

PROGRESS.

VOL. II, NO. 400.

ST. JOHN, N. B., SATURDAY, JANUARY 4, 1896

PRICE FIVE CENTS

CHANGING THE CLOCKS.

THE PROGRESS IS AN EASY ONE AND WORTH TRYING.

Eastern Standard Time Is Coming but the Movement Is a Slow One—Why the Council Has Taken No Action—The Merchants and Bankers Coming into Line.

The first day of the year was not marked by the general adoption of Eastern standard time by the citizens of St. John, but the general committee of the common council is to be called together to settle the matter in earnest. The date for the meeting of the committee has not been fixed, but from present indications it may be in season to allow for the use of a uniform standard in the year 1900.

The truth of the matter is that the aldermen are afraid to take hold of the question lest they displease somebody. The mayor candidly admits that he is not in favor of any change, and thinks it better for the people to have plenty of time to think of the matter before any official action is taken. As it is now about three months since the changing of the post office clock began to make the public discuss the question, the mayor's idea of what plenty of time means is evidently to be measured by years. The aldermen are not likely to move until the citizens give them a push by adopting Eastern standard for themselves. Some of them have already done so, and others are coming into line every day.

A customer of Waterbury & Rising went into their establishment on Thursday and asked them if they had adopted standard time with the new year. "No," was Mr. Waterbury's reply, "but I will do so now. I miss a one train in Montreal and another in Quebec not long ago, through having my watch on local time, and I believe now in having a uniform standard."

The official time-piece in the store was therefore set back from 4.20 local time to 3.44 Eastern standard, somewhat to the surprise of the employees. One of the latter remarked that there would now be a probability of parcels for the trains being sent too late, but the reply to this was that all should remember that the clock in the store was the same as the railway clock, whereas in the past they had been obliged to calculate a difference of 36 minutes between them. They had been accustomed to speak of the 5 o'clock train when there was no such train, but one at 4.30. The train and the clock would now be on the same time. In regard to the hours of opening and closing the store and of labor in the workshop, there would be no actual change, only that what had been 6 o'clock or 8 o'clock in the past would be 5.30 or 7.30 by the eastern standard.

This "going on the half-hour," as some term it, has been a great bugbear with many people, and some of the aldermen, as well, fear that should eastern standard be adopted the people would insist on regulating their work and business by the even hours, so that closing at six standard would be the equivalent of 6.36 in local time, and thus the hours of daylight for the employees would be shortened. This is a very needless contention since the employees in the custom house and postoffice have the same hours as they had under local time, though they go to work and leave when the clocks point half an hour earlier than they did under the old order of things. So it would be with any private concern, unless the proprietor was a man who wanted to put himself in evidence as trying to be different from his neighbors.

Many weeks have passed since the board of trade decided that Eastern standard should be adopted, and hastened to ask the government to use that standard in the offices here. The government acted very promptly, and thus the citizens succeeded in getting the custom house to use standard time for their accommodation before many of them were prepared to adopt that time in their own business. A few weeks ago, PROGRESS announced on the statement of a leading merchant that several of the largest business houses would adopt Eastern standard on the 1st of January, though they did not do so on that date they will probably take the decisive step within a few weeks. The delay has been due to a press of business which has prevented the movers in the matter from conferring with other large concerns with a view to having the change made by as many as possible at the same time.

It is quite out of the question to expect any decision from the common council until they see a chance to acquiesce in such a way that they can plead they were compelled to do so by force of circumstances. One of the results of the system of election to the council by the citizens at large is that the aldermen are in continual terror of offending somebody, by word or act, and there is an obvious lack of the old time dash and pluck which an alderman would show when he was responsible only to the voters of his own ward. In these days do many of the council members try to carry general favor, they are afraid to provoke even the antagonism of their colleagues, and a speaker

of the board is now even more solemn than an undertaker's convention. The ward elections were pernicious enough in keeping men at the board who cannot now get back there, but they did not produce a class of men who were so scared of their own shadows as the present crowd appear to be. With the old style of board, where each alderman could have an idea of what his particular constituents wanted, the question of standard time would have long ago been settled, one way or the other. It is useless to expect the council to settle it, however, so long as the aldermen do not want the committee called together lest they will have to express positive opinions. With all credit to the merits of the gentlemen who compose the present board, there appears to be a majority of trimmers and dodgers among them.

All the same, whether they get courage to meet and discuss the matter or not, eastern standard time must be the recognized time of the city for all commercial purposes. The movement has gone too far now for retreat to be possible, and the sooner something definite is done the better. It is a pity that more establishments did not come into line at the beginning of the year, but as the year is young yet they may be heard from at an early day. The banks say they are ready and willing to change as soon as the merchants do so, and they favor the eastern standard. The anomaly of two or three kinds of time in a community of this size has already existed too long.

