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RIGGS IS AN INFORMER.

LICENSING INSPECTOR VINCENT EMPLOYS A SPY.

How the Prosecutions are Carried on and Convicted—Methods Which May Benefit the Inspector and Riggs More Than the Municipality.

No one can doubt that the license inspector for the municipality of St. John is an energetic officer. The only question is whether he is taking just the right course to do what he considers to be his duty. A good many people, who have no interests at stake in the prosecutions, assert that he is not.

It was shown in PROGRESS, last week, that this inspector, George R. Vincent, had instituted various prosecutions in 1894, the cost of which to the county was some \$40 more than the receipts from fines. The principal portion of the amount collected went into the pocket of Mr. Vincent for fees for attending court from time to time as prosecuting officer. In this way he got considerable more than double the amount of his fixed salary. In some of the cases the municipality got nothing, either from failure to convict, or the inability of the defendant to pay fines imposed. In such cases the municipality not only got nothing, but was a good deal out of pocket for law costs, to say nothing of having to support prisoners who were committed to jail. These things would happen with any prosecuting officer, however, and it cannot always be expected that the county can have the law enforced and make money out of the conviction in every case. The county of St. John was out of pocket by the zeal of its license inspector last year, and at the rate prosecutions are now being pushed it may be still more out of pocket in the accounts for this year.

How much Mr. Vincent will make this year cannot now be guessed, nor will it even be known when the accounts appear. The fees received will be there, of course, but from these must be deducted the money paid to a spy and informer, by the name of Riggs, who has declared on oath that he has an "arrangement" with Mr. Vincent in regard to the aid he furnishes in securing convictions.

In other words, the license inspector employs a man to sneak around the country under false pretences and either gives him a percentage or in some other way rewards him for bringing grist to the mills of the law and fees to the pocket of the inspector. This would be a pretty small business even if the object was only to get necessary evidence against notorious resorts, but when such a person is abroad to tempt people to merely technical violations of the law it seems time to call a halt. Mr. Vincent is a public officer and should give some heed to public opinion. That opinion is that he and Riggs are in a pretty mean kind of a partnership.

There have been and are some notorious resorts and road houses in the county which are a good deal worse morally than any ordinary gin-mill. The inspector does not overlook these, but he lets them off quite as easily as he does, by an occasional fine of \$20 for "keeping liquor." It will be remembered that of the sixteen convictions of non-licensees where a fine was paid, in 1894, all were for "keeping" and none for "selling." The penalty in the latter case is \$50, and in the two or three instances where it was imposed the fine could not be collected. There may be wisdom, therefore, in some cases, in levying a fine only for the minor offence, so that the accused may be able to pay it. There may be other cases where the proprietors of houses really have an advantage over men who have taken out license at a cost of \$50, because they pay only two \$20 fines and actually save \$10 by being unlicensed.

There are houses and houses. It is said that Mr. Vincent claims to have driven eighteen men out of the business last year, but if he did they were men who never were known to the general public as being in the business. The old, familiar and notorious places are still to be found as in the years past. There are other places reported where all the ingenuity of informer Riggs has been taxed to get evidence that even a single glass of liquor can be procured.

If William J. Riggs were cooperating with Inspector Vincent in securing evidence against unlicensed dens where liquor is openly sold the year around, where the worst kind of fighting rum is dealt out with a free hand, and which are nuisances to the community where they are found, it might be thought he was engaged in a useful, though dirty, service. He appears, however, to be engaged to make cases by tempting people to violate the law, and expects to make a season's pay out of it. He is reported to have said this, in effect to a man from whom he sought to buy a wagon. When asked how and when he

expected to pay for it he spoke of the job on which the inspector was engaging him. This would seem to imply that Messrs. Vincent and Riggs expect to do a big business.

Mr. Vincent is said to have an idea that there quite a number of houses in the county where a weary traveller can get a quiet drink now and then, and where money will be taken if the traveller offers it. It may be he is right, but most of these houses are little known to the public, for the reason that they do not sell liquor as a business. Riggs is after them. On the Loch Lomond road, for instance, old Mr. McLellan was recently caught by him. Mr. McLellan, an old man who was formerly in very good circumstances, lives there in a humble way. He does not keep a tavern, nor has his place a reputation as a resort. He has been in the habit of keeping a little liquor in the house for his own use, and it may be he would now and then sell a glass to a person who seemed to be in need of it. That is the reputation he had in a very limited circle. Riggs went to the house intent on making this man commit a breach of the law. The story goes that McLellan was not at home, but his daughter was, and from her Riggs got a drink of liquor, on the pretext that he was ill and needed it. He gave the girl ten cents, just as many men would do if they called at a farm and got a glass of milk. The next thing was an information against McLellan. He was summoned, convicted and fined.

