

PROGRESS.

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PRICE FIVE CENTS.

HOW THE MONEY IS USED.

SOME FACTS ABOUT THE RELIEF AND AID SOCIETY.

What is said by those who believe the Affairs of the Society should be wound up—The Other Side—How Relief is Given—New Cases Each Year.

What is to be done with the money held by the St. John Relief and Aid Society? The St. John fire happened fifteen years ago, and before the flames had died out aid began to come in from outside cities. The amount of cash received altogether from subscriptions was \$361,478.70, while \$8,768.87 more was realized from the sale of merchandise sent, making a total of \$370,247. Of this \$304,804 was expended the first year. Since then the amount has been reduced year by year, until there is now only \$51,708 on hand. This sum is invested in city bonds of long date, bearing interest at six per cent. A good many people are of the opinion that something should be done to close the whole matter up and have an *am*.

When the word came of the recent fire at St. John's, there was a suggestion that as Newfoundland had sent nearly \$9,000 to our relief, at least that amount could be taken from the funds of the Relief and Aid Society and returned to the island colony. It was soon shown, however, that by the act of incorporating the society, no such disposition of the money could be made. They held it in trust for certain specified purposes, and it could be diverted into no other channel, except by special legislation. This made an end of the matter so far as St. John's was concerned, but it has had the effect of causing some people to ask whether the Relief and Aid Society is needed now, and whether the public interests would not be better served if the business were wound up and the books closed.

At the public meeting held last Monday a citizen who has been described in one of the daily papers as the "boss grumbler," asserted that the affairs of the society should be looked into, and that it was never intended a permanent relief fund should be established. If he had taken the trouble to look at the act he would have read in the preamble that "whereas among the sufferers by the said fire are many persons of advanced age, for whom permanent provision will have to be made," showing clearly that the money was to be held for future emergencies.

Then, in view of this permanent provision, there are others who think that the number of dependents on the fund should be ascertained, annuities purchased, and the accounts closed. According to their showing this could be done with about \$40,000 of the money, leaving \$10,000 for special cases.

There is a suspicion, by some, that the expenses of the society are heavy, and that several officials are making more or less of a good thing out of it. The only man who receives anything is James Reynolds, the secretary, who has a salary of \$500 a year. It is his duty to keep a careful eye on the distribution of the funds, to investigate all new applications and have a general supervision of affairs. The society provides him with an office at a cost of \$120 a year. The auditors and committee receive no pay.

Mr. Reynolds is of opinion that the society is carrying out the idea with which it was organized, and that it needed as much as ever was. Since the beginning it has dealt with some 3,700 applications for relief, and new applications continue to be received. The scope of the society includes not only those who were immediate subjects of relief at the time of the fire, but those who now need assistance. If it is shown that their present necessity has been due to losses sustained at that time. For instance, a man may have had the whole course of his life changed by the disaster, yet with health and strength managed to fight the world for years until at last he had to succumb. So in the case of women who lost property, and though for a time they managed to keep the wolf from the door, yet are now in circumstances where a little relief is of great help to them. In such cases, of course, there can be no fixed rule. The committee must investigate each case and act according to the facts. This committee, in addition to the secretary, consists of Judge Tuck, C. A. Everett and Geo. S. DeForest. It meets once a week.

It may be asked if the number of applicants is not diminished by the dying off of the aged and infirm each year. It does not appear that this is the case, but it is asserted, on the contrary, that they are increasing. It has been said of some kinds of officials that few die and none resign, and it is somewhat the same way with the recipients of the relief fund. The secretary of the board of trade occasionally tries to boom St. John by speaking of the healthfulness of the climate, and the books of the Relief and Aid society seem to prove that he claims no more than is absolutely true. The names

on the books are often of people far advanced in the eighties, and nearly all are of an age above the average duration of human life. In the cases of some, too, death does not end all, so far as the society is concerned. They leave widows or sisters, it may be, to whom the relief is continued, as their poverty is clearly traceable to the fire.