LAWSUITS COST MONEY.

One in Which a Principle was Fought at a Very Large Expense.

HALIFAX, Jan. 2.—PROGRESS some time ago had a story of a suit between Murdock's nephews and Kane & Flett for the balance of an account, amounting to some fifteen cents. Murdock's nephews lost the suit, and the fifteen cents, but what is more, costs went with this decision. To show how the lawyers get in their work the defendants bill of costs is appended, amounting to over \$100. Thus the wholesale firm, which brought the action, are called upon to pay, and besides they will have to foot their own little bill for costs. Here are the items of defendant's costs, as awarded by taxing master Ross: Instructions \$2; appearance and copy \$1; notice and copy \$1; instructions defence \$2; drafting defence \$2; copies \$1.60; attendance file and serve \$0.25; attendance first trial \$5; attendance on plaintiff's motion to open up judgment \$7.50; notice to produce and copy \$1; affidavit of service \$0.50; subpoena Oct. 17 1895 \$0.40; 4 copies \$2; brief and copy \$20; attendance hear judgment \$1; motion for order \$5; order and copy \$1; affidavit of service \$0.50; attendance enter judgment \$1; copy pleadings on judgment \$2; costs and taxing \$3.25; council fee \$10;crier \$0.27; master \$1; total \$101.17.

May Get a Judge, Sir.

A rumor has been current during the past week that Hon. Wm. Wilkinson judge of the county court for the counties of Northumberland, Restigouche and Gloucester, was to be retired and the position given to Dr. R. F. Quigley of this city. Dr. Quigley says he has had no intimation that such was likely to be the case. Judge Wilkinson was appointed in 1881. The salary attached to the position is \$2,000 and though this is \$400 less than the salary of the county court judge in St. John, it is probably its equivalent in regard to the difference in the cost of living in St. John or in Newcastle. It will be remembered that Dr. Quigley was an applicant for the St. John judgeship at the time Judge Forbes was appointed, last year, and it was generally supposed that though unsuccessful on that occasion, a position would await him at an early day. As the Doctor is a North Shore boy, he would be perfectly at home as a judge in that part of the province, and would doubtless have no hesitation in accepting the position if it were offered.

End of that Tale of a Dog.

HALIFAX, Jan. 2.—The S. P. C. in Halifax seems to be an organization that does its duty without fear or favor. Two weeks ago, PROGRESS told the story of the mutilation of a dog's tail from which the poor animal bled to death, by a bank clerk. The society proceeded as if the offence had been committed by any one else, without social standing or wealth at his back. The case came up in Stipendiary Griffin's court, the young man pleaded guilty and paid the fine which the law remanded.

No Ice Palace for Us.

The announcement that an ice palace is building in California, and that there is to be an ice revival in that state, is calculated to make a St. John man think the earth must have shifted on its axis. Our December was like April and much as the Californian winter is supposed to be, but we don't hope to make any kind of a show with an ice palace, unless we have some colder weather during January.

WHO IS THE NEW POET?

NOT AUSTIN THE LAUREATE, BUT "M. SMITH, ST. JOHN."

His Poem on "The Old Year and the New" in the Telegraph—Why It Attracts Unusual Attention—An Editor's Poetic Justice Blows above a Personal Matter.

The editor of the Telegraph will be glad of information which will lead to a disclosure of identity of the poet Smith not the author of "Rejected Addresses," but of an accepted address, which might have done duty as a newsboy's address, and which appeared in the Telegraph on New Year's day. It read as follows:

[For The Telegraph.]
The Old Year and the New.

M. SMITH, ST. JOHN.
Joy follows grief! The Old Year died last night!
A New Year's born today in gladness mirth.
Make brief the rise entombing Ninety-Five,
Enthroning Ninety-Six with lengthened bliss.
So close are grief and joy that you are I.
Have power to part them, or in parting tell
A line dividing. Whether good or ill
Now passes or is coming who can say?
Nothing we know of future, day or night;
And less than nothing of years to come,
Yet will we hope and trust it shall be well.
Dear are the days of old to memory's eye;
Oh, dearer still are to the ardent young
New, and distant prospects shining bright afar,
Kindling the East. So may fair Canada
Be captured see the New Year's curtain up
Yielding bright promise for her glorious youth.

