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PRICE FIVE CENTS.

MR. BARNES OF BOSTON.

HE SECURES ANOTHER CONTRACT FOR FIRE HOSE.

He seems to be tolerably solid with the Chief Engineer and Safety Board—Other Concerns Which Are Not in It When He is Winded for the City.

The custom house was burned on the 19th of March, and on the 25th of March Mr. Barnes of Boston was registered at the Dufferin. He always stays there, so that anybody who wants to find him can do so. As a rule, however, he finds more than he is found. "Barney," he is called, is fond of St. John and his people, especially of those connected with the civic department. He is quite intimate with some of the leading officials, and he is one of the boys who "keeps his end up" in a crowd.

Mr. Barnes of Boston has fire hose to sell, and very good hose it is said to be. F. W. Wisdom is agent for it here, and so well it is liked that it is always successful in competing for a contract with the city. Tenders have been asked for a number of times since the union, but while a number of houses have tendered, the only men who succeeded in getting contracts are Mr. Wisdom and V. H. Thorne & Co. The patronage is generally divided between them. Both Mr. Wisdom and Mr. Thorne are good fellows, and both are staunch conservatives who huddle for the old flag every time. The disposition in the past appears to have been to give Mr. Wisdom the lion's share, but Mr. Thorne, by vigorous protest, has succeeded in establishing his right to have some consideration. He gets it, but there the line is drawn and no others need apply.

The historical connection between the burning of the custom house and the visit of Mr. Barnes of Boston is seen in the fact that 1,000 feet of new hose were required to replace that destroyed. Mr. Barnes of Boston was early on the scene, for tenders were not asked for until some time in April. Just what time this was is not very clear. The advertisement was by handbills only, and while these were dated the 1st of April it was not until the 11th that some who wished to tender saw one of them. The time fixed for receiving tenders was Monday, the 19th. The bill called for 700 feet of best rubber lined cotton fabric and 300 feet of best rubber hose. No intimation was given that samples were to be submitted.

Several tenders were put in. Among others, Mr. Wisdom offered the jacket hose of Mr. Barnes of Boston at 89 cents a foot; V. H. Thorne & Co. offered some hose at 90 cents; T. McAvity & Sons named 75 cents and H. Percy Chestnut 82 1/2 cents. Messrs. Thorne and Wisdom each offered rubber hose at \$1.10 a foot, while McAvity tendered at 92 1/2 cents.

The hose was required to stand a pressure of 400 pounds to the square inch. This was guaranteed of the samples submitted. The guarantee of T. McAvity & Sons ought to be as good as that of the other concerns, but apparently the safety department did not consider it so as will be shown a little later.

When the safety board met to consider the tenders, Thorne & Co's representative, Mr. Ogle, was on hand, and anxious to attend the meeting. He was obliged to content himself by staying outside the door, but Thorne & Co. were all right, as the sequel showed.

Some of the members of the board of safety claim to know a good deal about hose in general and fire hose in particular. Chief Engineer Kerr is an expert, of course, and he was called in for his opinion. He is said to have made the assertion that it stood to reason that rubber hose for which the sellers wanted \$1.10 a foot was better than that for which 92 1/2 cents was asked. By the same process of reasoning, jacket hose at 89 and 90 cents was considered superior to that offered at 75 and 82 1/2 cents. This reasoning was in the face of a guarantee from the oldest hardware firm in St. John, that the cheaper hose would be fully up to the requirements of the department.

Though no samples were asked for, so it is sent. Mr. Chestnut did not send any, but named the "Mogal" brand of double jacket hose, made by the Revere rubber company, of Boston. He supposed that the reputation of that concern was sufficiently well known to everybody who knew anything about fire hose. When Brandram's white lead is specified in a contract, a sample keg is never sent. Everybody knows just what it is like. And so it is with the "Mogal" hose offered to the city of St. John at 82 1/2 cents, but passed over in favor of the hose offered by Wisdom and Thorne at 89 and 90 cents.