About \$2,000 a year is expended in quarterly payments, while \$1,200 is paid out monthly. A smaller proportion receive their allowance every six months, while a few, not residing here, are paid once a year. The number on the monthly roll is 27, while 32 are on the quarterly. The payments, whenever made, are usually at the rate of \$5 a month, though some are for less. Then there are special cases such as where sums are devoted towards burial expenses, etc., while there are besides, a number of people who need only occasional assistance, and are not on the lists previously mentioned.

Every Christmas from \$1,500 to \$1,800 is distributed in the way of donations to persons of whose needy and deserving circumstances, due to the fire, there is no doubt. Altogether, it is estimated that about \$8,000 will be expended this year, this will, of course, still further reduce the capital and interest.

The objection to the scheme of purchasing annuities seems to be that an annuity would not meet the case of any but the person on whose life it was settled. There might be others immediately connected with him or her, but not appearing on the present list, who could have relief under the present system, but who would necessarily suffer if the funds were resolved into annuities.

Mr. Trudell, who had a valuable experience in connection with the Chicago fire in 1871, stated long ago that cases to be provided for might come up twenty years after the organization of such a society. That seems to be the view taken by the society in St. John.

HE GENEROUSLY REFRAINED.

Mr. Crisp Might Have Said a Great Deal More Than He Did Say.

Whatever may have been said of Rev. R. S. Crisp, his strongest opponents must admit that he generously refrained from saying a great deal that he might have said in his farewell sermon in the Carleton Methodist church, last Sunday night. The church has had "troubles," as it is apt to be called in a congregation where the pastor has been kissing proclivities, and a good many people have been unduly critical of the "old English customs" favored by Mr. Crisp. They took the puritanical idea that it was no part of a minister's functions to caress blooming damsels, or even to do such simple acts of kindness as putting on the rubbers of pretty choir girls. They made so much talk about it, in fact, that the minister was afraid his moral character might suffer, and the outside public began to share the belief. Finally at the last conference Mr. Crisp was drafted to another field of labor. He accepted of the transfer with the troubles in his farewell sermon.

He did not attach any blame to the congregation as a whole, but placed the responsibility on a few, through whose officious interference he had to go. Now, as everybody can understand, there was nothing to prevent his saying what pleased about his opponents. He had the field all to himself and could fire as much hot shot as he pleased. He might have spoken of the disturbers as a raft of bleared, frowsy-headed blatherskites, drifting to an unmentionable region, but he did not. He might have called them the scum of a caldron of iniquity, scoundrels, or blue devils, but he did not. He refrained. He had a high regard for his position as a meek and moderate minister of the church. All that he did say was that "they had made the life of the minister's wife a veritable hell on earth and that there were some members of the congregation, who, if exchanged for convicts from Dorchester penitentiary the church would get the best of the bargain."

Considering the possibilities of the English language, Mr. Crisp might have said a great deal more than he did say.

Somebody Gets It Today.

A good deal of interest has been manifested in the guessing for the handsome mirror which has been for some time on exhibition in Warn's candy store, Union street. Today the contest closes, and those who have charge of the "ballot box" have no easy task before them. The interest has been kept up week after week, and the number of people who had an eye on the mirror was large.

Remember This When Writing.

PROGRESS is always glad to get news items from its readers, but must insist that the name and address of the writer be given in all cases. A number of letters have been received recently without the necessary guarantee of good faith, and have been consigned to the waste basket. Write the name and address on a separate piece of paper.

PLENTY OF FUN FOR ALL

AT "PROGRESS" FREE PICNIC FOR ITS FRIENDS AND WORKERS.

Arrangements for Trains to Lepreau Being Made—A Programme that will Include Something to Give Everyone Enjoyment—Everything Free as the Pure Country Air.

PROGRESS proposes to give its friends, subscribers, advertisers, agents and newsboys a free picnic.

