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WHO WILL BE REFEREE?

THE REASON MR. MULLIN WAS NOT APPOINTED.

It is some weeks since the death of Mr. Charles Doherty made vacant the position of one of the five referees in equity in St. John. Immediately after the vacancy occurred, several applications for appointment to the office were made to the local government, but the contest was subsequently narrowed down to three, Messrs. Daniel Mullin, T. P. Regan and John F. Ashe, each of whom thought he had a little stronger claim to recognition than had either of the others.

The story of the brief but exciting struggle was told by PROGRESS at the time, and it was supposed then that the matter had been settled. The final test had been between Messrs. Mullin and Regan, both of whom had good backing, but Mr. Mullin was finally recommended by the six men who were government candidates at the last election. These gentlemen have the disposal of the local patronage, and their recommendation in this instance was unanimous. The actual appointment of Mr. Mullin, at the next meeting of the executive, was presumably only a matter of form.

As was stated at the time, two of the five referees have been Catholics, and there was no room for discussion over the understanding that the vacancy should be filled by one of that faith. Mr. John L. Carleton was the representative Catholic candidate on the government ticket in the last election, and it would be reasonable to suppose that, admitting the principle of Catholic representation, his word in the matter should carry weight. Still further, on the same principle, his choice alone was entitled to a preference as against the choice of any, or even all, of his colleagues. His choice was Mr. Mullin, and that too was the choice of all the others, after a presumably careful consideration of the merits of the respective claims.

There was no question of the fitness of either of the applicants, but the point seemingly was as to which had the better claim on the government. It is well understood that the Globe has no deep love for Mr. Blair, and his pretence of friendship has been so weak as to acquire it of any hypocrisy in the matter. Before and during the last local election it was known that he was not to be trusted, and that paper did not go so far as to stab the government in the back, it did not lend it a helping hand. Among other things, it virtually counselled a masterly inactivity among the liberal electors. Whether Mr. Regan accepted this advice, or whether he was actuated by other reasons, the fact remains that he gave the government no aid at the time when campaign work was most needed.

Mr. Mullin, on the contrary, threw himself into the contest and did excellent work. He was a conservative, and it is easy to understand that he secured many votes which for him would have gone to swell the opposition majority. Apart from the mugwumps and those who took the Globe's advice the liberal votes were tolerably sure for the government in that election, but the conservative votes were secured largely by earnest work.

The fact that the Blair government has never been tied to domination party lines has usually been considered one of the elements of its strength. The conservative element in the government ranks has so far brought disaster, and there are undoubtedly sound liberals who would be sorry to see a faithful supporter of the government ignored because, when wholly different issues are involved, he votes for a conservative candidate.

Outside of the government, and apart from those who are entitled to speak as to patronage, is a small but disturbing element which wants to see local politics run on dominion lines. They would be quite willing to have the government cut loose from its conservative supporters, though the only possible benefit to be suggested is in the visionary hope of winning back some of the mugwumps. Some of this group are undoubtedly sincere in advocating what they believe to be a good policy, others would be glad to get Mr. Blair committed to a mistake, while some of the smaller fry are simply anxious to meddle in matters where they have no possible claim to be heard or heeded.

Thus it was that when Mr. Mullin was recommended by Mr. Carleton and the others, and had the endorsement of a large number of the influential Catholics, the cry was raised that a mistake had been made in the choice of a conservative when the place was wanted for a liberal.

Among the gentlemen who were actively or passively interested in this movement were David McLellan, who retired from politics to take the snug berth of registrar of deeds, Major McLean, editor in chief of the Telegraph, John McMillan, with others who have either done the government some

service in the past or imagine they have some pull on it in the present. Richard O'Brien, of the Globe staff, has also kindly devoted a portion of his time to going around with Mr. Regan and interviewing persons who are supposed to have influence. It would have seemed to most people that, according to all principle and precedent, the matter was settled when there was a unanimous recommendation of any applicant, and so it would have been, had all the members stood by their agreement. The friends of Mr. Regan knew this, and they therefore trained their guns on Mr. Dunn of Musquash with successful results. Mr. Dunn had already recommended Mr. Mullin, and he could not very well withdraw his recommendation, but he did the next best thing. He wrote a letter to the government, asking that the appointment should be deferred and the matter reconsidered. His request was granted. That is why Mr. Mullin has had to wait four weeks after he was congratulated on having got the office, and is not yet certain whether he will have it or not.