While Messrs. Wisdom and Thorne are staunch conservatives, McAvity and Chestnut have the bad luck to be grits. The safety board has a conservative majority, and the vote was somewhat of a party one. The grits were in the minority, and the conservative tenderers got the contracts. Mr. Wisdom got that for 600 feet of jacket hose at 89 cents.

Thorne & Co. got the contract for the other 600 feet, 300 of which was of rubber hose at \$1.10 and the other 300 of jacket hose at 90 cents.

The ground taken by some members of the board was that the city had used the hose of Mr. Barnes of Boston and knew what it was like. Some of the others asserted that the jacket hose submitted by McAvity had a filling of old boot material and other refuse. When PROGRESS asked to see some of the samples, Director Wisely took a knife and cut off a piece of this alleged shoddy sample. He failed to reveal anything that bore out the old boot theory. On the contrary, the material seemed all that could be asked.

The amount involved is not large. A difference of 17 1/2 cents on 900 feet comes to only \$42.50. The jacket hose costs only \$72 more than it would under McAvity's tender, while if Mr. Chestnut's tender of 82 1/2 cents had been accepted the difference would have been even less.

A hundred dollars or so in a contract does not amount to much—unless the same principle is carried out every time. Then it does.

The board is never bound to accept the lowest or any tender, of course, but it seems to be a foregone conclusion that Mr. Barnes of Boston, for one, will always get the contract. The fact that his hose has given satisfaction in the past seems to be the board's argument that he should always be favored, whether the figure be high or low. A few cents more on a foot might have been tucked on by him this time as well as not. The central idea seems to have been to buy the hose of Mr. Barnes of Boston. Thorne & Co. were given 300 feet of jacket, it is true, but that may have been to even things up a little and prevent too much of a kick.

It is all right, probably. Barney is a good fellow and sells good hose. It would save time and trouble if it were understood in advance that he should get the contracts. Then there would be no need of advertising. The board has really wasted money by having handbills printed. There was no use for them. They were appropriately dated on April Fool's day, though they did not become visible to the public until at least ten days later. It is a pretty good joke and ought to make everybody laugh, including Mr. Barnes of Boston.

AMATEURS IN BURNT YORK.

The "Snowflakes" Give a Good Show at the Institute.

The Snowflakes had the Institute stage Thursday evening and gave a performance which, for amateurs, contained many good features. In the circle Joe Rainnie was, perhaps, the best of the end men, but all the boys had an utter disregard for prominent people and handled their names as lightly as they would a tambourine. Their regard for the West end representatives was illustrated when Tambo asked the interlocutor which he would rather be a horse or a jackass. Of course the interlocutor would rather be a horse, but the end man would not. Why? Well, because if he was a horse he would probably be harnessed into a cart and beaten until the secretary of the S. P. C. A. came along, but if he was a jackass, why, he could get elected as an alderman for Carleton!

Some of the jokes were bright and original, and the end men in their songs and final did some very good minstrel by-play. Then there was clogging dance of a high order by Mr. Matthews; and an Irish spout of a nature that was hardly in keeping with the rest of the show. "The Virginians" were good and there was nothing amateur about them. One of the most amusing and at the same time artistic features of the performance was the colored Carmenita. He was more modest than such dancers usually are, and gracefulness itself. The farce was as good as the average, except that it was not long enough to make the audience weary.

The Snowflakes are all young men, and this was their second performance. They possess some good material, and when more experience has been acquired and some new local ideas worked out, they will be able to fill the Opera house.

A Grand Lodge on Wheels.

