

PROGRESS.

VOL. XL, NO. 562.

ST. JOHN, N. B., SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 18 1899.

PRICE FIVE CENTS

COMMENT AND CHATTER.

A SURVEY OF ISSUES OF TO-DAY'S SIGN.

Who Will Win in the Question of the Hour—The Workers are out in Force and Money is Abundant—Incidents of Mount Pleasant Day and Some Occurrences Since.

The humors of electing always come out when a campaign is on and good stories of the past and present are told and enjoyed. There was lots of fun on nomination day and in the afternoon the crowd was almost wholly opposition. So the cheering was one-sided, but in the evening the spectators were more evenly divided and the howling cheers, the interruptions, the interrogations and incidents were frequent and varied. It is pretty hard to rattle old campaigners like Stockton and Alward, and McKewen knows how to take his time and keep cool but George Robertson did not seem to be used to the tantalizing interruptions and was evidently not as familiar with provincial affairs as he used to be with civic matters. That was how he came to make that now celebrated statement of his political faith when suddenly asked what party he belonged to. "I am—I am—I am what I am" said the ex-mayor and the crowd laughed and howled in a most unseemly fashion.

It was amusing to hear the remarks afterward, to listen to the description of the different speeches from the adherents of both parties. "Stockton and Alward just 'wiped the floor' with Robertson" one would say and a government man on the next corner would be describing what a great speech the ex-mayor had made and how McKewen "had done up" the leader of the opposition.

Enthusiasm is abundant and hope high in the breasts of both parties and at this writing no one can tell what the result will be. The opposition look with confidence for victory. They say the people who are independent are as much opposed to the government as ever but fear that the patronage of the federal government will make a difference.

"The opposition won't get a man" said Ned MacAlpine when Progress asked him his opinion Tuesday morning and just around the corner an opposition talker laughed at the idea of the government winning. So pay your money and take your choice.

But there are moderate men as well and they do not take these extreme views. Some of them want to give two and two, Stockton and Shaw and Robertson and Purdy and these same men are apt to concede the election of Carson who is conceded to be strong in the east end of the county. There were 448 votes polled in St. Martin's and Simonds parishes at the last election and in Lancaster and Musquash 410. So if Mr. Carson can carry his colleague in his section and Mr. Dean carry Mr. Carson in the west the fight will be keen Lancaster No. 1 polled a large vote and the government men were beaten 37 votes there at that time while, in St. Martin's they were beaten 97. Of course the parish of Simonds went strongly for Dunn and McLeod and saved their election though the non-residents gave them nearly 40 of a majority. The figures are printed on the eighth page of this issue and anyone who wants to compare the returns as they come in to-night can do so in both city and county.

Now take the city proper. Kings ward about evened up giving Carleton 206 and Shaw the same. These were the leaders on both sides but Wellington was 176 majority in favour of the opposition. Even Prince gave Shaw 92 over the highest vote on the other side and Queens had within two or three votes of 200 majority for the opposition. Dukes gave nearly 140 in the same way which Sydney cut down by a majority of 54 in favour of the government. The two west side men in Guys, Smith and Allan ran away ahead of their ticket but Smith was 70 ahead while the other three opposition candidates were about 150 ahead of their rivals. The difference between Shaw and Trueman on the West side was 161 votes in favor of the former and that will give some idea of the feeling there then. There is no doubt that Allan was a great source of strength to the government ticket in Carleton and the absence of a West side man this time may affect the vote in favor of the opposition. A lot of people think that the North end was strongly opposition the last time.

They are mistaken. The vote was close in Lorne, Shaw beating Allan only 31 votes. He beat Heberington 29 votes in Lansdowne, while in Dufferin, Trueman beat Shaw 16 votes. Moreover Stanley gave the government 40 majority. Victoria however, turned the tables and Shaw beat Allan 190 votes. The total majority of Shaw over Trueman (his highest man on both sides in the North end) was 179.

These figures will give the people who have been figuring on the result something to go by. Shaw beat Allan 832 in the whole city. That was nearly seven years ago. The boy of 14 years then has a vote now provided he hasn't tried to escape his taxes and evaded the tax enumerators. With all consideration for those gentlemen Progress knows of many young men at the present time who have attained their majority but whose names do not appear on the list. The election committee men are often angry when they find young men—young citizens—whom they know well and who are old enough to vote and yet are not on the list. Some of them are sorry now that they have escaped the tax enumerator because they have the natural wish to vote.