The date is not fixed yet but it will be within a month, and where it will take place and all other arrangements will be announced later.

The main point to be observed is that the picnic will be entirely at the expense of PROGRESS; that all subscribers, advertisers and agents and their friends can obtain tickets by applying at this office and that ample provision will be made for all PROGRESS newsboys. Their names will be taken at the office beginning Saturday, July 23, and every arrangement made to give them a good time, a good "tuck out," good races and other picnic accessories.

Negotiations are about completed with the Shore Line for trains to Lepreau, where splendid picnic grounds will afford plenty of scope for sport and fun.

More particulars will be given next week.

PROGRESS' Silver Service went to Halifax Monday, and is on exhibition there now in Knowles' book store on the corner of George and Granville streets.

"It is a beauty" is the verdict sent from the branch office of PROGRESS. That is what the people said about it here, and from the lively and energetic canvass for coupons it is evident that a good many people are willing to do some work to win the prize. Newsboys found out quite early Saturday that there was something up. The papers were going more rapidly than usual. People who passed them other Saturday mornings without glancing at them stopped and bought the paper, while many regular customers purchased two or three.

Both children and grown up people are devising schemes to get coupons. PROGRESS heard of one lady who had followed out its suggestion and enlisted the co-operation of her friends in other places where the paper goes. The result was even better than she had looked for. This plan is one, however, that anyone can follow up.

Another scheme which lacks an essential element and cannot be commended, was tried on in the city. A man went around to a number of streets and asked the children playing there to get him PROGRESS, one or two of them on a certain street did so and he quickly clipped out the coupon and walked away. This was tried on some newsboys with some success early in the day but a stop was put to it very quickly. People soon found out that a few boys had papers with the coupons in them and the boys found that their papers were no good without them, for clipping the coupon spoils the reading on the opposite page. That was the object of placing the coupon the first page so that everybody could see it without trouble and that it was not cut out.

Some idea of the interest the dealers contest is exciting may be gathered from the fact that one boy, Master J. E. McCoy of Moncton, increased his order 45 copies. He wants to win the \$20 promised to that agent of PROGRESS who sent in the largest total increase from July 9 to September 24. He will work hard for it and no doubt have company. Master Ralph Trainer, in St. Stephen, is another energetic boy selling PROGRESS, who is always on the move, while Master George Douglas, of Amherst, is known to PROGRESS readers as the bright border boy agent. Amherst will help him along every time to win the \$20. Other boys on the list of agents include Master G. A. Hutchinson, of Kingston, Kent; Frank B. Steeves, of Hillsboro; Theo. Graham, of Richibucto; Harry Russell, Newcastle; Daniel Fraser, Springhill, and H. D. Hoyt, of Upper Amherst. There are also boys in Bathurst and Westville whose names are not at hand at this writing but who always do good work.

So far the boys have made a great record, and if the present contest is close the second deserving boy or dealer will not want a prize.

Let the Man Alone.

A number of young people in the West End have been making life unpleasant for an elderly man on Queen street named Richard Ashe. He was married recently, and now his wife is also subject to some annoyance from young men and women who do not hesitate to enter Mr. Ashe's house with the idea of having what they are pleased to call fun. So far as PROGRESS can learn, Mr. Ashe is a hard working man, who minds his own business, and tries to avoid the tormentors. Mention has been made of this before, but if PROGRESS has to notice it again, the names of Mr. Ashe's tormentors will make the item more readable.

STRANGE THINGS AT THE DEPOT.

The Tall Man, One who Tried the C. P. R. and an Arrival from Toronto.