There seems to be some talk among the members of the masonic body over the recent vote in regard to the annual communion of the grand lodge. Heretofore the meetings have been held in St. John, where there is an abundance of hall room, but in future the place of meeting may be fixed for each year by vote. Apart from the question of whether it is consistent with the dignity of the ancient craft for the grand lodge to be going around on wheels, the serious disadvantage is claimed to be that the lodge rooms outside of St. John are all too small to accommodate a large gathering without great discomfort, and especially in the hot month of August. The objection seems to have the more force when it is remembered that the number of representatives to grand lodge is increasing every year in considerably larger proportions than even the general membership of the craft.

NOT A SUSPICIOUS MAN.

SQUIRE PETERS DID NOT THINK FOLKS WERE SO BAD.

He Had a Theory That the Belyea Fire Was an Accident—Owners of Houses Are Feeling Easier—The Prisoners and Their Jailers Enjoy Themselves.

That shining ornament to the magistracy of New Brunswick, and of Kings county in particular, Justice Thomas A. Peters, does not seem to be a born detective. Perhaps it is because he is too innocent and unsophisticated in the ways of this wicked world. Possibly he thinks everybody is as honest as he is himself. There are such men in the world, but when they are justices of the peace they are apt to see their innocent nature exposed upon. If it had been left to Justice Peters to find out the facts about the burning of the Belyea building it is quite certain there would have been no investigation. After the fire, his sense of duty as a stipendiary magistrate impelled him to look into the matter and set the public mind at rest by his decision. According to the evidence of Mrs. Annie Snow, given at the examination of Fenwick, Elder and Boyce, last Saturday, she saw a man throw a torch into the corner of the building and the fire immediately blazed up in that place. After the fire, she continued, Justice Peters called on her to ask her what she had seen, with a view of holding an investigation. "After hearing what I had to say," she continued, "he said he did not see much in that."

This was his view of the case. He could not believe that any of his neighbors were bad enough to do such a wicked thing. After hearing what Mrs. Shaw had to say he appears to have come to the conclusion that the fire was merely a regrettable accident. He adopted the theory that the water soaked affair, put up with green lumber in December, took fire from sparks from a passing engine. Whether he concluded that a can of kerosene fell off the engine at the same time is not stated, but that kerosene was thrown around before the fire was started has been proven beyond a doubt. Those who know Justice Peters will agree that in this instance he seems to have been the most unsuspecting man in the broad county of Kings.

Until the evidence has been heard in full, PROGRESS does not propose to deal with it to the prejudice of the man on trial. So far, it has been proven most clearly that the place was burned, and it remains to be seen to what extent the prisoners, and some who are not yet prisoners, are responsible for the act. The story so far reads like a tale from some lawless western settlement.

Nor does this seem the less so when residents of the village now assert that they have heretofore been afraid to open their mouths, lest the ruling gang should burn their property or do them some other damage. They have been terrorized, and it is only now when the machinery of justice has been put in motion, that they begin to breathe easier.

The prisoners, who had been in charge of Constable McLeod, were lodged in jail on Saturday night. If it be true that after their arrival a sort of a reception in their honor was held in the jailer's apartments, they cannot complain of being treated with undue severity. Mr. James Sproule, the jailer, is as kind hearted as Justice Peters is unsuspecting, but it is pretty certain he will take every precaution to prevent the escape of any of the prisoners. He cannot afford to do otherwise as people are looking at things just now.

The examination this week is held too late for PROGRESS to learn how far the prosecution is succeeding in getting at the facts of the case. It is generally understood that there is plenty of evidence to come, and that the interest in the trial is not likely to flag.

In the meantime Mr. Belyea is not worrying himself over the fact that he has to appear in an alleged forgery case next week. He is letting the other side do all the worrying.

One Way of Getting Married.

One of the marriages that the daily papers did not announce this week, was of more than ordinary interest to a number of people in the North end. The bridegroom left his boarding house after supper, announcing his intention of going to a party, and borrowing another boarder's necktie for the occasion. He has not been seen at his boarding house since, and several months back board remains unpaid. He got married that evening, borrowed some money from his best man—giving him an order for back pay—and took the boat Thursday morning for Boston.

