

PROGRESS.

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ST. JOHN, N. B., SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 17 1900.

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One Session Question.

The movement set on foot by Mrs. W. Frank Hatheway to bring about, if possible, the holding of a single session in the High School, instead of morning and afternoon sessions, is receiving a lot of support from the parents of scholars and others, although some of the clearest headed people in town are directly in opposition to the idea. Good reasons are given both for and against the proposition, while a great many sides with neither the proposer nor those who suggest entirely different ideas as to the working of the superior school. Indeed several of these suggestions have a great deal more plausibility about them than the original questions in controversy.

Mrs. Hatheway's plan is clearly set forth in the printed circular which she had numerously distributed among the parents of the school children a short time ago. reading as follows:—

St. John, N. B., February, 1900

Inasmuch as many of the parents and friends of the students in the High School regard the present working hours as too long, it has been thought advisable to formulate a scheme by which it will be possible to find out exactly the opinion of all the parents or guardians of the children, with a view of making the work easier, more enjoyable, healthful and efficient.

At present the working hours are five, three in the morning and two in the afternoon, there being an intermission of one hour and a half, from twelve to half past one. The resumption of work in the afternoon, teachers say is very different from the fresh start in the morning; the children are half tired, and during the autumn and winter at final dismissal, the bright day is practically over. Some of the pupils go immediately home and begin studying for the next day, so as to have the evening free, but these are rare. The majority engage in some recreation, or in many cases, an outside study of some kind, such as music, until the evening meal, and when that is over, again begin on their lessons. Here comes the greatest objection. The eyes are strained by close reading in artificial light, the brain is not in fit condition to battle over a hard lesson or one in which it is difficult to take an interest; in many cases there is a great strain on the nerves to make them obedient to the will which concentrates the wandering attention, and the result is often extreme weariness and perhaps ill-temper. This is no exaggeration. It is as true of the bright scholar as of the average one. The mental pressure is too great for the physical organization.

There are several ways of changing all this, and making school work a delight and at the same time decidedly more efficient than it is now. The best way seems to be to have only one session, from nine o'clock until one, with a short recess during which some light lunch may be eaten. The continuity of interest in the work, with the consequent exemption from classes in the afternoon, acting as an incentive, would more than make up for the omitted hour. This plan is working in many schools in the United States, especially in High Schools.

Now, instead of calling a meeting of the parents, in which the few speak while the many listen, then disperse with no definite action taken, you are invited and urged to think over the subject of a contemplated change and write on this paper your opinion of having only a morning session, with any remarks you wish to make. Please return the paper by your child to the teacher by next Wednesday morning. The Trustees and Board of Education will do what is good for the children in the eyes of their parents, so it is important for you to give this matter your best attention.

P. S.—Please write answer on back of this circular.

A great many parents wrote in full their opinions in answer to the above request, while others were content with writing a few words of approval or disapproval. The overwhelming majority were in favor of one session, and to scan the written answers favoring the new move, the influence of the scholars could in a great many cases be clearly discerned. Mothers chiefly did the answering, and while not a few gave sensible reasons for supporting the new idea, most of them were content with saying, "I am in favor" etc., appearing as if the boy or girl at home had filled their parent's ear in order to gain an affirmative answer to the circular.

Those who opposed the one session movement gave explicit reasons for so doing, some of which are published in this article. Others sought to amend Mrs. Hatheway's circular, and also to amend the present mode at the High School. It was very clear however, that those who opposed the idea thought the matter over carefully before committing themselves, while the same cannot be supposed of the

majority of persons who favored the scheme, judging from the tenor of their writings.

When PROGRESS representative approached Dr. Bridges on the subject, the principal of the High School said he did not care to express any opinion at this stage of the movement, but there was one thing sure about it the law provides for the length of a school day, such as is being carried out now, and if any change were to be made it could only be through legislation. As to the advisability of having the High School close at one o'clock Dr. Bridges would give no opinion, though he volunteered the information that in Charlottetown P. E. I. the people are at present petitioning the government to re-establish the two-session plan after giving the one session idea a year's trial. They found the single session plan did not work satisfactorily.