Among the recent suggestions of outside parties is one that Mr. Ashe should be appointed as a compromise between Messrs. Mullin and Regan, and another that Mr. Carleton should resign his position of referee so as to allow both of the claimants an office. A third suggestion, which finds a good deal of favor, is that the government should stand by the course to which it was constitutionally committed, rather than to weaken at the bidding of even the gentlemen whose names have been quoted.

A ghastly feature of the affair is the threat that, if Mr. Regan be not appointed, the Telegraph will go into opposition, engraving bureau included. Major McLean is willing to put up with a good deal, but when it comes to the question of an office worth from \$75 to \$250 a year, it is time the leading liberal morning daily began to assert itself.

MR. WHITMAN'S TURN CAME.

He Was Frozen Out of a Place but Has Had His Own Fun Since.

HALIFAX, March 1.—The Eastern Canada savings and loan company is a local financial institution something on the lines of a building society. Loans are made on real estate security, and the principal is repayable in annual instalments together with the interest. Alfred Whitman, the conservative candidate for Guysboro, was a director, was solicitor and was secretary. J. C. Mackintosh the stock broker was also a director.

Whitman made a good thing out of it in legal fees and salary. He was not extremely popular, however, and it is not probable that his multimillion connection with the company added materially to the rapid growth of its business, though it has grown.

That was the conclusion which, it is said, Mr. Mackintosh arrived at. And it is also alleged that it was he whose influence was successful in freezing out Whitman from the secretaryship, though he remained solicitor and director.

Now it is Whitman's turn. He spared sufficient time from his Guysboro campaign to gather in many proxies. Those he used to drive Mr. Mackintosh from the directorate, and elect in his stead K. I. Borden, a feat he accomplished.

The company last year paid a dividend of five per cent.

Omitted to Mention This.

Mr. J. L. Stewart, of the Chatham World, tells how Mr. Livingston made Mr. J. L. Stewart editor of the Presbyterian Advocate, after two or three clergymen had been successively employed to write the leaders and had failed to give satisfaction. According to this bit of autobiography Mr. Livingston wanted the Advocate to be a family religious paper, and Mr. Stewart's sample article was so good that he was made editor at the salary of \$200 a year. In this connection some of the old printers tell an anecdote which the World has not given. Somebody was in the business office of the Telegraph one day when he was astonished and shocked by a torrent of profane ejaculations which flooded down from the editorial room. "Dear me," he exclaimed, "what can be the matter? What dreadful words they are." "Don't be alarmed," replied one of the clerks, "that is only the editor of the Presbyterian Advocate reading the proofs of his articles, and giving his opinion on the mistakes."

They are Not a Gallant Faculty.

FREDERICTON, March 2.—The graduating class of the university have the right, subject to the approval of the faculty, to nominate one of their number a valedictorian for the year. At a class meeting the other day the subject was brought up. As it happens this year the senior class has an equal number of young men and young women. The young men nominated Mr. Maggs and the young ladies Miss McLeod. The vote stood equal, neither party would compromise and they determined to submit the question to the faculty for final decision. The faculty announced their decision in favor of Mr. Maggs.

NURSES ARE NOT HAPPY.

SOME OF THEM ARE AVESSE TO THE DOCTOR'S WAYS.

He Suspended Two Because They Came on Duty Late—The Result of an Omission to Take Temperature—A Case Where the Matron Enforced the Rules.

There has been a bit of a breeze at the General Public hospital, and the matter was to be investigated at the regular monthly meeting of the commissioners held last night. This time the house surgeon and the nurses are to the front, or rather, the doctor is to the front and two of the nurses are, or have been, to the rear. They have been having the seclusion which the training home grants, while under suspension by the doctor's orders.

A strong statement of the case was sent to PROGRESS late in the week, charging both the house surgeon and the matron with a misuse of their authority. These charges were:

First, that two of the nurses had been suspended by order of Dr. Christie, house surgeon, and had been "imprisoned" in the training home since the 22nd of February. Their suspension had been due to the fact that on the date mentioned they had been ten minutes late in coming on night duty and relieving the day nurses.

Secondly, that the management of the nurses by Dr. Christie had been conducted in "an unwise and needlessly offensive manner." The specific charge was "ungentlemanly language to one of the nurses in the public corridor," and that he had been "conclusively proved to be in error."

