electric street cars.

About 520 individuals or firms had exhibits there.

The stock list totalled 1700, of which there were about 150 horses, 360 cattle, 120 sheep, 110 pigs, and 950 birds.

There were offered in prizes \$12,000, divided among 107 classes.

About 17,000 people guesseed in the Wellcome soap missing word contest.

About 7000 people attended the vaudeville entertainment in amusement hall.

About 50 legislators attended the fair.

About 15,000 boxes of klondike nuggets were sold.

There were about 25 visiting newspaper men here.

The fireworks were the best yet shown at an exhibition. There were six nights of pyrotechnics and beside the flights of rockets, candles, tourbillions and other aerial wanderers there were a good many set pieces, serious and comic. The piece de resistance was the naval engagement in which two ancient looking war vessels appeared glaring at one another across the waves and pouring broadsides of shot and shell into one another and sending up rockets, etc. It was a short and fierce combat and they wiped each other out for both finally went up in flames. The portraits of Her Majesty and Sir Wilfrid Laurier and the performing acrobat, Punch and Judy and other comic features were much enjoyed.

Mr. John Mackay of lottery and tea fame, was on hand as usual with his little Bowery near the exhibition approaches. He announced his show as a high class vaudeville entertainment in a palace pavilion. But disrobed of its glamour it was merely a third-rate variety show in a canvas tent. Some of jokes were rather uncertain in their suggestiveness, the farces were not striking and the specialties could be improved upon. The best thing there was when Harry McDonald, the local song and banjo artist, did his turn.

### The Countryman Wouldn't Stand.

Major McGuire, the champion swordsmen, cut apples and potatoes over the heads and neck of people at Amusement

hall with a sword that had an edge sharper and keener than the appetite of a man on the Klondike who has done a hard day's work carrying to the bank 50lb nuggets of gold with the mercury crawling to the bulb below the 70 mark to get out of the cold. The other night he asked anyone who wished to participate in the cutting act to step up to the sacrificial chair. A rustic came boldly and promptly to the front and knelt down to allow the potato to repose on his bared neck. But when the major took up the sword the rustic as promptly rose up and sailed into the wings. The major induced him to come out and got him to hold out his hand and placed the potato upon it. But the countryman's courage forsook him. He dropped the potato like a hot spud and fled. Then the charming Monte Elma, the ravishing dancer and highkicker, calmly and smilingly went through the ordeal.

### BURN THE STAMPS.

The Servant Girl Thought Them Waste Paper and put Them in the Fire.

"Strange things come in with the tide" is an old and trite saying, but of all the strange things that reach their destination here, whether brought by tide or some other influence perhaps the strangest of all is "the strange servant girl." A strange girl or a new girl in a household oftentimes proves a blessing in disguise and not unfrequently proves the direct opposite or at least furnishes a temptation to profanity upon the part of some member of the household.

An instance that might well come under the latter classification occurred in a Prince street residence about the middle of the week. The story is one of direct financial loss caused by the servant girl, whose weakness was a dislike of "things lying around" and looking untidy, and who is one of those who burns up any scraps of paper or other "old thing" that offends her sense of weakness, without examination.

A gentleman who resides in the house referred to and who is the possessor of a large and valuable collection of rare postage stamps, received an order the other day for a quantity of them. The collection is kept in the vault of the Bank of Nova Scotia for safety and thither the gentleman proceeded. He got his stamps, took them to his rooms selected the desired quantity and placing them on an old newspaper to dry, because the process of detaching wetted them somewhat, took the remainder back to the bank. Returning to his residence no trace of the stamps he had left there could be seen. He had left them on the table—they were gone—what had happened during his short absence he could not imagine.

Determined to recover them if possible he instituted inquiry and found that the servant girl (who was new and had come to the house only that day) in attending to her duties had seen the old paper on the table bundled it up and burned it under the impression that it was no use whatever and only in the way.

The amusement, the indignation, the horror and almost the profanity of the gentleman can be better imagined than told, when this fact was made known to him. And the tears and regrets of the "new girl" can also be imagined when she was told she had literally burned up the sum of one hundred dollars.

### These Should Have Been Included.

There has been considerable talk about the streets this week regarding some important omissions to meet Mr. Laurier on the river excursion. Several explanations have been made by his worship the mayor but all of them are not considered just what they should be. The official list was supposed to include ex-Mayors and ex-M. P's, as well as those enjoying office at the present time. Then as a matter of course such gentlemen as Mr. Edward Sary and Mr. Charles McLanahan, Mr. Thomas Hall, Coroner Berryman, who have at different times served the city and asked for the peoples votes as mayoralty candidates should have had an invitation extended to them. But even the omission of all these gentlemen, pointed and discourteous as it may seem, was nothing compared to the neglect of County Treasurer and ex Mayor J. Boies De Veber who has also been a member of parliament. When some of these oversights were pointed out to his worship he expressed great regret, but said that he had the same number of tickets as any of the aldermen, and that he had been particular in the distribution of four of them, two of which went to near relatives and two to special friends. The other four he had handed to Mr. J. V. Ellis, who it seems had use for them. Had Mayor Robertson thought of his opponents for the office of mayor he would have obtained much more credit. County Treasurer De Veber and Coroner Berryman should, of course, have been included in the official list.