It is quite evident a great many local educationists can see no particular virtue in the innovation, and while it may suit the peculiar circumstances of some scholars they cannot for the life of them see why such a radical change should be made.

As to the persons who gave their reasons for supporting or not supporting the one session idea, the following answers to the above circular will explain.

Dr. J. E. March—I am in favor of 5 hours school work divided into two sessions for high school, because—

1st—The prescribed lessons cannot be gone through with in five hours.

2nd—From the standpoint of the family, uniformity in school hours is desirable and while younger children are required to work five hours, older ones should not get off with less.

3rd—The argument in part 2 of this circular is, in my opinion based upon a misconception of the intention and purpose of high school work, and, as far as it is true it applies with greater force to the younger pupils, and the advanced standards.

4th—Pupils who are unfortunately physically unable to stand the strain of high school work—and it is a strain and properly so—should not bar the way for rapid advancement of those who are able.

5th—Instruction in improved home and school hygiene, in connection with a course of graded gymnastics under competent teachers will remove most of the real difficulties complained of.

Mr. A. O. Skinner—Suggests usual morning session and study of lessons in school from 1.30 to 3 p. m.

Mr. J. A. Belyea—would greatly favor any arrangement which would give more time to the physical development of the young and to stimulate them for their arduous high school work.

A. M. Beldin—Favors the one session idea.

Mr. and Mrs. Tilton of Lancaster—Greatly in favor of one session.

H. K. Estabrook—Think the teachers the best judge of the question.

Ira B. Kierstead—I am willing to try the experiment.

M. L. Gregory—School hours too long and suggests a study hour for home lessons during school day.

Mr. J. S. Taylor—Thinks one session and Mr. Harvey's plan both good points and knows from home observation that something is amiss in the arrangements of the school.

Frank Fales—I sign this with pleasure on behalf of the scholars, but the poor teachers they are now so hard worked I fear but our hours will break them down altogether.

Mrs. O. E. Warwick—In favor of one session.

Mrs. Alton Cushing—In favor of one session.

G. M. McLeod—One session.

Mrs. Vassie—One session.

Mrs. Stockton—Thinks a public meeting should have been called and teachers with experience consulted first. Suggests a session of an hour and a half in the afternoon.

E. J. Armstrong—Says there are too many studies and they are breaking down the health of diligent pupils. Desires one session in winter and reduction in number of studies.

Mrs. C. A. Hoyt—Sincerely hope the

(CONTINUED ON PAGE TWO.)

THE MAGISTRATE'S SAGE REMARKS

He Gives the Parents for a Great Deal of the Wrong Done in the Day.

It is really a pity the daily newspapers do not give more publicity to some of the addresses made from the local police court bench by His Honor Judge Ritchie. While the workings of the present prevailing machinery is at times not without its friction and its creakings, yet the Magistrate is a man with a wholesome idea of justice and of even more wholesome opinions as to the causes of more common crimes in the city, especially among youthful ones. On Tuesday last a Carleton lad was sentenced to one year in the Reformatory for stealing lumber off a Sand Point steamer. He was the youngest of a family of five boys and had not attended school nor did he work. He was fourteen years old and His Honor in sending him to the institution across Courtney Bay, said he did it not so much as punishment for the offence he had committed, but for his moral betterment.

To take him away from the fatal laxity of a home where he was not rightly managed and to place him in a home of order and government. The Magistrate widened his remarks and said there was altogether too much leniency being shown by parents to incorrigible boys, mere children who rule the household and whenever they do anything wrong they are shielded. They won't go to school and refuse to labor, but loaf and lurk about corners and alleys at night waiting for every chance to do mischief.

