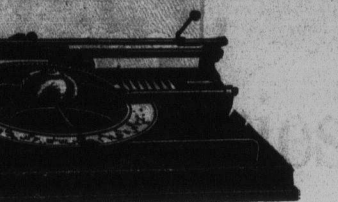


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A Merry Christmas

FOR OUR 33,000 READERS.

PROGRESS.

A Merry Christmas

FOR OUR 33,000 READERS.

VOL. II., NO. 86.

ST. JOHN, N. B., SATURDAY, DECEMBER 21, 1889.

PRICE THREE CENTS

INSPECTOR KING TALKS.

HE EXPLAINS WHAT HE MEANT BY A LETTER HE WROTE.

Some information in regard to the New Brunswick Directory and McAlpine's Methods of Getting the Facts He Desired—Mr. Whittaker also Speaks.

The following letter appeared in the evening papers of Saturday:

Sir,—Kindly allow me the use of your columns to refer to an article in today's Progress on the improper assistance rendered by postal officials in the compilation of a Provincial Directory.

As the only publication of this character recently issued is the New Brunswick Directory, it may be assumed that it was meant that the alleged irregularities were in connection with the postal service here.

If this was the intention of the writer in Progress, then I beg to say his statements are false. I have made careful enquiries in the matter, and I am in a position to deny the existence of any arrangement with the publisher of the Directory for the services of any official and his clerks in this division.

I deny the issue of circulars to postmasters in official papers—and the "new" transmission through the mails of documents and papers relative to the Directory, and to deny the distribution on the part of any of the officials here of any moneys as remuneration to "the bright young men" of the department.

Any assistance given Mr. McAlpine in the publication of his very useful Directory, by any persons connected with the Postal Department, was strictly limited to mere clerical services after office hours and outside the Post Office premises entirely.

Yours, etc., S. J. KING, P. O. Inspector.

St. John, Dec. 14.

The article to which Mr. King has referred did not name any province, any directory or any officials. In the concluding paragraph of his letter, however, he admits that assistance was given to Mr. McAlpine in the publication of his "very useful directory," by persons connected with the postal department, but that it was strictly limited to mere clerical services after office hours and outside the post office premises.

In an interview with the editor of Progress Mr. King has more fully explained the statements made in his letter, and while positively denying any arrangement by Mr. McAlpine with himself or any other official, has slightly modified some of his assertions. His version of the affair, given informally, is substantially as follows:

When Mr. McAlpine started to procure information for the directory, he sought the assistance of Mr. W. C. Whittaker for the purpose of obtaining certain facts from postmasters in various sections of the province. Mr. Whittaker undertook to do so, as a favor, and not with any arrangement as to remuneration. The first intimation the Inspector had of this was when he opened a letter addressed to Mr. Whittaker, "Post office Inspector's office," supposing it to be on post office business, and found that it related to the directory.

He spoke to Mr. Whittaker about it, and told him it might not look just right, and that it should be stopped. It was stopped then.

Questioned as to whether the envelope of that letter was an official "free" one, or one bearing postage stamps, Mr. King did not remember that it was a "free" one, but Mr. Whittaker, who entered the room subsequently, admitted that at the outset, purely through inadvertence, a very few "free" envelopes had been used. In the other cases he had stamped the letters and enclosed stamps for the postmaster's replies. So far from having made any money, he was out of pocket a few dollars for stamps so used.

Subsequently, Mr. King says, Mr. McAlpine found that he was unable to get the information desired and asked Mr. King, as a favor, to put his name to some circulars which he (McAlpine) would send to the postmasters. This Mr. King consented to do for the sake of helping Mr. McAlpine. The circulars were furnished by the latter. They were sent from the printer to the Inspector's office and taken to the Inspector's house, where he simply signed his name and had them delivered to Mr. McAlpine, who mailed them and paid the postage on them. No official paper or envelopes were used. Mr. King says that his act was not an official one, but simply that of an individual, and that the public has no concern with it. It is, however, necessary for Progress to state the fact in order to make clear his explanation.

Mr. King emphatically denies that he received any money for what he did, or that he would listen to a proposition which related to an arrangement of that nature. He would fire out of his office any man proposing such a thing. Mr. McAlpine, however, asked his permission to obtain the help of Mr. Murray, a clerk, for clerical work in connection with the information sought, and Mr. King says that while it was understood Murray was to be paid there was no arrangement for any stipulated sum. He understood that Murray had received \$25. He had consented that Murray should assist Mr. McAlpine, on the express condition that the work should be done after office hours and outside of the building. It was not unusual for clerks to add to their income by work done outside, when their time was their own, and in no way conflicted with their office duties.