When travel is good the people around the I. C. R. depot see and hear things that make life worth living for them. An ever changing crowd of all kinds of travellers shows life in all its aspects, but when anything extraordinary strikes the depot everybody is interested. An attraction Wednesday was one of the passengers from the American boat, bound for Nova Scotia. He was the tallest man that has entered the station since it was built. Officer Collins is looked upon as a pretty big man especially when he and officer Stevens both stand up to make their remarks in an argument more forcible, but the stranger was eight inches taller than the policeman. Those eight inches would probably have entitled him to the privilege of smoking in the station or going through the gate without a ticket, but the man from Boston was as good natured as he was tall. This was probably due to the fact that nobody had anything to say to him. While coming from Boston his height was secured without him knowing anything about it. The tall man stood against the wall on the lower deck of the steamer, and someone took particular notice of the spot where his head rested. When he went to another part of the steamer a tape line was run up the wall.

Another queer passenger caused considerable trouble this week by continually missing his train. He worried the officers with questions until they finally put him on a train going in the right direction, but not the train he was particularly anxious to get on. When he learned his mistake he got off and came back to the city. When he reached the depot he made inquiries at the news room. The C. P. R. was late that day, and Frank told him he could go on that. "I'm in plenty of time am I," said he; "well, do you know I think I'll go on the C. P. R. just to try it; I've never been on that train."

An arrival from Toronto also attracted considerable attention Wednesday. It was a pig in a box very little larger than the animal. He was in the station all day without anything to eat, and the box was so small that he could neither lie down or turn around. The pig had been in this position coming all the way from Toronto, and no one knew when he had had anything to eat. Animals frequently arrive at the depot in this manner. They are sent on long journeys without food and in many small boxes, and if the express companies undertook to look after them, the charges would have to be high.

A Coachman in Another Role.

A young girl belonging to some point along the St. John river arrived in the city a few days ago from Boston, where she had been "living out." She had a friend from her native place working in this city and she asked the coachman to drive her to where she was living where she heard from her last. He did so, but to his passenger's surprise her friend had left. The people of the house directed her as well as they were able to where she had gone, but after going from place to place with the coachman she failed to locate her friend. Then it occurred to her to ask the coachman what his charge was. "One dollar" was the reply. Though the charge was not excessive it seemed to make the girl feel badly and she finally said that \$1.15 was all the money she had. "Then it won't cost you anything," said the coachman. "Where are you going to stay?"

The girl did not know where she could stay, and as the boat which would carry her home did not leave until Tuesday, three days later, she was in much distress. The end of it was that the coachman took her to his home, handed her over to his wife and kept her until Tuesday.

PROGRESS tells this story with pleasure since it shows that "cabby's" heart is in the right spot.

The Effect on the Taxes.

The sum of \$6,000, voted by the city for the relief of the St. John's, Nfld., sufferers, will have a very slight effect on the assessment for next year. Allowing ten per cent for collecting and bringing the total up to \$6,600, the additional tax will be about 2 1/2 cents on every \$100. This means that a man assessed on \$400 will contribute eleven cents for the aid of suffering humanity, while the sum will be 28 cents for one with an income of \$1,000. No one will begrudge giving in this proportion, even if the tax bills must of necessity be increased to that extent, as possibly they will not be.

News for Joseph Jefferson.

Mr. Joseph Jefferson passed through Fredericton the other day on his annual fishing trip, and the Fredericton correspondent of the *Globe* announced that the "eminent tragedian" was in town. Considering the fact that Mr. Jefferson has devoted the greater part of his life to playing *Rip Van Winkle*, there should be no doubt as to claim for distinction as a comedian. But such is fame.

FREE HEART AND HAND.

HOW STRANGERS HELPED ST. JOHN FIFTEEN YEARS AGO.

Interesting Reminiscences of What Was Done and How It Was Done—Good Reasons Why our City Should be Ever Ready to Help Other Cities.

Now that a great deal of interest is taken in measures for the relief of the sufferers by the St. John's fire, people are reminded of how generously and promptly other places came to the aid of this city in 1877.