Petty thieving, such as stealing apples from a grocery store barrel, is at length indulged in, merely in a playful mood perhaps, but this elementary step in wrongdoing is followed by greater stealing and from the police court and Reformatory the

popular opinion would not favor the idea—that a lot of the formality in fact sense—attending the opening of our Provincial Legislature might very well be dispensed with, and even yet the laws of our land respected.

But to do so would necessitate the departure of the old-time custom and all the pomp and ceremony which is so eagerly looked forward to by the citizens of the capital, and its military and other functionaries who have only about this opportunity of "showing their metal," would be lost sight of altogether.

For these reasons then, probably, more than any other it is that the old time customs still prevail and the "guard of honor" and "boom of cannons" continue to play an important part in the annual opening of our Legislative Hall.

A stranger visiting the city on the opening day is pretty sure to become interested and often amused at the many features attending the event. The first thing that will attract the visitor's attention is the "hauling of the cannons" two old 6 pounders, from their quarters to the river bank. This is the only event during the twelve months that these "implements of war"

are brought to the light of day, for but they take advantage of this only opportunity and make themselves heard ere they again return to "close confinement." PROGRESS understands however, that this "interesting and very important part in the day's proceedings had to be dispensed with this year and the reason assigned would appear to the reader a rather ludicrous one, coming as it does from a supposed military headquarters. A local paper says:

"On account of there being no men at the barracks possessing a knowledge of artillery, according to Sergt. Major Fowle it seems probable that the opening ceremony will not be attended by the usual

Law Framers Meet.

The opening of the Local Legislature is always a day of more than ordinary interest to the citizens of Fredericton.

Whether through custom or otherwise the day selected is always Thursday and the populace of the capital put on their "best trim" and turn out "en masse" to give the event a right royal send off. It has many a time been suggested—but

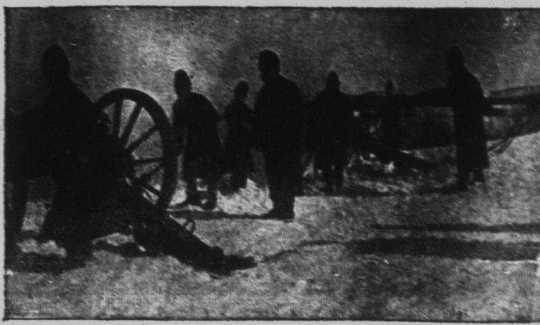
of 13 guns. Just how much knowledge of artillery is required to enable one to load up and discharge the two obsolete six pounders (belonging to the military school as a question over which there seems to be room for a difference of opinion. This important duty in the past usually fell to the lot of Sergt. Walker or Cochrane, neither of whom are now connected with the school. Perhaps the veteran Charles Lucy, an old artilleryman, might consent to take charge of the gun squad, if the sergeant major is unable to find another suitable person.

Now next year, if notified in time, St. John will willingly send up a man to give the Sergt. Major a few pointers on "how to load a gun,"—or better still, PROGRESS would suggest the College boys be asked to do the firing.

From the noon hour until the time of opening the streets are astir with the populace in all walks of life. The fashions in various shapes bestir themselves on Queen street and around Parliament Square awaiting the arrival of His Honor the Lieutenant Governor whose coming is heralded to the expectant multitude by a bugle blast from one Her Majesty's trumpeters.

The crowd stand with abated breath until the approach of His Honor, accompanied by his A. D. C. and private secretary by the sheriff and coroner and other dignitaries.