There is much speculation about whether tickets will be split or not. The government party is going to try might and main to try and prevent it. They are not afraid of anyone throwing over Robertson or Purdy but they are not so sure of the voters' allegiance to McKewen and Reynolds. If the "knifing" process begins there is no doubt it will go very deep.

And there is not much doubt but what it will begin. Many electors who voted government last time will go so again in part but they won't swallow McKewen. "He worked against us the last two elections," they say "and we are not going to help him now." Still "Harry" as many of his supporters like to call him, has conducted a good campaign and made a good impression on the platform.

But few personalities were indulged in by the speakers and those few were better omitted no doubt, though they gave spice to the oratory and satisfaction to the crowd. Mr. Purdy was called upon to defend his civic record and he made an admission which may be taken notice of later. Some time ago Progress called attention to the fact that a portion of the contract for hay for the city was given to a Thomas Brooner and no one seemed to know of him as being in business. He was said to be the chief clerk of Ald. Purdy who, unable to tender himself, took this way of getting a chance at the business. Lockhart called the alderman's attention to this on nomination day and Purdy admitted that it was so and he was not ashamed of it. That may be true, too, but the alderman should know that it is against the law and that if his position was questioned he might cease to be alderman at large. No doubt he took the same view when the same Mr. Brooner put in a tender for nails, cutting the price of the hardware association of which Alderman Purdy was a member and when some one in committee asked who Mr. Brooner was his employer sat in his seat but did not say a word. It was only when the director was asked to inquire as to the identity and ability of Mr. Brooner that the chairman, Ald. Christie, told them it was no use doing that because he could inform him that Mr. Brooner was the chief clerk of Alderman Purdy. A rather dead silence fell upon the board and the matter dropped. But the contract finally went to the Fender Nail Co. at ridiculous figures.

Of course Mr. Purdy retorted upon Mr. Lockhart and spoke of the dealings of the firm of A. C. Smith & Co. with the city while he was an alderman. The crowd liked the fun and the incident passed off. But the facts come out.

There is no doubt that there will be lots of money floating. There was plenty of it around during the week. New and crisp one and two dollar bills seemed to appear as if by magic and the ward workers were flashier than usual. This was more particularly true of the government party who are said to have a good deal more cash than the opposition. Their finance committee is a very capable one and will have no difficulty in getting all the "ready" money necessary. How the opposition is fixed no one seems to know. The conservative party when in power used to have no trouble raising money but it is different now.

The ward chairmen are not having an easy time. They will be glad when the fight is over and the bills paid. The people who seek some kind of a job at their hands are many. They can do anything from hiring a hall to cleaning it out and acting as guard on the door. Refreshments were plenty in Sutherland's hall on Thursday evening. The boys enjoyed it and there were many accession to the ranks when the news spread. That was practically the end of the government work for last evening the final meeting was held in the institute.

There was not much bill posting done except to announce meetings but quite late in the week tickets were sent to nearly every voter. With the opposition ticket this circular in red ink was sent out.

Vote For The Old Guard.
A. A. STOCKTON,
SILAS ALWARD,
WILLIAM SHAW,
C. A. LOCKHART.

And Pure, Honest Government. No Deals on Bridge Street.
Vote the Ticket, the Whole Ticket, and nothing but the Ticket, and we will sweep the country from the Resignation to the St. Croix.
Don't pay any attention to the ravings of the Government, as they know they will be defeated, and are unwilling to keep their courage up.

Today will tell the tale. Many readers of Progress will know the result before they have read this article. They will know whether the claims of the opposition that they will carry York, Carleton, Charlotte, Sanbury, St. John and Westmorland is true or whether the idea of the government that York and St. John will be re-deemed is correct. They will know whether Minister Blair was a true prophet when he said the opposition would not have more than sixteen or seventeen supporters in the next house.

The time is not long—the suspense will soon be over.

CALLED DOWN BY THE JUDGE.

The Chief of Police and the Mail of St. John, N. B.

"Wherever there's Kellys there's trouble."

Progress does not know whether this saying is ancient or modern but it has been repeated by a good many liberals since last Monday when the affidavits of Councilor Dean and his brother appeared in the Sun which stated that an attempt had been made by Mr. James Kelly and Mr. Fred Watson to buy him off.

