

OFFICIALLY COMPILED.

THE SOFT SNAP OF A PROVINCIAL DIRECTORY PUBLISHER.

He Enlists the Aid of a Postal Official, and Thereby Saves the Expense of Carriers—The Country Pays for the Postage, Paper, Envelopes and Labor.

An esteemed correspondent, at Cacawabac, wants PROGRESS to explain how directories are made—that is, how all the names are obtained.

The enquiry is a very proper one. Not one person in a thousand of those who consult a directory ever gives a thought to the vast amount of labor, and the expense, necessary for the preparation of such a useful book.

There is a certain publisher in a certain province who is a veteran in the business, and knows just how to go to work to secure the best results. He is a very careful man, and tries to make his books as correct as possible in every particular.

Mistakes as serious as this have happened in the best regulated directories. Sometime ago, but on what particular day and date deponent saith not, the publisher in question decided upon the publication of a provincial directory containing an alphabetical directory of each county, and a separate directory of the cities and principal towns, with an appendix of useful information.

A brilliant idea had occurred to him. Before his eye rose a vision of a provincial directory which would be in its way as correct as an Ottawa blue-book. He would no longer be at the mercy of canvassers of whose fidelity he was not assured, but would have the work officially compiled by sworn employees of the government.

The country postmaster, as a rule, is neither overworked nor overpaid. He has an intimate knowledge of his neighbors, their affairs, and the spelling of their names. Moreover, after the daily and weekly mail has arrived and he has read all the postal cards, he has an abundance of spare time.

There were 1,000 or more postmasters in the province in question, and the problem with the publisher was how to obtain their co-operation with the least trouble and at the smallest expense. The sending of a circular to each one, and the return postage at letter rates would cost only some \$60 or \$70, but under such a system there was no certainty that even the majority of them would respond.

To send his own canvassers around the country might cost as much as \$2,000. The wise publisher hit upon a much better plan, by which he would not only save postage, paper, time and trouble, but would have an accurate and virtually official list. All this, he found, could be done by dealing with one man, who for a fixed and definite sum would undertake to have the work satisfactorily and promptly performed.

That man was found in the person of an obliging post-office official.

The publisher was quite willing to pay for the knowledge he wanted, and agreed to pay a sum, said to be about \$800, to the genial official.

Two of the clerks under the official's control were assigned to the work. They made cyclostyle—or some other style—copies of a circular from the official to the postmasters throughout the province, excepting possibly, some of the larger towns, calling on them officially for certain information regarding their neighborhood and its people.

The postmasters responded with alacrity. The lists came back, were compiled by the young men, handed to the publisher and in due time became a matter of record in his valuable book.

If the genial official had been obliged to pay for the paper, envelopes, postage, labor of clerks, etc., he would have lost money. It is estimated that these amounts in value to about \$600, which the country is amply able to stand.

This is about all that will interest the correspondent who wants to know how a directory is made up. It does not concern him to know that the publisher paid his money like a man to the obliging official, who took it, and paid the bright young men the respective sums of \$20 and \$25 each.

So everybody will be happy, and the wise publisher not the least happy of all.

It Has Started Well. The Masonic Club held its first meeting in the new room, Masonic building, last evening. The large apartment which it will occupy during the winter has been made very bright and cheerful by Mr. John H. Leah, new gas fixtures have been put in by Messrs. Blake, and but little more needs to be done to make the place most attractive and homelike in its appearance.

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Doing It in Style. It took four policemen to seize a basket of bottled ale, in an unlicensed tavern, the other night, and then it took a coach and two horses to carry them and their booty to the police station, a pistol shot away.

Just Before Christmas. The Boston Comedy Company, under the management of H. Price Webber, will open in the Mechanics' Institute on Monday evening, Dec. 23rd, for a few nights. The opening bill will be Miss Bradlons drama, Aurora Floyd, and the always welcome farce of the Royal Diamond.

SHACKELTON MADE GLAD

APPEALS OF "PROGRESS" MEET WITH PROMPT RESPONSE.

Warm-Hearted People Contribute to the Relief of the Family—The State of Affairs Not So Bad as a Correspondent Made It Appear—Some Explanations.