Mr. Whittaker, was, also, positive that Mr. Murray had done no work in connection with the directory during office hours, or

in the room in which he is employed. He was not sure but that he did some of the work, after office hours, in a back room of the building.

To sum up, Mr. King denies that there was any arrangement with himself or any other official to secure the information for remuneration or other improper consideration; that official paper was used or matter carried free; that the government was put to any loss either in the way of revenue from stamps or time taken from the hours assigned for office duties; in short, that there were any irregularities or anything improper in connection with the New Brunswick Directory and the Post Office Department.

This is Inspector King's explanation of his letter to the evening papers.

"WENT LIKE HOT CAKES."

Fitting Description for the Reception of the Holiday "Progress."

There was a departure in the price of newspapers last Saturday, when PROGRESS was put on the streets at five cents. It is true that the paper contained 20 pages of matter—twelve more than ordinary—still it was thought an innovation to raise the price of the paper to five cents, for one issue, a thing unheard of in the maritime provinces. The experiment could not have met with greater success. The bright and courageous newsboys, those firm friends of PROGRESS from the start, were on hand before the stars had deserted the sky, counting out their money and calculating how many papers they could buy with their capital. The scene was a busy one. Little fellows ranging from six to ten years, too small, one would almost think, to be out of their mothers' sight, clung to the counter with their fingers and insisted for their turn as sturdily as their older and stronger companions, and frequently bought far more than they could carry away. Then they produced straps, and their papers were literally tied about them as they departed to serve their customers. The morning was bitterly cold, but no weather seemed to daunt the lads who bought and bought until darkness set in and the office closed.

More than 7000 papers went out from PROGRESS office into the city last Saturday. Then there was the supply for the country and the regular subscribers, and transient subscribers, who ran into the thousands that day.

The paper was a great success. The people were pleased with it, and that was the end and aim of the issue. The advertisements paid the publisher and the advertisers. What more could be asked? One prominent merchant complimented the largest advertiser in the paper, and inquired as to value. "I calculate that it paid me," was the prompt response. "That paper went into the hands of every storekeeper in the country, and they are the people I want to reach."

What story did you like best? Have you decided? If you have, it is more than the critics of this office have done. There is but one opinion around here, and that is that the stories in the holiday number of PROGRESS were equal to any in the toney and expensive Christmas issues of a Doubt that there is plenty of literary ability in far-away corners of the maritime provinces which only needs urging to bring it to the front. This shall be one of the duties and pleasures of PROGRESS in the future.

Two of the best stories of the collection were written under *noms de plume*. This, in the opinion of the writer, is a great mistake. If a story is worth publishing, it is worth signing, and there is so little credit for good work now-a-days that it does not do to miss any of it.

The Plans Coming from New York.

Some enterprising fabricator, not too friendly to Mr. J. D. Leary, of dock fame, started the story that all the costly plans that he said took so many engineers so many days and nights to prepare did not come from New York at all, but were the work of a young draughtsman in the office of the city engineer. For the sake of those who have heard and believed the story, PROGRESS obtained the flat denial of the draughtsman in question, who said that the only work he had done for Mr. Leary was to draw a plan of the locality, which he took away to New York with him. Mr. Van Slooten also employed the same young gentleman to do some work for him in connection with the dock his company proposed building.

A Sermon Worth Heeding.

An eloquent sermon for some of the citizens of St. John is contained in the confession of Blackall, convicted of crooked bucket-shop transactions at Waterville, Me. He merely affirms what PROGRESS has tried to make plain in the past, that "the man who deals with the bucket-shop is a sure loser." Blackall was a graduate of the St. John branch of Ledden Bros.

Tro—Your communication is too personal. The person referred to is not in public life, and his peculiarities are not a subject for criticism.

LEARY IS A GREAT MAN,

AND HE IMPRESSES THAT IDEA ON THE COMMON COUNCIL.

The Facility With Which He Enlisted the Sympathies of Men "Gunned, Albert, to the Melting Mood"—How He Came, Saw, Conquered and Departed.