The third allegation was that the matron "often fails to accord a visitor the simple acts of civility usually bestowed at such an institution, and instances are not wanting for similar treatment to the nurses."

These were all serious charges in their way, and the last assertion in particular was wholly contrary to the previous views of PROGRESS, which has devoted more attention than any other paper to the internal economy of the hospital, and has a pretty good idea of the management in general. So far as time would permit, an effort was made to find what basis there was for the charge, and some facts were learned which seem to materially modify the statements.

It appears to be quite true that Dr. Christie did suspend two nurses for the cause named, that while under suspension they had not free range of the hospital, and that the fact of the action taken was reported to Dr. Hetherington, the visiting commissioner for the month.

Each of the five wards has a nurse assigned to it for day duty, and there are also nurses for the patients in private rooms. These are relieved at 7.30, on week days, by two nurses who take charge of the whole house. The day nurses cannot leave until the night nurses come on duty, when they give such instructions as are necessary in regard to the various patients. The whole day staff is therefore kept waiting if the two on night duty are late. On the night in question the two night nurses were ten minutes late, and this meant a detention of more than ten minutes for all the others.

The house surgeon and superintendent have full charge of the hospital staff, including the nurses. Dr. Christie used his authority to suspend the tardy nurses, as a matter of discipline. How far he was right in doing so, and to what extent he has properly used or exceeded his powers, is a matter for the commissioners to decide, and it was expected they would do so at the meeting last night.

The charge of ungentlemanly language appears to be based on the fact that Dr. Christie visited a ward one morning and found that the night nurse had neglected to take the temperature of the sickest man in it, the last record of whom had been 103. He spoke very sharply to the nurse, and she did not hesitate to reply. During the course of the doctor's remarks, the word "potwalloper" was used, though it is claimed the term was not applied to the nurse. She reported the matter to the directors of the training-school, and their report was also to be considered last night.

The complaint about the matron scarcely needed an investigation, because all conversant with the hospital are aware that Miss Hegan is the most faithful in the discharge of her duties, and has always shown every attention to visitors to the institution. It seems, however, that in one instance she did refuse to admit a visitor to one of the nurses at the training home. Before the home was built, the only available reception room for callers on nurses in the hospital was the dining room, now Room 10, and a regulation limiting the reception of visitors to that room was made. The rule was not changed when the home was built, and the dining room there is the reception room as well.

Not long ago when one of the nurses was ill, a young man called on her and was received in her own room. Nothing was said to him, but the nurse was reminded that it was a breach of the rules. He called again and was again received in

IS VERY WIDE AWAKE.

HON. PETER MITCHELL SAYS THAT SIR LEONARD IS WRONG.

An Emphatic Denial of the Truth of Certain Statements—Mr. Mitchell Discusses the Personality of the Mysterious Stranger, James Parker.

Hon. Peter Mitchell, the Father of Confederation as he is termed by some of his admirers, was in St. John this week. He had not intended to make the city a visit until he read last Saturday's PROGRESS, in which was published an interview with Sir Leonard Tilley in regard to some statements in the letter to Sir A. T. Galt. Then Mr. Mitchell came to St. John, and an interview with him appeared in Monday's Telegraph. Those who have not seen the latter can understand the purport when informed that it is a direct contradiction of all Sir Leonard said.

Mr. Mitchell called at PROGRESS office Monday, and repeated in substance the statements in question. He was in very good humor, but at times very emphatic in his references to Sir Leonard and Sir John Macdonald. He authorized the publication of his qualifying adjectives, but for obvious reasons they are omitted.

Briefly stated, he did not claim that Sir Leonard was mistaken or had a defective memory. He simply asserted that he had told what was not true, though that was not precisely Mr. Mitchell's phraseology. He averred that Mr. Tilley, after agreeing to take the premiership, did back down because he was afraid of the result of the elections, and that Sir Leonard's version of the matter was wholly at variance with the facts. He reiterated the charge that Mr. Tilley intended to take Mr. Fisher with him to Ottawa, rather than take Mr. Mitchell or any other North Shore man, and that while Mr. Tilley had come to the front as a prophet after the battle was won, he had been but a small factor in winning the battle. Mr. Mitchell put in evidence a finger he had broken while hammering on a table in the effort to get a hearing in the Institute, when Mr. Anglin was at hand and Mr. Tilley was not.