Of course everyone knows how the incident resulted—the arrest of Mr. Dean by Mr. Dunn on a charge of criminal libel and his subsequent examination and commitment for trial by the police magistrate—then the denial affidavit of Mr. Watson who said he made no offer to Mr. Dean. Mr. Kelly has not been heard from. Last Saturday afternoon he took the train for Toronto to attend the annual meeting of the insurance company he represents and he was in doubt then if he could get back in time to vote.

The government party think they turned the tables by arresting Mr. Dean but there are some of their own party who are in doubt about it. He came very near staying in jail Tuesday night—the time of his arrest. It is just as well for his opponents that he did not. It don't look much to arouse sympathy and that would have done it effectually.

But it wasn't the fault of the chief of police that there wasn't a good deal of difficulty about the bail. Mr. Dean's friends had heard of the warrant being out for his arrest and Mr. E. R. Chapman went at once to make arrangements for his bail as soon as he arrived in town and was arrested. The police magistrate was ill at his house but he courteously assured him that there would not be the slightest difficulty and told him to make the necessary arrangements with the chief of police and Capt. Junkins who was to execute the warrant.

Mr. Chapman did so and his part in the affair ended. The chief was not going to lose the chance of filling out one of the forms of his which described every criminal that entered the police office and the importance of this arrest was such that he even doubted the ability of Mr. Dean's friends to bail him out.

That was part of the reason that he was "called down" by the magistrate the next day in open court. In the words of the Sun report the magistrate took this opportunity to say a few words relative to someone who, at the police station, on the evening of Mr. Dean's arrest, intimated that he would be unable to get bail owing to the fact that the police magistrate was confined to his home by illness. His honor said: "I am the police magis-

trate of St. John, and will take bail when I feel like it. I was ill at my home when Mr. Dean was arrested, but I was able to admit him to bail. I would not think for a moment of allowing him to remain in jail all night. I received a message at my home such as I never care to hear again. It was an impudent message that came to me from the police station, and if such a thing occurs again I shall call the attention of the proper authorities to the matter."

The "some one" referred to was the chief of police who seems to be on about the same terms with the magistrate as he is with the Safety Board.

KENTVILLE AS A CURIOUS TOWN.
The Experience of a Travelling Man who Visited the Place.

The pretty little town of Kentville, nestled among the hills with its smart teams, hospitable citizens, inviting stores and cosy hotels where was to be found rest for the weary traveller, is no more—that is for the present.

It has departed to the limbo of forsaken cities. The portico has been barricaded with many a board and mine host has hid him to his upper back chamber there to consult the augur's and to meditate.

When your correspondent alighted from the train there a few days since, silent was the music of the merry sleigh bells and hushed the voice of the hotel porter which but a week ago gladdened the heart of the traveller with courteous invitation to rest him before the obsequy fire of his tavern.

"And is this Kentville?" was the audible query after gathering himself together in a struggle to obtain a longitudinal observation. "Oh yes indeed—at least a small part of it," answered a voice from a suave mannered and limpid eyed gentleman carrying the finest line of hair goods I have seen east of Montreal, who subsequently explained that it was his watch that morning (he being a member of the committee) and further that during the dog watch in the afternoon all hands would be on deck.

My friend explained at some length how it was possible for me to obtain tea and tattle at Mrs. — and that the bill of fare that day at Mr. — was to be soup and salad. He also offered a choice of many recherche restaurants, just opened near the top of the hill leading into the town from the northward and offered to guide me thither, but I declined and after offering him a cigarette (feeling he might refuse) I made a lone start to view the ruins.

There they were, sombre but beautiful, still surrounded with pleasant memories of wholesome meals and warm fires; but the usher came not out as of yore to greet me and the wind moaned through the leafless branches of the trees, while from the interior came the voice of a spirit choir singing "there's nobody knows where the traveller goes, there's nobody knows where he sleeps." No, pondered I, nobody but the traveler himself and he would prefer picking his own resting place, with thanks nevertheless to the committee.

At last, driven by hunger, I followed the scent of cabbage, pungent and powerful, to the westward and attracted by a number of dogs, paused in front of a residence wherein something of a extraordinary moment was evidently transpiring. "That," said a child of whom I enquired, "is the Killiecrankie Inn where John Barleycorn was killed, now open to the public and already famed for its oak cake and haggis." I shuddered and passed on. "And what," said I "is the place on the opposite side of the Avenue further to the westward where the ravens do perch in the trees?"