Who is "M. Smith"? is a question of some importance just now. That the name does not appear in Steadman's Victorian Anthology argues nothing, for many just as clever poets appear to have been slighted in that work, but it would seem that he has not heretofore been known even in the limited circle of the votaries of the muse in St. John. That the lines have ability cannot be questioned. The sentiment, it is true, is not strikingly original and the phrase "gladness mirth" might have been changed on more careful consideration, while there are other points of criticism which might be suggested, but as a whole it is a happy expression of the ringing out of the old and ringing in of the new. Avoiding the too common tendency of New Year poems to bewail the past, it lifts up the heart to hope in the future, and there is a delicate incentive to patriotism in the concluding lines which speak of the promise of the year to Canada and its sons. It is above the average of the local poetry which the Telegraph has been accustomed to publish, and there is little doubt that hundreds would usually do no more than glance at the original version in that journal will carefully preserve this specimen for reference in the future. Hundreds, therefore, are anxious to know who is "M. Smith?"

The editor of the Telegraph seems to have accepted the poem at a glance and published it while it was hot, in the opening hours of the new year whose advent it celebrated. This ready acceptance should be of itself a guarantee of merit, for the Telegraph, last summer, had much to say of the scarcity of true Canadian poets, and held up such rhyesters as Bliss Carman to public scorn. It was in the Telegraph, too, that some letters appeared condemning PROGRESS for having accepted and published some verses of Whitcomb Riley as an original contribution, so that the Telegraph has been rather looked up to as an authority as to what is the test of merit in Canadian poetry, and as the degree to which native talent in this direction should be encouraged or suppressed. It appears to have recognized a peculiar genius in "M. Smith."

In the instance of the palming off of Riley's rhymes in PROGRESS, a writer in the Telegraph laid down the principle that an editor should not accept an anonymous contribution without knowing the real name of the author. It is understood, however, that "M. Smith" is the only one which the Telegraph itself has to this new comer in the flowery paths of poetry. The verses were accepted on their intrinsic merit, doubtless with the hope that they would be followed by others and that the sweet singer might in due time disclose his other personality. Some of the world's great poets have been discovered in just such a way. Acustomed to the critical examination and analysis of original poetry, it can hardly be doubted that the editor observed in these lines a peculiarity which is apparent to the public. If he did so, it speaks well for the triumph of his poetic nature over any matter of a purely personal nature. He may have had a keen sense of humor in thus giving to the world, as an ordinary poem, a double-barrelled acrostic containing his own name, with an addition which, it is needless to say, is entirely unmerited.

Taking the first letter of each line, there appears in cold type the legend, "James Hannay Donkey," while the last letter of each line from top to bottom proclaims "The Silly Telegraph." If this be chance it is one of the most remarkable coincidences of the age. If it is design, "M. Smith" seems to be a poet of the most ingenious turn of mind.

Some of the older citizens may remember that an acrostic of a nature extremely

personal to Mr. T. W. Anglin once appeared in the St. John Freeman, of which that gentleman was the editor. Mr. Anglin however, was not aware that the poem was an acrostic until after the paper had reached the public, and was so annoyed at the occurrence that, with one or two notable exceptions, original verse found no place in the columns of the Freeman during the remaining years of its career. If the editor of the Telegraph had been imposed upon in the same way, he would be entitled to the sympathy of all newspaper men; for rarely does any editor keep his eye open for such a trap, and the perpetration of such a trick should be severely condemned. If, however, the editor of the Telegraph did not want to reject a seasonable poem merely on account of the arrangement of the letters, he is to be applauded for having the courage of his convictions.

The Telegraph (recently asserted that Mr. S. D. Scott of the Sun was the only editor of a local paper claiming respectability who would permit tramp journalists and other soreheads to use the columns of his paper for personal attacks on other newspaper men. Had the Sun published this a realistic there would have been just ground for remonstrance, but as the Telegraph has given it publicity, and as it relates only to the Telegraph, nobody else has any right to find fault.

In the meantime, the great and absorbing question of the day is, "Who is M. Smith?"

BRENNAN AND THE CHIEF.

The Former Sues the Latter and Retired From the Field of Battle.

At the time of the exhibition, last September, Mr. James Brennan had a lively time trying to get appointed a special policeman. He went to the chief armed with recommendations from an influential quarter and his heart was gladdened by the assurance that it would be "all right Jimmy." When he went to be sworn in, he was told that the position would not be given to him as he was "against the police." The basis for this charge against his loyalty was that he had espoused the cause of the other side in a baseball match in which some of the policemen took part. Mr. Brennan then learned that some men from the country, who were not ratepayers in St. John, had been appointed as special policemen, and he therefore brought suit against them for doing business without license. The matter was settled by the new comers being put on the assessment list, and that appeared to be an end of the matter. It was not, however, for Mr. Brennan was after blood, or at least after his pay for the time he would have served had he been sworn in as a special. Three months after date, therefore, he sued the chief in the city court for nine days' pay. The trial took place on Thursday and the chief had a soft snap of it. Mr. Brennan 'old his story, and the chief's three barreled defence was that he did not hire Brennan, that Brennan never did any work for him, and that if any work had been done he was the wrong person to be sued. The three barrels of the defence went off at once and Brennan was knocked out. This probably ends his pursuit of the chief in the matter of his application to wear a badge and swing a baton.