The question of how the correspondence became public was incidentally discussed. Mr. Mitchell said he did not know how it reached the Toronto News, but that he had nothing to do with the publication. He did not believe that any such man as "James Parker" existed, and seemed indignant that such an alleged person should offer his valuable reminiscences for sale at the low price of fifteen dollars. He considered they were worth a good deal more than that.

"Why, it cost me \$25 to have the matter typewritten," he exclaimed, "and he offered it for \$15! He did not have it to sell. There isn't any such man, and the letter could not have been got if the offer had been accepted."

"But you have said that the letter was read by over 500 people, and you must have had a number of copies made."

"Yes, I had three copies made, then another three, and then another three, but all they were shown to were gentlemen, and they would not sell them. Mr. Galt was the only man who had permission to make use of them."

"But, as they have appeared, there must have been only 499 who kept faith and one who did not."

"Yes, there was one, and I want to find out who he was, but you will find there is no such man as James Parker. Fifteen dollars! Why, if I had wanted to, I could have taken the letter to New York and got two thousand dollars for it."

All the same, despite Mr. Mitchell's disbelief, the fact remains that a letter was received from somebody purporting to be "James Parker," giving an address at a definite post office and box number, that an answer was returned, and that at a later date the matter offered for \$15 appeared in the Toronto News. There may be no such man as James Parker, but the coincidence of time and circumstance warrants the belief that whoever signed that name was in possession of the document and was willing to sell it. According to Mr. Mitchell's view, the Mysterious Unknown made a big mistake in not taking his material to New York.

Mr. Mitchell remained in the city two days, carrying a figurative chip on his shoulder and waiting for Sir Leonard to try to knock it off. Sir Leonard, however, as stated last week, did not propose to engage in a discussion, and Mr. Mitchell did not hear from him or anybody on his behalf. On Thursday, two days after Mr. Mitchell had left, and by the time it was pretty certain he was in Montreal, the Sun had a short editorial on the subject of his visit.

As to the merits of the discussion between Mr. Mitchell and Sir Leonard Tilley, and as to how far either is right or wrong, the public will have to take their choice. The most certain and obvious thing is that these gentlemen agree only in the flat contradiction of each other.

So far as can be learned, Mr. Mitchell did not call at Carleton House, nor meet

CHARITABLE PEOPLE'S GIFTS TO THE POOR AND NEEDY.

While the good hearted and charitable people of the city are doing all they can to make the lives of the poor and needy more comfortable, many of those who receive assistance are not as worthy of the help that they get as they should be.

Instances of this kind are brought to the attention of PROGRESS every week, and upon investigation it is found that much of the monetary assistance given is turned over to other objects than those for which it was intended.

A case in point came under the notice of the writer, where a woman was lying ill in a house, and received some assistance in the form of money from the people who knew her. Her daughter took the money, spent the greater part of it for drink, and allowed her mother to suffer for the want of necessary articles.

Most of these people are known to the almshouse commissioners, and when they apply to them for assistance they are not very likely to get it, because the commissioners know that assistance given to them in any shape is likely to be diverted. Only a few days ago a woman went into a liquor shop in the city, and offered a sacque that had evidently been given to her by some charitable lady, in exchange for liquor. It is said that the liquor dealer accepted the sacque and gave her a small quantity of liquor for it. All the facts of the case have not been looked up by PROGRESS, but if possible, they will be secured, and published with the name of the dealer who accepted the garment.

One family living in the heart of the city that has received a great deal of assistance from the general public, and has been mentioned repeatedly in the papers as perhaps deserving of such assistance on account of the head of it suffering from an unfortunate affliction, seems to be nothing more or less than professional mendicants, expecting to live off the public, and indignant that they do not receive more than they do.

All of this simply emphasizes the fact that the partly formed organization of the charities of the city should be completed.

Would be Unusual in Leap Year.

HEAR'S SOMETHING UNUSUAL.—Examine your calendars for 1894 and see how the Sundays of a number of the months come on the same days, for instance, February, March and November.—Tel.