Send the Names at Once.

Names of persons removing from one house to another should be sent in at once in order that they may appear in the list to be published next Saturday. The late street and number as well as the former one should be given in every instance. All the names should be in by Tuesday next, at the latest. It is desirable to have them as soon as possible.

THEY TAKE IT VERY EASY.

How Justice Clarke Costs and Deal with the Fines Collected.

One of the ways in which business is done in the municipality was shown at the council meeting last Tuesday. Wm. Ingram, of St. Martins, sent in a petition stating that in 1886 he applied for and was granted a liquor license. Some delay occurred in the issue of the license, and before Justice Skillen and fined \$50 and costs. He now asks that the money be refunded to him, as he had done all that he could to comply with the law, and it was not through his fault that he was without a license.

The matter was referred to the finance committee, but if that body reports in favor of the petition the municipality will be considerably out of pocket when the amount of the fine is returned. The fine itself was \$50, and \$25 costs were added by Justice Skillen, making a total of \$75. In 1888 Justice Skillen sent in his returns for the two preceding years and opposite the Ingram entry was the item crediting the fine as paid in February of the latter year. Then came "Paid costs \$35; \$15 remitted to the county treasury." The municipality thus got not quite a third of the amount of the fine, to say nothing of the extra costs. A resolution was passed in regard to their return as well as respecting some made by Justice Olive, of Lancaster. The returns were pronounced "not satisfactory," for several specified reasons. "As to Justice Skillen's return, this council cannot acquiesce in his retaining moneys for costs and fees charged and paid by him, not only without the authority, but against the express direction of the council." It was resolved that a copy of the resolution be forwarded to the provincial secretary for the information of the governor-in-council. That seems to have ended the matter, and apparently it was forgotten by everybody until it came to the front through Ingram's petition this week.

According to the report of the municipality for last year, only two magistrates made any returns. The justice's courts seem to have a free-and-easy way of doing things nowadays.

The Death of a Bright Young Girl.

Nettie May, the seventeen-year old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Hugh Rennie, died at her father's home, Brinley street, Wednesday. Only those who knew the girl realize what a loss her parents have sustained. Although both father and mother were deaf mutes, Nettie possessed all her faculties, and was the bright star of the family. At an early age she could communicate with her parents on her fingers, and as she grew older she became an expert. When Mr. or Mrs. Rennie went shopping, Nettie went, too, and many a salesman has been surprised to see this bright little girl working her fingers so quickly that she could communicate to her parents all that was said almost as fast as it could be spoken. At church, too, and at lectures Nettie performed the same for her parents. Seated between them she would repeat on her fingers all the speaker had said, and by this means Mr. and Mrs. Rennie were enabled to enjoy the same privileges as their more fortunate fellow-beings. Nettie was also a little business woman, and was the financier of the family. She was looked up to by all, and nothing was thought too great for her accomplishment. The funeral took place yesterday.

A Parallel Case.

There is a well authenticated case of an absent minded family who lived next door to a grocer and yet walked half a mile to order anything they wanted in that line, until they discovered one day what they were doing. This does not apply to all the North end people, and the Blue Clothing store, but there are some who pass and repass it without really recognizing the fact that a good clothing store with a fine stock is right at their doors—so to speak. Mr. Youngclaus can give as good bargains at the Blue store as he can on Charlotte street, and he does it every day. The right goods are there at right prices.

Amounts Not So Large.

Mr. George Gerow is authority for the statement that the landlady referred to in PROGRESS last week realized but \$800 from her furniture sale, \$500 of which she had sent to a relative in part payment of a debt. The remainder was used for personal and other small expenses, while she arranged with him to sell some securities for what they would bring, and pay her creditors pro rata.

On the Look Out.