"That," said my young friend, "is the lately renovated and refitted Chateau du plum, where tea of the (W. C. T.) Union Blend is on draught at all hours, prices reasonable, children and dogs not admitted."

With this I came to the right about, took marching orders for the eastward and halted at the biscuit box of a greener and general junk dealer who hailed me from the door of his museum.

Kentville has always been a well watered town, sometimes I have thought too well, and there is still, like unto the case of the Ancient Mariner, water everywhere but not a drop to drink. The stream will flow but in a new and subterranean channel which but occasionally comes to the surface. The bottom man is on the prowl and the hip pocket has resumed its long disused functions.

I grew weary and footsore and finishing my cheese and stale biscuit I told my friend of the grocery I preferred Wallville and prescriptions or even Annapolis and about to the present region, and as without further delay I boarded the freight train for the town Royal, resolving to do my visit to a more convenient season.

MRS. DEVER WAS OUSTED

MRS. E. A. SMITH APPOINTED IN HER PLACE AS TRUSTEE

Of the City Schools—How the Vote Passed and Who Voted for and Against—The Mayor's Action in Leaving the Council Chamber in a Hurry.

Mayor Sears has been hasty again. He would not wait for the aldermen to gather in the council chamber Thursday afternoon and at half past three he put on his hat and walked out. He should have known that there was a caucus before the meeting and had some regard for the tardiness that is apt to be the case in this busy election time. But he didn't and the result is that the breach between the chief magistrate and the council is wider instead of narrower.

The business of the caucus was very interesting. Two school trustees, terms had expired at the first of the year and two had to be appointed. Dr. White and Mrs. Dever, wife of Senator Dever, were the trustees whose terms had expired.

The action of the council has been awaited with some interest because it was well known that an attempt was being made to appoint Mrs. E. A. Smith in the place of Mrs. Dever. At the last meeting of the council Ald. Christie proposed that action be deferred as some aldermen were absent who would like to vote on the appointment. There were two absent yesterday Alds. Purdy and Waring, and if they had been present and the mayor in the chair there is not much doubt but Mrs. Dever would have been reappointed. Ald. Macrae was absent when the vote was called, not through any fault of his but he was called out and had to be excused. That was long before the matter came up.

There was no doubt about Dr. White being reappointed but it was plain in the caucus held in the ante room that the vote was going to be very close on Mrs. Dever and Mrs. Smith. The three chairmen, Christie, Robinson and McGoldrick were in favor of Mrs. Dever as were Messrs. Millidge and Hama but Aldermen McMullin, Smith, Stockhouse, Maxwell, McArthur and Tufts voted the other way. So the vote stood six to five. The first two gentlemen are prominent in the councils of the government party and are working might and main for the return of its candidates in St. John. Their action may have an effect that could not be foreseen.

Alderman McGoldrick seemed to make the only remarks on the question. In moving the appointment of Dr. White and Mrs. Dever he spoke of the good work they had done and asked for their reappointment. No more speeches were made but the vote was taken.

Mrs. Dever has served three years on the board and has been very attentive to the duties of the position attending the meetings of the board regularly and visiting the schools and teachers quite frequently. Mrs. Smith has had practical experience in school work and is a prominent member of the women's council. She has quite a reputation as a speaker.

The Mayor left the council chamber at half past three. The council was to meet at three. As stated above his action will only serve to intensify the differences that already exist between him and prominent members of the board. He knew that the deputy mayor and chairman was there and that the meeting could be held legally without him and his action cannot fail to pain his friends and please his enemies.

The aldermen are not free from blame. Almost from the time Mr. Sears took the chair there has been a lack of harmony. Lack of courtesy to the mayor there is without a doubt but they claim that he started the ball. It is no unusual thing to hear Ald. Christie and Ald. Robinson call his worship down. Such talk would appear out of place to any citizen and it has a tendency to decrease the respect that all parties should have for each other.

Cryptic Note of Freemanport.

Mr. William Marshall Black of Halifax S. G. T. G. 330 of the Supreme Council of the Scottish Rite of Canada; visited St. John during the week, and completed arrangements for the re-organization of the Chebucto Council of Royal and S. Lect. Masters and Appendant orders. Messrs. Robert Marshall and John A. Watson, will shortly visit Halifax, to take part in the work of re-organizing Chebucto Council No. 4, in the Mason Temple in that city.

Undevilled, Unde, De-covered, De-quested, De-vel, St. Waterloo Street.