Mr. J. D. Leary has taken St. John by storm and has carried a scheme involving millions in the shortest time, on record. His proposition to accept \$10,000 a year from the city, build docks and improve the harbor was scarcely before the common council when it was adopted by a thundering yea, and not an hour was lost to the busy man from New York. He came and went on the fastest trains, did his work in the fastest time, and secured everything as hard and fast as if the subject had been before the people for years instead of hours.

Such remarkable celerity on the part of the common council, such unheard of rapid despatch of such business, has done more than astonished the citizens. It has paralyzed them. They are not yet sure whether the right or the wrong thing has been done. Events have transpired with such bewildering rapidity that they have as yet scarcely realized what has happened. They hope it is all for the best, and most of them believe so, but no one seems very sure about the matter. Even the members of the council are a little surprised at what they have done, and are rejoicing that a week has passed without any developments to show that they voted in haste to repent at leisure.

In one of Jules Verne's books, the experiences of a certain Dr. Ox are narrated. The learned doctor invented a method of manufacturing and distributing oxygen gas in such a way that the most marvelous results were developed. Some cities where the people had been noted for their laziness and indifference awoke to new life. The citizens became imbued with abnormal activity, and in the excess of their zeal, even declared war on neighboring cities. It was all due to the quantity of oxygen with which the atmosphere was charged.

There were those outside of the council who were of the opinion that Mr. Leary had acquired Dr. Ox's secret. There were others, who never having heard of Dr. Ox, believed that the secret was that sought by the old alchemists, of using a small amount of gold to produce a much larger amount, and that some of the aldermen were the element necessary to be combined with the gold in the first instance. Such a suspicion was wholly unfounded and unjust. The council was not tampered with in that way. The majority of the nineteen who voted yea would have spurned any such suggestion. Besides Mr. Leary had a much easier and less expensive method.

He simply mesmerized all hands.

To begin with, he is a man of the world, with a most pleasant address and a thorough knowledge of human nature. He sized up every man at the board, found his weak point, and laid for him. He made only one mistake, and that was when he sought to propitiate Alderman Barnes by saying that he was the best looking man at the board. Now the alderman does not object to giving the price of a refresher to a man who tells him that he is "easy-going fellow" who doesn't care what folks say, but when it comes to praising him for his appearance he is apt to get annoyed, and he did so in this instance. The alderman voted nay, as he intended to do in the first place. Five others stood by him, but Mr. Leary got there with the remaining nineteen.

Those of them who have anything to say about the matter admit that he impressed them as being a very remarkable man. Some who are at the board for the sake of \$100 a year, felt almost ready to worship a man who claimed to be worth a trifle more than ten millions. Those who want to be contractors with the city recognized as their superior a man who had had a seven-million dollar contract in Central America, or elsewhere, and cleared half a million by the operation. Those who have talked the council tired at times were charmed with a man who was such a good listener to their ideas on docks. Those who were inclined to be social were delighted to meet such a prince of good fellows, while Mr. Leary's remarkable memory for faces and facts enabled him to make each alderman believe that he had given special attention to something said by that alderman the first time he met him.

To the conservative members he spoke warmly of his friendship for Sir John A. Macdonald, who was an old and particular friend of his father's, and who would do all in his power for him. To the grits, he probably talked of the wonderful country this would be if the fallacy of protection were abandoned by the people.

Dropping in on Alderman Lewis, he found that gentleman engaged upon some bouys. Mr. Leary knows all about bouys—he is "one of the boys" himself—and he expressed his unbounded surprise and admiration that such excellent work as that done by the alderman could be found in this part of the world. The alderman is naturally of the opinion that the country

needs just such men as Mr. Leary to develop its resources.

Even Mayor Lockhart was fascinated with the man, and expressed himself to that effect. Other officials and citizens were equally charmed, and found in Mr. Leary something which particularly enlisted their admiration. When the great man went away, a distinguished citizen was proud to accompany him to the train and carry his valise for him.

Altogether it was a great day for the city when Mr. Leary discovered it. If he understands building docks as well as he does promoting his plans St. John will have reason to be proud of him. So far as he has revealed himself he knows his business, and is as well prepared to handle millions as he is to shape a compliment.

And he knows altogether too much for the enterprising syndicates which proposed to utilize him and his money to reap the golden harvest for themselves.

POINTERS FOR CORRESPONDENTS.

How They Can Save Themselves Unnecessary Work and Vexation.