A package of photographs and proofs of engravings was mailed in St. John to PROGRESS BRANCH OFFICE a few days ago, but some vigilant (?) clerk sent it to the appraisers office, from whence in due course of time a notice was received to call and open the parcel for inspection, which was unnecessary if it is needless to state. How many parcels share the fate of this one and are unnecessarily delayed for days through the stupidity or carelessness of some clerk?

PEOPLE WHO DIFFERED.

TWO INCIDENTS TALKED ABOUT IN DIFFERENT CIRCLES.

A Church Organist and the Minister Meet At a Wedding—Two Well-Known Characters Who More Than Met and Made Things Exciting in Ship Laborers Hall.

Excitement ran high in the Ship Laborers hall on Monday evening, and two well known characters, named Gregory and Sheridan, were the centre of attraction. Early in the evening they were enjoying a quiet game of Sancho. They got excited over some of the fine points of the game, and lost control of their tempers and fists at the same time. Both men took the floor, and had a very warm and exciting round without drawing any blood. But the amount of wind wasted was appalling. The two men could not raise enough between them to float a feather.

When the exhibition began there were only a few in the room, but while they were getting their wind after the first round, scouts were sent out, and in a few minutes the hall was pretty well filled with people anxious to see the fun.

Seconds were chosen, and the men went at it again. Each tried to wind the other, but they were not so successful as in the first round, when each man winded himself.

The crowd gave them every encouragement, and "knock his block off" and "rip him up the back," came from all parts of the room. Although this advice was evidently intelligible to both of them, the pugilists seemed incapable of following it with any degree of success, and blood absolutely refused to appear.

Four rounds were fought when an accident happened that made one of the pugilists believe that his antagonist was "cocking" him. The heel of his boot got round where the toe should have been, and of course the boot suffered considerably during the transformation.

The fight wound up by both men falling into a tub filled with water, and they were too wet to appear when time was called for the fifth round.

Gregory is a heavy weight, but claims that he was not in condition, as the fight was wholly unexpected. He has intimated his intention of issuing a challenge, when he will go into training. Sheridan was coached during the contest as a light weight, and seems satisfied with his condition.

MUSIC AT THE WEDDING.

Who Should Furnish It Had to be Decided Before the Ceremony was Performed.

There was a little unpleasantness between the organist of the Queen square Methodist church and a member of the choir one evening last week, and the result was that the organist handed in his resignation. It was accepted. The probabilities are that he would never have played in the church again, had he not been engaged, about three months ago, to play at the wedding of two of the congregation, which took place this week.

The groom had mentioned that if this particular organist did not play at his wedding there would be no music at all. When the evening arrived the organist was on hand to run over the keys for the last time. The minister of the church was also there, and he had an organist selected to play for the occasion. He was also determined that the old organist would not furnish the music if he could help it. When the bridegroom's organist put in an appearance, the minister was in the chair apparently ready to see that things went on to his liking, and a few words were exchanged, which bid fair to make matters unpleasant.

The bridegroom arrived, however, and settled the matter, by announcing that the organist he had engaged should play and if the choir refused to sing that part of the service could be dispensed with. Happily the matter was arranged satisfactorily, and the ceremony was gone through without a hitch.

A Councillor Makes a Joke.

Coun. Irvine, of Lancaster, was specially aggressive on the matter of liquor licenses, at the last meeting of the municipal council, taking the prohibitionist side of the question. Coun. Ready, of the same parish, is a distiller, and takes the other view. This prompted Coun. Christie to remark with some asperity that Lancaster was represented by two brewers—one of whom brewed brewed beer and the other of whom brewed disturbances at the board. The joke was considered a very good one for the time and place.

A Good Move and One That Might be Made.

One of the most remarkable features of Portland bridge was a hydrant in the middle of the asphalt sidewalk. Another is a lamp post in the same position. On Sunday evenings, when the street is crowded with people, a large number become more intimately acquainted with these obstacles than they wish for. The hydrant was placed nearer the edge of the sidewalk this week, but the lamp post still claims the attention of after-dark pedestrians. Why not move it, too?