A former employer of James Shackleton whose extreme need was spoken of in last Saturday's issue by a correspondent, called at the office of PROGRESS the same day and spoke of Shackleton as very worthy of any assistance, which would be no doubt exceedingly welcome, but he said that in his opinion he was not in such pressing need as the correspondent seemed to indicate.

The people of St. John are not selfish or uncharitable. The response of the public was prompt and hearty, and whatever may have been Shackleton's case before, it is quite certain that he will want nothing in the immediate present.

In justice to the neighbors of the sick man, however, it may be said that the communication, received too late for verification, made the matter worse than it was. Shackleton was not in danger of starving, nor had the church treated him unkindly.

Saturday was a great day for the Shackleton family. Messrs. DeForest's employees sent their money as soon as they had read the paper, and soon after their receipt a delegation from the St. George's society called to make enquiries, and took steps to aid the needy man.

Sunday, however, was the field day at Shackleton's house. "It was equal to a parish election," says one. No less than 30 teams were there from all points, and all of them carried some kind of help.

While the case was exaggerated by the correspondent of PROGRESS, there is no doubt that the assistance afforded proved most welcome to the family, which at the best was very poor indeed. It is well that attention has been called to the matter, as now, no doubt, the neighbors who have helped the family in the past will have others to co-operate with them in the future.

Improving our Facilities. This has been a great business year for PROGRESS. Its circulation has increased at a wonderful rate, and no paper in the city can show the same advertising patronage as it does.

Experimenting With the Climate. A hermit was discovered camping out, under the lee of a boulder on the shady side of Lily lake, the other day. He had no fire and very few clothes, but appeared to have located himself for the winter.

How to Weigh the Pig. A Charlotte county man has just killed a pig, fattened by himself, and is anxious to know the weight of it. As his scales weigh only up to 10 pounds, he proposes to weigh each piece as it is prepared for the family's consumption, by which method his curiosity will be satisfied, sometime next season.

Sample Free. Some unknown poet sends PROGRESS some verses beginning: St. John has a real Goat And he's an active fellow And appearing to a Rev man To be a chocolate color The public will probably be very well satisfied to guess at the rest of it.

CHRISTMAS IS COMING,

BUT "PROGRESS" HAS TAKEN TIME BY THE FORELOCK.

Something About the Paper That is Issued To-Day, and the Men who Helped to Make It—Not a "Boom" Edition, but Quite as Interesting.

Today PROGRESS completes the 85th week of its existence, and is glad to announce that it is not only alive, but in the most vigorous health.

It might be said that it is also "alive and kicking"—when there are any abuses to be kicked against. When there are not it is as peaceable and well disposed as any paper in America.

It will be found worth reading. All the stories have been written especially for this number, and several of them, with special local bearing are narratives of actual adventure. The readers can judge which they like best, for there is a variety of styles, and all of them are good.

Good as a Christmas Box. Two ladies met in a Fredericton dry goods establishment, F. B. Edgecomb's, one day last week and as they had not seen each other for some time, living in different cities, the natural inquiry of the Fredericton lady was to ask her friend how she liked—the city she had just moved from.

Children's Books, one hundred varieties, at McArthur's, 80 King street. "PROGRESS" AND ITS PATRONS. A Few Words About the New and Regular Announcements in its Columns.

A glance at the second page today will show the reader the handsome front of that extensive and first-class establishment, J. A. McMillan, and there will be no need of the head line to remind one of the fact that the handsomest and best Christmas gifts to be had can be found there.

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THE TRUTH ABOUT JOHN MILTON.

Only Two Special Editions of "Paradise Lost" Are Copyrighted in Canada.

John Milton's works are not copyrighted in the abstract in Canada. The law reaches only certain special editions of Paradise Lost. One of these, with introduction, life of Milton and notes, edited by Francis Storr, is copyrighted by Rivington & Co., of London; the other, with notes, a glossary, etc., edited by C. P. Mason, is copyrighted by Adam Miller & Co., of Toronto.

The editions above mentioned cannot be imported into Canada under any circumstances, but as there are several other good editions having the English copyright only, the booksellers are not so circumscribed as they were led to suppose. An English copyright work can be imported on payment of the usual duty of 15 per cent. and 12 1/2 per cent. in addition as royalty.