Riggs has also had William Abell, of Spruce Lake, brought up on charge of selling liquor. He went to the place as a laborer, giving his name as Johnson, and was given some work. Not long after he complained that he was ill and asked for some liquor. He was told that none had been kept there for some time past, but was offered some non-alcoholic potion, which he declined to drink. He finally did succeed in getting a drink of what he swears was whiskey, but what others assert was merely pop-beer. The case is not concluded as PROGRESS goes to press. It is asserted positively by Abell's friends that he has not kept a stock of liquor there this season. In cross-examination, the other day, Riggs admitted an "arrangement" with Mr. Vincent, but was not allowed to give the particulars of the bargain.

There was a case against James O'Donnell, of Musquash, the other day. It was tried before D. H. Anderson, but Mr. Vincent, in these cases is in a great measure both prosecutor and judge. He prosecutes as license inspector, and as clerk of the peace he is the legal adviser of the magistrate, who naturally accepts his dictum as to what is or is not evidence. All that could be shown against O'Donnell was that he had sold a certain kind of beer, but the opinion of witnesses differed as to whether or not a large quantity of it would intoxicate. O'Donnell, fortunately for him, had a lawyer, though Mr. Anderson had previously told him he would not need one. W. B. Wallace was the lawyer, and he showed such a disposition to fight the case through that the charge was not pressed. The statement of some "Musquash temperance man," in the Sun, that the case was allowed to stand because O'Donnell promised to give up the business, is not correct. He still sells beer which does not intoxicate. He is the one dealer in Musquash who beyond doubt does deal in purely temperance drinks.

It is one thing to see the license law enforced in the county, and another thing to have a spy on the road to make a business of working up prosecutions and incidentally bringing fees from the pockets of the prosecuting officers. Mr. Vincent should make a note of the distinction.

A Modest but Effective Remedy.

Very often celebrated remedies began in a modest way. Medicines compounded by skillful hands in a country or city home to meet emergency cases have become so useful in a small circle that their fame has extended and the demand for them grown until their use became general. The demand for Pinel Syrup prepared by Mrs. Lauckner of this city, as a cure for diarrhoea and such forms of disease, has spread to such an extent that she has placed the remedy on sale in the drug stores. Mrs. Lauckner has received many testimonials which came unsolicited and show how much the medicine was appreciated by those who used it.

How He Took the Prize.

A prominent merchant of Fairville took an archery prize at a Sunday school picnic, the other day. He took it in summary sort of a way, despite the protests of the other contestants who did not see how he had any claim to it. The trouble came from his insisting that he had the highest score, while everybody else said he had not. Since then, finding public opinion too strong for him, he has returned the prize, and no longer ranks himself as the crack shot on that particular occasion.

WERE PURSUED IN VAIN.

HOW A HALIFAX YOUNG MAN GOT AWAY WITH HIS BRIDE.

She was Very Young and There Were Strong Objections to her Marriage—McNellan Solved the Problem and That Ended the Matter.

HALIFAX, Aug. 8.—There is no accounting for the intuitions of the feminine heart, or the masculine heart either, for the matter of that. The love of seventeen year old pretty Miss Roche for Charles McNellan, is this week's illustration of the inscrutability of cupid's work. Miss Roche is well-connected, the daughter of Charles Roche, of Russell street, and a niece of William Roche, M. P. P., a man worth \$600,000, one of the richest capitalists in Halifax. Her parents did everything they could for her in the way of improving her education and accomplishments, and unlike many of the girls of today she was not asked to work for her living, but was kept at home in elegant leisure.

On the other hand, Charles McNellan, with whom Miss Roche became infatuated, apparently had little about him to call for such devotion. This is not a difficult fact to substantiate. Young McNellan is the son of an honest father and though young in years, he is rather old in his experiences. The daily papers had particular some weeks ago of a romantic midnight marriage in which a young man wedded almost at the pistol mouth. The man who was spiced on that occasion, it seems, was not the only youth to whom the revolver was presented that night. It is said it was first pointed at McNellan, but to no avail. He challenged the irate man to fire and his nerve saved him from marriage. The crack of the pistol was not heard, and the marriage was not forced, so far as McNellan was concerned. At the same time he would not deny that he had as good a right to marry on that occasion as had the second man approached by the pistol, who did marry.