From the wording of this paragraph it is not quite clear whether the Telegraph is trying to get off a joke or is striving to keep Col. Tucker surprised at the nature of the news he finds in his paper. Do the Sundays of a number of the months come on the same days or not and what is meant by the same days, anyway? Sunday always comes on Sunday in this part of the world, even when Monday is a public holiday. This statement will hold good of the calendars of 1894 and all other years. If the Telegraph means that the Sundays of February in 1894 fall on the same days of the month as the Sundays of March and November, the statement is undoubtedly true. They have done so in every year except leap year since the calendar was adopted, and it would be "something unusual," indeed, if they did anything else. What is the Telegraph giving us?

The Quadrant Bicycle Agent.

Messrs. A. P. Tippett & Co. were extensive advertisers of bicycles in PROGRESS last season. They found that it paid them well, and open the season again today with the announcement of the machines they have in stock. This firm is rushing business in bicycles, not only in this city, but all through the provinces. Indeed they extend their agencies for the "Quadrant" all over Canada. The machine is an excellent one, and one of the very best advertisements for it at present is the praise of the people who tried it last year, and proved its qualities.

Opposed on General Principles.

Some matter was under discussion and had reached the voting stage when Ald. Knox arrived at the common council last Thursday. "How do you vote, Ald. Knox?" asked Ald. Lockhart. The representative for the Dukes looked around, paused and replied, "I did not hear the motion, and I have no idea what you have been talking about; but if I were going to vote at all I should vote on the other side." His explanation was accepted.

A Good Book for Nothing.

Mr. Hardress Clarke, the well known Sydney street grocer, announces that on Thursday, Friday and Saturday next, the last exhibition of cottolene will be given at his store, and extends a general invitation to all who wish to see a practical demonstration of the use of this shortening to be present. As an inducement to purchasers he will give a cook book containing six hundred splendid receipts to anyone who buys a three pound can.

THE HORSE THAT WAS PRECURED UPON THE ORDER OF MR. BLAKE.

The wooden horse joke that George Blake played upon Mr. Chris Nichols has been laughed at all over town and poor Chris has stood lots of teasing over the affair.

But the second joke of the same kind that had for its intended victim "Jack" Dunlap turns out in favor of the latter and his friend Mr. Blake gave Mr. Dunlap an order on S. Golding for his horse. The order was much the same as Nichols got but the fact that the latter had found a wooden horse rigged up for him when he was ready to get in the sleigh had leaked out, and Dunlap and his friend did not propose to be treated in the same fashion. So they went to the Princess street stable and called for a horse. They did not make the mistake of going into the office while the "horse" was rigged, but remained without, and even had something to say about the particular kind of a horse that they wanted. This disarmed the livery man, who, while suspecting them still, was not prepared to lose a good "let." So a good horse was harnessed, and the boys started out of the barn. They pulled up at the sidewalk and called to Mr. Golding, "Say, Mr. Golding, it may be late before we get back; we had better settle for the team now." This was agreeable, and Mr. Dunlap handed over Mr. Blake's order neatly folded up, and not waiting for a strict examination of it, drove off.

Mr. Golding can't see the joke and won't accept the order as payment. The boys say Mr. Blake is good for thousands of such orders. Without any ill feeling the matter will be decided in the city court and there are a lot of minor ways as to who should pay. But Chris wants to be a witness and help along the cause and incidentally get satisfaction.

Why the Captain Raved a Row.

HALIFAX, March 1.—The captain of a steamer here has made it disagreeable for the British American hotel and possibly for himself as well. The trouble came about owing to a misunderstanding. The captain paid for a meal he obtained in the hotel on a Saturday by tendering a five dollar bill. The proprietor had no change, so he brought back the five, saying he would take the change next time. "Next time" came on Sunday when some refreshments were to be paid for. The five was again offered and this time there was change in the till, so the captain's money was returned, minus the amount for the meal and also the "refreshments." Whether he forgot about the former claim or not, the seaman was displeased that it should be kept out of his change on this occasion and he said so in pointed terms. The discussion was not a one-sided argument, and some compliments were paid on both sides. Finally the captain left the hotel. During the afternoon he came back once more and this time was refused admittance. It proved the last straw which broke the camel's back and the captain posted up to Inspector Mackensay with a complaint that the Sunday selling clause of the liquor law had been broken. There the matter rests and it may end in the addition of \$50 to the city revenue.

Pleasant Quarters.

The Murphy Gold Cure Institute has secured the Humphrey house at Mt. Pleasant for their business, and it will be open in a few days for patients. Mr. Carroll Ryan is manager.