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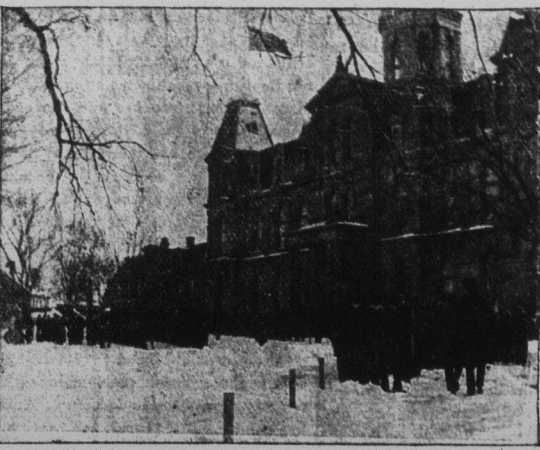


A detachment from the R. C. R. I. in the act of giving the salute of fifteen guns announcing the opening of the Legislature at Fredericton. The cannons—two six pounders—are mounted on the bank of the river just below Parliament Square.

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Front view of Parliament buildings at Fredericton, taken just prior to the opening of the Legislature. On the left is the Guard of Honor, drawn up in two ranks, awaiting the arrival of the Lieutenant Governor and suite. The band of the corps is drawn up in rear of the guard.

lad brings up in Dorchester. His Honor said if the policeman exerted themselves more toward "roping in" lurking boys and those who could not answer satisfactorily what school they attended, or why they were not working, instead of arresting the same old list of offenders and unoffending drunks, the root of crime in St. John might to a great extent be unearched.

A Joke on the "Dops."

"I see you take coppers," said the twinkled eyed passenger as he tendered the conductor five pennies, at the same time glancing at three of St. John's "finest" indulging in a tree ride. The man with the money box smiled and so did everybody else, but the policemen. They took a mental snapshot of the speaker and stowed it away in the grudge corner of their anatomy.

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PROGRESS CONTENTS TODAY.

- PAGE 1.—Cast your eyes about this page and you can learn as to its contents.
- PAGE 2.—The one Session Question—A continuation from page 1 of an extensive article on the issue of the single session idea with various opinions of leading citizens on the question, also the names of over two hundred parents who support or oppose the project. What Dr. Bridges thinks. Captains of Omasan Dign. General miscellany.
- PAGE 3.—Musical and dramatic columns with the week's happenings in these worlds of amusement.
- PAGE 4.—Editorial—with references to city government, postal revenue etc. Eloped to England—Mrs. Seaward of Brantford, Ont., leaves St. John on the "Arava" and escapes the police of Halifax. Douglas avenue extension—will the cars go to the bridge or not. A joke on the cops. Valentine poetry and special verses written for PROGRESS. The Magistrate's Sage Remarks. Hunter and Crossley's campaign in United States.
- PAGES 5, 6, 7 and 8.—Society items from all over the city, Halifax, Fredericton, St. Stephen and Calais, Woodstock, Truro, Newcasl, Parrboro, St. George, Annapolis, Moncton, Dieppe, Campbellton, Sussex, St. Andrews and many smaller places.
- PAGE 9.—A whole page of bright local topics, including: How the City Wakes, Six Carloads of "Dagoes," Lots of Vaccinations, A Valiant Maiden Squelched, An Odd Police Patrol, Did Rev. McKim Forget, Their Names Explain Them Evangelist King, Received no Medical Attention, Rainy Day Car Tr. Mo, St. Valentine's Day, etc etc.
- PAGES 10 and 11.—Second half of that charming story, "Fated to Marry a Soldier."
- PAGE 11.—Sunday Reading page with an able article on "Liquor Selling and How to End It" by an eminent New York writer. Other Sabbath day literature.
- PAGE 12.—A Delightful Valentine story, or rather conversation, between an erstwhile lover and his aged sweetheart. Selected items of interest.
- PAGE 13.—Frits of Fashions fresh from France and American centres as well. Other items for the ladies.
- PAGE 14.—A cleverly written article on "A bent minded New Yorker"—people who would leave their very heads behind them in the elevated trains. How the lost articles are recovered. Duck shooting in winter and other bright bits.
- PAGE 16.—"The Little Runaway"—a like picture of a lost baby episode in a Canadian city. General miscellany. Births, Marriages and Deaths of the week throughout the Maritime provinces.