Progress Remembered.

PROGRESS wishes to thank all its friends who remembered it at this season, especially in the line of calendars, to describe all of them would be a difficult task and as all of the insurance companies and not a few private firms have souvenirs of this sort the list would be a lengthy one. There were other remembrances from kind friends, some of them of a personal nature. This was particularly the case with Mr. H. H. Allingham of Vancouver who is well remembered here as connected with the C. P. Telegraph. Mr. Allingham sent a box of Japanese oranges which had just arrived from that far east country and came through by the express service of the Canadian Pacific. Considering the distance, they were in remarkably good order and just as delicious as Mr. Allingham described them. The friends of this gentleman will be glad to learn that his health is much improved though not so good as his friends wish to see it.

A Useful Remembrance.

The neat little pocket diary and calendar sent out with the compliments of the North American Assurance Company, is much appreciated by those who are remembered by the agents of that company. Of course the policy holders are all "on the list" and as Mr. T. B. Lavers the manager for New Brunswick is one of the pushing and successful gentlemen in his profession, the number of diaries sent out is not small at all.

Too Late for this Week.

Social and personal notes for PROGRESS must reach St. John before Thursday evening. Notes from New Glasgow and Newcastle were received too late for insertion this week.

IS A MUSICAL DISCORD.

THE TALK IS BETWEEN A RECITOR AND HIS ORGANIST.

Halifax and Dartmouth Each Have a Bit of Experience—Change of Communion and Loss of Position—Why Mr. Hutchins got Himself into Trouble.

DARTMOUTH, Jan. 2.—The wardens of Christ church, (episcopal) in this town, deemed it to be their duty to obtain a new organist. What the reason was is not publicly stated, but it is inferred. The church is ruled by the low party, and when it became known that the organist had changed his religious faith, and had joined another communion, it was generally supposed that a new man would be called in to preside at the instrument. Time showed this supposition to be correct, and the wardens duly advertised for another musician. It is a little difficult for some people in Christ Church, and in the town, to see what the difference is in the music produced by an organist a ter he joins another church and before, but it seems that to the powers that be there is a material difference.

In connection with this another organ story, comes from the other side of the harbor, and is being talked about over here. Rich and influential old St. Paul's furnishes the incident.

The rector of St. Paul's church, who is highly esteemed, and who is enthusiastic in all he does, has the misfortune occasionally of creating friction by the great zeal he displays in the administration of his duties.

An recent Sunday a representative of Rupert's Lund mission occupied the pulpit of St. Paul's, soliciting aid for that good cause; during the discourse the rector noticed that the organist's seat was vacant. The organist, Mr. Hutchins, had gone behind the organ to arrange some music and staid away longer than was deemed proper by the minister, which led to a reprimand at the close of the service. This was resented by the organist and was followed by a wordy war and the result was a command not to do it again on pain of dismissal. The organist promptly resigned his position to take effect at Easter. This is the second disruption of this kind in this church. Twenty odd years ago St. Paul's congregation brought from England an organist, in the person of Samuel Porter, who infused new life into church and oratorio music. The advance of musical education in this city, under Mr. Porter's instructions, was marked, and the method of chanting taught by him placed St. Paul's choir on a footing with any choir in Canada in rendering the Canticles. Mr. Porter's successful career went pleasantly on for a number of years. Then a sudden rupture broke out between the curate of the day and him which led to Mr. Porter's dismissal. It is well remembered the feeling that this action caused with a large portion of the congregation. It was under the regime of Rev. Dr. Hill. When that distinguished clergyman learned the circumstances he lost no time in having the wrong put right, which meant that Mr. Porter remained in office until his failing health compelled him to retire, to be succeeded by the present incumbent.

It is generally remarked by visitors to Halifax who attend the evening services at St. Paul's that the music, especially the chanting is of a high order of merit.

The history of St. Paul's church is that the congregation ever appreciates its rector, its curate and its organist. When merit is lacking, grumbling may prevail. This has been demonstrated in the past both as regards rector and curate. A few years ago the sum of \$2000 was paid for the vacancy of these offices rather than the church should suffer that scandal should follow.