The authorities at Ottawa had taken the trouble to explain the situation in the first instance, there would have been no necessity for sending back books not of the prohibited editions, ordered for the St. John holiday trade, but which will now be rather late if ordered again.

What Do They Intend to Do? The scarlet fever is around the city again this winter, though it does not yet appear to have gained such a headway as to excite alarm. Neither did it when it began last year, but as the months went by it developed into what was almost an epidemic.

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MAS, 1889.

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Chenille Curtains, at \$3.50 and 4.00 at \$9.00 per pair.

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at relief. How anxiously the mother watches these dreadful diseases, and would not she give all to be relieved. Be advised of

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venient place a bottle of this Balsam.

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R GOODS.

large stock of RUBBER BOOTS of the finest in Canada.

Retail, receive special attention.

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WOOD & CO.,

Goods, 68 Prince Wm. Street, St. John.

DORCHESTER.

Dec. 4—Miss Hay is in Amherst, visiting her friend, Mrs. W. D. Douglas. Miss Lowerson, of Amherst, is in town, the guest of her friend, Miss Nellie Palmer. Mrs. Fred Bliss, of Fredericton, has been in town since Saturday. All his old friends, and many new ones, are pleased to see him here.

Mr. R. B. Smith, of Moncton, was in town yesterday. Miss Sarah Godfrey is visiting in Moncton, and is expected home Thursday. Mr. A. W. Bennett, of Sackville, was in town on Saturday. Miss Wells, of Point de Bute, is in town, visiting Mrs. M. B. Palmer. Mr. William Babkhouse, who has been quite ill, is gradually improving, and his many friends hope to see him out soon.

Mr. W. A. Russell, of Sackville, was in town Tuesday. Mr. E. G. Smith and family, of Shediac, were in town on Tuesday. Mrs. Phoebe Chandler, widow of the late Governor Chandler, died Tuesday afternoon, at 5 o'clock, after quite a long illness. Mrs. Chandler was in her 88th year, and up to her last illness was a remarkable lady. Her loss to the community is a heavy one, and especially so to the Church of England as this place, to which she has been a mother from her infancy.

CHATHAM.

Dec. 4.—The Osceola Toboggan and Snow Shoe Club is preparing for the coming season's pastime. The officers chosen for the season are: Geo. E. Fisher, president; D. G. Smith, vice-president; Stanley Murray, secretary-treasurer. A managing committee was also appointed. Messrs. McEl, Snowball, Alex. McKay, J. M. Davidson, W. D. Schlemmer, and Robert Blair. Several new members were added to the list. The slide is expected to be ready for Christmas. After a long illness, Mr. A. Marshall died on Friday last. Mr. Marshall was quite an aged gentleman having completed his 89th year. As he was a great invalid for the past two years, his was a happy release from suffering. His funeral on Monday, Dec. 10th, was largely attended. Dr. and Mrs. Street are making preparations to leave town for the winter. They will be very much missed.

Mr. Lee, formerly of Chatham, but now of Vancouver, is in town. Mr. Robert Marshall and Mr. Whitaker of St John, were in town this week. The ladies of W. C. T. U. propose opening a office room on Duke street, next week. X. Y. Z.

Wanted.

SUBSCRIPTION AGENTS for PROGRESS in Houlton, E. George, Kingston (Kan.), Hillsboro, Magnaville. Liberal commission given. Apply to EDWARD S. CARTER for sample copies and terms.

SOCKET COMMISSIONERS in Woodstock, St. Andrews and Newcastle. Selected ladies who have some leisure hours will find it to their advantage to write to "Society Editor" PROGRESS 1. John

Albums and Fancy Goods, cheap, at McArthur's, 80 King street.

OLD SILVER WARE.

DO YOU WANT IT PLATED? DO YOU WANT IT BRIGHT, NEW AND CLEAN?

If you do, take it to

HILLMAN, THE PLATER,

who has removed from Union to Germaine street, where he has every facility for repairing or replating Silver Ware of all kinds. Write your article should like to see this season of the year.

W.M. HILLMAN, 87 Germaine Street.