WILL WILKINS BE IN IT?

The Present Indications Are That He Will Not Be Appointed.

Chief Engineer Kerr has been having a little picnic of late with some of the aldermen in regard to the appointment of a district engineer. Mr. Robert J. Wilkins, who is supposed to have a good deal of "fluency" in certain wards at election times, is the man who comes to the front in the matter, but who, so some say, is likely to go to the rear when the appointments are made. Mr. Wilkins is a foreman now, but it is understood that Chief Kerr has not been satisfied with him, and thinks that somebody else should be appointed.

In the meantime a pressure has been brought to bear upon the chief, by a paper signed by seventeen members of the council, requesting that Wilkins be appointed. In addition to this the statement has been made that the North End firemen will resign in a body if he is not. The result of these intimations has not been to make the chief declare in favor of Mr. Wilkins. While the latter's friends may not have hurt his chances, it is possible they have not improved them.

When the changes in the organization of the department were recommended, in November last, there was a clause in the report that no men be appointed to or be allowed to serve on the force, who were under the age of 21 or over 55 years. This has not yet become a bye-law, but must be considered as having the force of law in the appointments to be made after the 1st of May.

Under the new organization, there are to be three district engineers. Of the old engineers, Jackson and Wilson leave the force while Blake remains. Ex-Alderman Blackadar is mentioned as one of the new men, but who the other is to be remains to be seen. That is the place that Mr. Wilkins wants.

The salary of an engineer is \$150 a year. When Mr. Blackadar went into the council he relinquished a salary of \$90 as a fireman. If he is made an engineer he will have 50 per cent more salary than he got as an alderman, to say nothing of what he will save by having no more election expenses to pay.

The appointments of the chief and their results will be looked for with interest by a good many people who are not in the department, as well as by all who are in it.

Boys in the Mayflowers Business.

Every year during the month of April a large business is done in Mayflowers. Everybody wants them. It is the most popular flower the provinces can boast of, but its reign is brief. One of the brightest boys who deal in Mayflowers is Master Walter Goding, and he carries on his business systematically and with profit. He has a young partner in Annapolis county who picks the flowers and ships them to St. John by the box. When they arrive here they must be handled quickly, and there is considerable work to be done before they are ready for buyers. They are sorted and tied up in bunches of various sizes, according to price, and then ready for customers. The flowers are bought up in no time, and the young dealer seldom has any spoiled ones on his hands. The season seldom lasts more than two weeks, and as the boat only makes three trips a week, the business is somewhat restricted. However, this particular firm usually managed to divide \$20 or \$30 between them.

Who Takes the Stamps?

For some reason or another there seems to be a brisk demand for foreign postage stamps of late, and the people who get letters from abroad are besieged with requests for the envelopes. Somebody in the St. John post office seems to have the collecting mania pretty bad also, though what authority he removes stamps from letters before they are delivered to their address remains to be explained. The stamp is a part of the parcel to which the owner of the letter is entitled. It may or may not be of any value to him, but no employee of the office has the right to remove it without his permission.

Frauds Without a Doubt.

A number of persons have sent inquiries to PROGRESS since it printed the warning paragraph about the Ford Pill Co. and the Ladies' Pictorial of Toronto asking if we had further information. Only this, that every letter proves just what was asserted—both of them are fraud concerns living on the public. Most of the answers are sent for fun, but as the necessary stamps are enclosed that does not lessen the profit of the "fishermen." They simply bait their hook again—this time with a personal letter promising a diamond ring or a piano for \$8, and if the fish bite that is what they want.

Increasing the Revenue.

"Retaliation against Newfoundland" is the watchword in the customs now. Twenty cent pieces from the fish-exporting country are only worth 15 cents in the hands of the customs cashier. Whether this discount will be sufficient to do its work and offset the decreased sugar duties is a grave question, which only time can answer.