Then he had a little misunderstanding with staid and dignified Griffin about the rent of a farm owned by the magistrate out the Preston road, or rather the lady tenant had a grievous misunderstanding, which Mr. Griffin ended by dispossessing his tenant with some promptness.

For a time McNellan ran a fruit stand near the public gardens. Some of the supplies were purchased from the Halifax confectionery company. They were not paid for. Secretary Henderson, failing to get the money from McNellan and seeing no prospect of doing so in the future, apparently determined to get his money's worth out of the debtor in a harsh physical way. McNellan promptly charged his assailant with assault, and in the police court a fine of \$6 was exacted from the confectionery man to satisfy justice. McNellan came out on top that time.

Here then we have a pretty girl and Charles McNellan. This was the couple that ran away to be married. McNellan had no money but he had a tongue and knew how to use it. He is said to have told Miss Roche that he had been left \$10,000 by a relative in Boston, and with that capital his idea was to start in business. If he said this, the girl doubtless believed him, and certainly did not repel his advances.

Mrs. Roche did not like this by any means, naturally she would not. She cautioned her daughter against McNellan, and finally she positively forbade her keeping company with him. But the warnings were unavailing. The girl was infatuated. One evening Mrs. Roche learned that her daughter had gone, eloped with Charles McNellan. She was told the girl was seen driving towards Bedford. That was all she knew. The Roches have means and the eloping girl's mother decided to send consulars in pursuit. It was after dark when the news of the runaway became known to Mrs. Roche and it was late when the pursuing team started. The constables drove rapidly to Bedford. They learned that a couple answering the description given of the eloping pair had gone to Sackville. The pursuers arrived at Sackville between 11 and 12 o'clock, where they found them at Mrs. Snow's. The officers remained there till three in the morning, but all their persuasions were unavailing. The girl would not return home. She stated that she and McNellan had been married by a clergyman at Sackville, and pointing to the wedding ring on her finger, intimated that she had decided to remain with McNellan.

Mrs. Roche anxiously awaited the return of the constables, hoping that her child might be with them. She sat up all night, and when confronted with the tidings that her daughter had married McNellan, she became hysterical.

Mrs. Roche says she is determined that her daughter shall not live with McNellan and indeed she cannot, for the husband is penniless. The mother left next day for Sackville to try by her maternal per-

suasions to bring back her wayward child. But the couple had again flown. They did not come back to Bedford as expected, but drove to a station further up the line, boarded the train, and thus eluded pursuit for the time.

Mr. McNellan has since returned to Halifax. He claims that he and Miss Roche have been friends for the last four years, and that the objections of Mrs. Roche were not to him individually, but to any young man paying attention to her daughter. He does not seem to think he has done anything more than anybody else would have done in marrying the girl of his choice.

MR. GREGORY WAS MAD.

His Name Did Appear in Big Type in the Halifax City Directory.

HALIFAX, Aug. 8.—Rev. T. B. Gregory is nothing if not sensational. He has a grievance with McAlpine's city directory because, while all the other ministers have their names in black letters, his are in ordinary small type.

Mr. Gregory made this action of the directory people the text for half his sermon on Sunday evening. He said a friend of his had asked the directory publishers for an explanation. The reply furnished was that they despised him and his doctrines so thoroughly that they couldn't find letters small enough in which to print his name. Mr. Gregory accordingly expressed himself in this way from behind his pulpit front. "I have been a universalist, but I have lost my faith. All men can not be saved. There is not room in heaven for the soul of this directory man, small though it be. On the last day they will not be able to see that little soul, and will pass it by. Barnum's Tom Thumb could have carried this man round in his vest pocket and found room enough left for his watch."

Mr. Gregory, in view of his early departure from Halifax for Chicago, might have had something more pleasant to say, but what he did utter is not likely to be forgotten.

A CURIOUS PLEA.

A Fredericton Lawyer Defends a Suit For a Liquor Debt.

The law allows a smart man a loop hole to escape the payment of his honest debts. An instance of this has come to the notice of PROGRESS and the details of the story show that good lawyers are apt to avail themselves of the loopholes of the law.

A St. John liquor firm sold goods to a drug firm in Fredericton interested in which was a prominent lawyer of that place. This man while in St. John made the arrangement for the purchase of the liquor, alcohol or whatever it was and according to the idea of the firm became responsible for payment.