Some of the society correspondents think that their manuscript is rather unkindly used at times, when it is condensed or omitted. There is always a good reason for such a course. For instance, a certain letter reached here, Friday morning, last week, a day later than it should have come, and though an effort was made to publish all of it, it became necessary to "saw it off" in the middle in order to get to press.

This week the letter from that place was received on Thursday morning, and is published in full.

Certain phrases are always eliminated from letters, or if they appear, it is by accident. These include, "I am glad to learn," "We regret to hear," etc. It is also quite unnecessary to say that "dancing was kept up until the wee sma' hours," etc. Such things are always understood. Nevertheless, nearly every correspondent is prone to use nearly one or all of these time-honored phrases.

It is quite unnecessary for a correspondent to try and deceive the editor by writing closely and running the paragraphs all together, under the impression that the letter will be published in full because it looks to be shorter than it is. Matter is not estimated in that way. If it is good and arrives in time, it will be published, without reference to its length. If there is unnecessary verbiage, or what is technically known as "padding," it will be struck out, unless very artfully done by some practised "old hand."

Facts about what is going on in society are what is needed for this department.

Just at this season it may be proper to remark that PROGRESS has no space for accounts of church decorations, etc. The daily papers, however, are only too glad to give as much space as possible to such matters.

Nor will it be necessary for correspondents to indulge in the compliments of the season. They are understood, and to make the matter more clear, PROGRESS, once for all, wishes its contributors a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Hard to Find a Manager.

The St. Stephen Hotel company has not found a manager or lessee yet for its hotel. There is an impression among hotel men that the lessee will have no road of roses, whoever he may be. It will take about \$7000 to furnish the house properly, and the company wants \$500 rent for the first year and \$1000 afterward. The Scott Act is in force in the border city, and the town has been without a decent hostelry for so long a time that travel has set in toward Calais. A first class host tells PROGRESS that under these circumstances it will be hard to find a good man to assume the management, and that in his opinion the best thing the company can do is to waive the rent for at least two years and give a man a chance to work up a business before the burden gets too heavy.

The Novelty of the Week.

The advertising novelty and attraction of the week has unquestionably been in Messrs. Daniel & Robertson's window on Charlotte street, where a little old woman has been knitting industriously from morning until night, forced to her task by the ingenious automatic spring movement and the inevitable small boy, whose business it is to see that the novelty is kept wound up. But the representation is so natural that thousands have halted involuntarily, looked and laughed at the flashing needles, the bobbing head and the blinking eyes. There is considerable knack in striking the right thing at the right time, and PROGRESS thinks that it can fairly congratulate this firm on a happy hit.

As Natural as Life.

The statuette of Sir John and Sir Charles, in McMillan's window look quite as natural as life, and if they had photograph attachments might do a great deal for the success of the party in St. John.

Bargains in all Lines of Xmas Cards, Booklets, etc., at McArthur's 80 King St.

WHAT OF THE ELECTION?

TRADING OF THE PROVINCIAL POLITICAL BAROMETER.

Members Who Want a General Election, and others Who Do Not—Some of the Reasons for Disquietude in Certain Constituencies Outside of St. John.

The government has had a session and adjourned without telling the public the great secret of whether there is to be a general election or not.

It is such a great secret that it is not known even to the government itself. It is under consideration, and in the meantime there is a great diversity of sentiment on the matter.

It is understood that among the members of the government the only man who is really anxious for a general election and is trying to force such an issue, is the Provincial Secretary. He feels that if an election to fill the vacant seats in St. John resulted in a loss to the government, it would have an exceedingly bad effect on a general election.

Attorney-General Blair is quite willing that there should be a general election, though it would be to his advantage to have a short session first, in order to straighten matters out and strengthen the government position. He is quite willing to do whatever may be thought best by his colleagues.

Surveyor-General Mitchell is indifferent. If he has any choice, it is in favor of postponing the election until after the session. He feels sure of his seat in any event, and so does Mr. Douglass, of Charlotte. If Messrs. Grimmer and Lynott came forward as candidates, the member who would be most in danger would be Messrs. Russell and Hibbard.

The members of the executive who oppose a general election are Chief Commissioner Ryan and Mr. Le Blanc. The appointment of the latter to the council has raised a breeze among the English on the North Shore, from Buctouche Bar to Sugar Loaf Mountain. Both Messrs. Ryan and LeBlanc would like matters to quiet down a little. Just now, too, LeBlanc's colleague, Mr. Phinney, is in the field in opposition and will run with a French candidate not yet named.