The community would lose a gentleman and musician in Mr. Hutchins, and the loss would be generally regretted not only in Halifax but in this town as well.

HE RISES TO EXPLAIN.

A Halifax Man who Claims that "Progress" Did Him an Injustice.

To the EDITOR OF PROGRESS:—There appeared an item of news in your edition of 21st ult supplied from Halifax which was so misleading that I claim space for a reply in your columns. "G. W. Walker proprietor of the Aberdeen hotel, a very much surprised man" has entered on another year quite calm and unruffled and expects to have a hotel license for the next year in defiance of the malicious efforts of those who try falsely to compromise me before the City Council. It is false that I have been convicted three times for selling after hours. I have never been once convicted for selling but for the chance of having the door open and so found by the police who along with the Chief appear to be disposed to take upon themselves the functions which belong to the Inspector of Licenses with the object (nonsense) of sparing to the position of license inspector. Now Mr. Editor, my license has one endorsement for open after hours. My bar keeper has a restaurant on

his own account with a rear door leading up into the hotel, the passage leading past the bar door, and it was from the entrance, not the regular entrance, that the door was found open. The appeal was taken on account of the stipendiary's attempt to enter two convictions on one trial and that one on agreement with my counsel that it should count as a first offence. I regret that I have to ask for so much of your space and would much prefer to have to answer any such rumors if at all in our own city papers. I am not afraid to have the character of my bar, hotel and all its connections if necessary discussed in our own city papers over my own signature.

G. W. WALKER.
Halifax Jan. 2.
[Some unnecessary reflections on the motives of the correspondent of PROGRESS are omitted from the above letter, as not essential to an explanation of the case. Ed. PROGRESS.]

ARE A PEACEFUL PEOPLE.

The Residents of North End Show a Good Example to Others.

Few communities appear to have had anything like the rapid moral growth which is observable in the North End of recent years. Prior to the union of the cities, Portland had far from a fair fame, and took leading rank in the list of the misgoverned cities of America. It is quite another place in these days, and seems a good place for people from other parts of the city to grow when they want to inhale refreshing draughts of clean moral atmosphere.

The North End police have a virtual insecure, and are growing so fat, in some instances, that they have to stop and puff when they try to walk fast on an up grade. Recognizing this fact, the chief recently had several of them transferred to the southern division, where they would get more practice in active police work. In their places he put several hard-worked men from the South end who were in need of a vacation. They are getting it, and they could not ask for finer holiday weather at this season of the year.

Unless some trifling offences have been detected while PROGRESS is going to press, there have been no arrests in the North End for the last ten days. The other night a Bridge street grocer left a number of towels hanging in front of his shop and found them all there when he went back in the morning. While this is a pleasing instance of perfect faith in public honesty, it may not be well for the merchants to leave their goods thus exposed over night as a rule. While the North Enders may be trusted, there is always a chance that somebody from Carleton or the South End will hear of the opportunity and take advantage of it, leaving the innocent resident of Bugtown or Strait Shore to be blamed for the theft.

While there are a number of licensed taverns in North End, they appear to do a very conservative business, and are kept only for the accommodation of that numerous class of people who assert that they can take a glass of liquor or let it alone. Occasionally a North End man heated with wine may be seen on the street or encountered in the cars, but it is a remarkable fact that he is always coming from the South End. Usually he is some guileless youth who turns off at Sheriff street on his way homeward after holding wassail in some of the city taverns. It does not follow that he belongs to Sheriff street, but that thoroughfare is a great artery for the Strait Shore, where a great many guileless youths belong.

The North End baptists have built a new church this year and have raised \$10,000 toward paying for it. Another church of the denomination of Disciples has just been organized. This does not imply that the North End is in need of more churches, but that a great many more people go to church than used to do so, and more facilities are needed for the ministering to their spiritual wants.

Some rate payers may have an idea that they are needlessly taxed for the support of police in North End, but this is a mistake. There is not much need of policemen, it is true, but they are useful to keep a lookout for fires at night and to have an eye to suspicious people from other parts of the city. Besides the maintenance of a North End contingent gives a chance to provide aged and infirm men with easy positions in which to spend their declining years after lives of active duty in the more disorderly sections of the city. The prospect of being transferred to the North End division can always be held up as an incentive for men in the South End to do their duty and earn their claim to an honorable repose around the snug harbor of the Elm street station.

Not a Necessary Consequence.

Somebody remembers that there was just such mild weather in the early winter of 1858-59, and that the cholera came in the summer of the latter year. Therefore, according to their logic, there will be cholera this year. The Cholera was also common in 1861, and by the same system of logic another of the same kind may be expected within the next twelve months.