Some \$500 worth was purchased and paid for in part. There was a balance of between \$200 and \$300 which at last the liquor concern had to bring suit against the lawyer for. He is defending the suit and has pleaded, so PROGRESS is informed, that the liquor was sold for an illegal purpose with the knowledge of the plaintiff. The attempt will be made to escape payment on this ground. Fredericton is a Scott act town and it is illegal to sell liquor there, but there are many things in the liquor line that a drug store must keep and it is allowed to dispense. This case, when tried, will be watched with much interest not only because of the peculiar defence set up but because if such a plea is successful many concerns in Fredericton, and other towns not in the drug business might escape the payment of their honest debts by the same road.

She Paid for Her Supper.

Those who have read "Ships that Pass in the Night" will remember that the Disagreeable Man declined to pay for the luncheon of the young lady he took on an excursion. It was a matter of principle with him, and perhaps this was the case with a man who recently returned to St. John on the Boston boat. A young lady with whom he was acquainted was on board, and he invited her to accompany him to supper in the dining saloon. She accepted, and in due time the steward came around to collect. "I would like to pay for your supper," remarked her escort, "but I have only enough change left for my car fare, after I have paid for my own." The young lady, who mildly surprised, gracefully accepted the situation and paid for her own supper. She might possibly have paid for that of the gentleman also, had he explained the situation in advance. The moral is that ladies who are asked to supper by escorts should not go to the table without enough money in their pockets to pay for what they eat.

A Hint to Correspondents.

Correspondents will please bear in mind that a sealed letter with a one cent stamp upon it calls for double postage from PROGRESS. After this such unpaid letters will not be taken from the post office.

"Progress" is for sale in Boston at King's Chapel News Stand.

A BIG, BRAUNY HAND

WAS WHAT WON THE GAME ON THE RAILWAY.

Between a St. John Contractor and Three Card Sharps—Senseless Forms Strewed the Tables When the Game was Over and the Money Won.

Maritime province men are nearly always capable of holding their own under any circumstances. Few of them are expert card players yet their natural shrewdness gives them a fair idea of what cheating at cards is and when it is being done. One of the building contractors, who is busily engaged upon a big building in Maine at present was on the train between Bangor and Houlton a short time ago, trying as best he could, with other passengers, to put in the time. Fortunately, as he thought, a gentlemanly looking passenger suggested a game of euchre and soon the two were engaged in a friendly and, to them, interesting game. But there appeared to be other lonely people on the train for soon a third man, acquainted with the stranger asked if he might have a hand, suggesting that if there were no objections a friend of his in the next car might make a pleasant four handed game. Though this was agreed to willingly yet the St. John man placed his hand upon his roll of cash to make sure that it was there. His thoughts were in the proper channel for very soon, though the party was playing euchre, one of the strangers wagered another of them that he had a better poker hand than him. To begin easy and not to scare the stranger too much, a box of cigars was the first bid bet, then a five dollar gold piece. The contractor kept clear of this by play but soon one of the party challenged him to back his hand. He did so and won. Before the chance came again there was a call in the car for Mr. —, the St. John man, coupled with the statement that there was a telegram for him in the station. There wasn't any telegram, but a quiet hint from the conductor that the party he was with were companion card sharps. This was confirmation of what he thought, so when he returned he was fully on his guard. The game went on and soon, somewhat to his surprise the contractor found four aces in his hand. He was challenged to bet and placed a modest five upon his cards. His challenger covered it and the cards were about to be called and shown when one of the others called out "say, can't I raise you two." The contractor was willing thinking that the usual bet of five would be placed but instead the stranger raised \$20. His friend also placed twenty on the board and the St. John man followed suit but as he did so he collected the bills, some \$70 in all, pushed them in his pocket and then exposing his hand he struck straight from the shoulder. There was terror among the sharps. The contractors fist was a heavy one and one of the fleecers was a long time coming to his senses. Then the hands were looked at and it was found that the third man who raised the \$20 had a royal flush which was better than the four aces. The sympathy of the passengers was with the contractor who had by main force turned the table upon the youths who had tried to "do" him. They won't try it again, still as few men have the muscle this St. John man possessed it would be well to keep clear of strangers who play cards and propose a game to pass away the time.

WAS NEARLY FORGOTTEN.

The Story of Three Thousand Dollars in the Hands of a Lawyer.

A former resident of St. John is now living in a city in Ontario, at the advanced age of about 93 years. It is about eighteen years since he ceased to reside here and it was not supposed he had any assets remaining of some little means he had previous to the fire of 1877. Of late his mind has not been strong, and his family believed that he was subject to delusions, as aged people frequently are.