Solicitor General Pugsley will do just as the others wish. He and his fellow members from Kings are quite indifferent about the matter, as they feel sure of their seats in any case.

Generally speaking, the members outside of St. John want another session of the legislature before the election. They are anxious to get their seasonal allowance of \$300, which usually means \$200 profit to most of them, and in case of a short session would be very much more.

In Sunbury, however, Mr. Glasier, who is opposed to the government, is reported to have said that he does not care how soon the election takes place. The sooner the better. His neighbors in Queens take a different view. One of them, Mr. Hetherington, declares that if a general election takes place in the near future he will not be a candidate, though quite willing to come to the front should it not take place until later in the year.

The government candidates in Albert also wish the day of reckoning deferred, while Turner and Lewis are no doubt eager for the fray. The union of Emmerson and Osman has made a disturbance in the atmosphere, and the party is by no means united in the matter. In the meantime the irrepressible Charles E. Knapp is to the front on his own account with a reform bill, while George H. Steadman, another independent candidate, tempers the asperities of politics with poetical allegories in respect to the situation.

In Carleton, Mr. Ketchum for the government, and Dr. Atkinson in opposition, will each come to the front with a new man.

In Gloucester, Mr. Young is of a very different way of thinking from Mr. Ryan, and, confident in his strength, is anxious to have a contest with the latter as early as possible.

There is a good deal of political stir in Northumberland—perhaps as much so as there is anywhere. The slate-makers are said to be very busy, and while Mr. Tweedie's friends are doing what they can for him, there is talk of a rival opposition ticket, the platform of which is a reduction of the stumpage rates. Both Messrs. Tweedie and Hutchinson are left off of this new ticket.

Mr. Murray, of Restigouche, has not been happy since the appointment of Mr. LeBlanc, and proposes to make things lively when the time comes.

The opposition tactics in Westmoreland seem to be unsettled as yet. Mr. A. E. Killam is quite willing to go on an opposition ticket, provided that Mr. Joseph L. Black is not in it. In such case the ticket would be made up of Hanington, Killam, Gaudet and a man to be chosen from Sackville. Mr. Humphrey would be quite willing to take a back seat if the matter were so arranged.

Two of the members from York, Dr.

Moore and Mr. Bellamy, are strongly opposed to a dissolution just now. Mr. Wilson is reported indifferent about the matter, while the position of Mr. Blair has already been stated.

Right at home, in St. John, little appears to be known. It may be broadly stated that neither government nor opposition tickets are complete. While it is believed that Dr. Berryman will be a government candidate for the city, the matter is by no means certain. It all depends on what happens in regard to the appointment of W. W. Clark as Chief of Police.

Nor has the opposition gained any point in regard to candidates of late. It is not for the want of men, but because in the slates made so far there are elements of weakness with which the more clear-headed electors are by no means satisfied.

Not much is likely to be known until the people are through with the celebration of the holidays.

SHACKELTON HAS FRIENDS.

Though He Never Knew How Many Until "Progress" Brought Them Out.

Miss Minnie Blanche Keane desires to acknowledge, through PROGRESS, the following moneys collected by her in aid of James Shackleton and family:

Joseph Semple, \$1.00; Mrs. Semple, \$1.00; Miss Maggie Keane, \$1.00; Minnie Blanche Keane, 90c; Jas. W. Keane, \$1.00; John L. Keane, \$1.00; D. Murphy, \$1.00; Daniel Campbell, \$1.00; Alex. McCas, \$1.00; Geo. Gray, \$1.00; Jas. Stack, \$1.00; Donald, \$1.00; C. Durand, \$1.00; J. Durand, 50c; Jos. Keele, 50c; J. D. Kelly, 50c; L. Lincoln, 50c; A. Friend, 50c; A. Cameron, 50c; W. Bogie, 25c; S. R. F., 25c; Margaret, \$1.00; H. A. H. A. White, \$2.00. Total—\$19.50.

In addition to the above subscriptions, Mr. Shackleton has received many donations of money, provisions, etc., not only from the people of Lancaster and Fairville but from the city proper. Those who have visited the house report him a very sick man, and the aid which has been given him is most timely.

Among the donations from