Several months ago, being in very feeble health, he believed that the end of his long life was drawing near. With this impression he called his family around him and caused his will to be read. Among other bequests were some which related to \$3,000 he claimed to have in St. John. His family supposed this money to exist merely in his imagination, and endeavored to convince him that he was in error. He was very positive, however, that he had that amount here, though he could give no definite explanation in regard to it.

He did not die, as he had expected, but his assertions in regard to the money led the family to write to a gentleman in St. John, asking him if he thought there was any basis for the story. His reply was to the effect that such a thing was so improbable that it could only be the fancy of a deranged mind.

The old gentleman was so positive, however, that one of the family, a daughter, concluded to come to this city to investigate the matter for herself. She arrived here recently, and by following up certain

lines of inquiry found the \$3,000. It was in the hands of a well known lawyer.

Prior to the fire this money had been invested here, but after that event it had been called in and was in the lawyer's hands from that time forward. The lawyer, it is stated, says that the whole matter had passed from his mind, there being nothing to recall it for such a long period of time. He paid the \$3,000 to the lady, without interest.

Had the old gentleman not made his will, there is just a possibility that the family would not have had the \$3,000, unless some accidental occurrence had recalled the existence of it to the lawyer's memory.

Just what the particular lawyer is has not transpired, and PROGRESS does not know, but for all that the story is a true one.

KNIGHTS TEMPLAR IN ST. JOHN.

The Great Priory of Canada Is to Have Its Session Here This Month.

While Boston is making ready for the Triennial convocation of Knights Templar, St. John is to have an event of interest in Templar history, when the Great Priory of Canada meets here, Thursday, the 22nd of this month. This is the first time the sovereign body of the Dominion has chosen St. John as its meeting place, though in no place in Canada has there been a more flourishing or wide awake body than the encampment of St. John.

The Encampment of St. John, however, is not under the control of the Great Priory of Canada, but is an anomalous and practically independent body. Its allegiance is to the Chapter General of Scotland, and with the exception of one encampment at St. Stephen, it is the only body of the kind in America. It existed before the Great Priory of Canada was formed, and it has steadily refused to affiliate with the latter, though strong efforts in that direction have been made for years past.

The mistake of the Great Priory, some ten years ago, was in attempting to force the St. John body to join its ranks, by endeavoring to prevent fraternal recognition by the Templars of the United States. The edict, most unwisely made, had a brief duration, the Canadian body seeing that it was likely to make matters worse than before and to render the final reconciliation impossible.

Within the last few years, the overtures have been of a most friendly character. The idea has been to have St. John Templars a part of the body which has jurisdiction throughout Canada, and many of the St. John men have favored the idea. The Union de Molay Preceptory, of this city, is a Canadian body, but it has for a long time been in a practically dormant condition. Between it and St. John Encampment there was formerly a friendly feeling when both bodies were flourishing, but as most of the men responsible for the trouble have either died or resigned, the local antagonism no longer exists.

While many of the members of St. John Encampment would be willing to come under the Canadian jurisdiction, there is a conservative element which manages to control the vote to the contrary. A motion tending to affiliation was voted on a month or two ago and defeated by 15 to 11. The total vote represented but a small proportion of the total membership.

When the Great Priory fixed St. John as its meeting place for this year, there was probably a hope that St. John encampment would be under its jurisdiction. There will, however, be cordial relations between the members of the encampment and the visitors. A joint committee from St. John and De Molay has the reception in charge, and part of the programme is a dinner on Friday the 23rd. It is quite likely that the session of the Great Priory here will have a marked effect in hastening the union so long sought between the two bodies.

No Lack of Applicants.

The board of works has yet done nothing in the way of filling the vacancy in the office caused by the death of Mr. Seely, but that has not been for a lack of applicants. There has been a pretty active race among all sorts and conditions of men to secure the place, and it all get there who think their chances are good. Director Smith will have a pretty large staff.

Equestrianism is Popular.

The craze for horse back riding has not equalled that for bicycles as yet but still there are a few young ladies who have learned to be quite expert of late. They include Miss Jewett, of Boston, Miss Dunn, of Houlton, and the Misses McCormick. Then several young men have also taken lessons from Mr. Bond who is the only riding master in the city.

No Inspector Appointed.

The board of works had a session this week, but Newman's brook bridge was not even mentioned. It now seems pretty certain that the aldermen have realized how big a mistake they would make in appointing an inspector for the bridge, in defiance of public opinion. They realize that the easiest way out of the matter is the best in this instance.