The first telegram received on the morning of the 21st of June was from the mayor of Boston asking what was needed. The next was from the government of Nova Scotia, while the next four were from the mayor and citizens of Halifax. The latter were very prompt, for though it was a holiday and nearly everybody was out of town a public meeting was held, at which the Halifax citizens subscribed \$10,000 on the spot. Other cities followed rapidly with evidences of their substantial sympathy, and help came in the most timely way from unexpected quarters.

The city of Boston granted \$5,000, while its citizens piled up the amount until it reached the splendid sum of \$26,819. This was all in cash and independent of over \$17,000 worth of merchandise sent by the citizens in a revenue cutter placed at their disposal by the United States government. In addition to this vast quantity of clothing and supplies were sent, of the value of which no statement was made.

Halifax, however, really did more in proportion to the size, as might naturally be expected. The citizens sent \$15,500 in cash besides most generous donations of supplies and clothing.

Federicton was prompt to respond. It sent \$2,711 in cash, supplies valued at \$4,100 and "a bundle of tracts for distribution among the destitute," value not stated.

Amherst was not as big and flourishing a place as is now, but it forwarded \$1,525 in cash, as well as more than \$1,000 worth of provisions. The other Canadian towns and cities that sent more than \$1,000 in cash were: Brantford, \$1,500; Charlotte-town, \$5,708; Chatham, N. B., \$1,361; Dartmouth, N. S., \$2,607; Guelph, \$1,000; Galt, \$1,288; Hamilton, \$8,413; Hastings, Ont., \$1,000; Huron, Ont., \$2,000; Kingston, Ont., \$2,040; London, Ont., \$7,209; Moncton, \$1,200; Montreal, \$6,223; Newcastle, N. B., \$1,150; New Glasgow, \$1,065; Ottawa, \$7,362; Peterboro, Ont., \$1,324; Picton, Ontario, \$1,042; Peel, Ontario, \$1,000; Quebec, \$4,814; Sarnia, Ont., \$1,050; Sherbrooke, \$1,000; Summerside, \$1,500; Truro, \$1,197; Toronto, \$34,848; Victoria, B. C., \$1,930; Woodstock, N. B., \$1,381; Windsor, N. S., \$4,429; Waterloo, Ont., \$1,200; Yarmouth, N. S., \$2,364, and York, Ont., \$3,000; Carleton, Ont., \$1,000.

The Dominion government gave \$20,000, the Provincial government, \$25,000, while the Intercolonial railway employees contributed \$2,122.

Glasgow, Scotland, distanced all the cities on the other side of the water by making up a purse of \$22,424. Other cities to send large amounts were: Belfast, \$2,599; Dublin, \$2,905; Edinburgh, \$1,581; Liverpool, \$1,369; London, \$7,926, which was chiefly contributed in large sums by the insurance companies; Manchester, \$6,258; Newfoundland government and the citizens of St. John's, \$8,934; and the Bank of N. America sent \$2,433.

Of the United States cities, in addition to Boston, the following sent large sums: Augusta, Me., \$2,272; Bath, \$1,252; Bangor, \$4,725, in addition to sending a special train with \$5,000 worth of cooked provisions; Buffalo, N. Y., \$2,374; Chicago, \$20,092; Detroit, \$1,812; New York, \$23,163; New Haven, \$1,212; Philadelphia, \$9,175; San Francisco, \$6,902.

A list of the places which sent sums under \$1,000 might be given, and would show that in very many cases the donations were most liberal in proportion to the size and wealth of the towns and villages. The response was a noble one, and that is one reason why the people of St. John should always be glad of the privilege of giving abundantly when a sister city suffers from a calamity like that of June 20th, 1877.

What the Howling was About.

Prince William street is a rather quiet place of an afternoon at this season, and when there is an unusual noise everybody runs to see what is the matter. That was the way it was last Wednesday, when a howling as if somebody were being murdered came from the vicinity of the club room in the Stockton building. An alarmed and interested crowd soon gathered, and after the howling had died away learned that both the country and the owner of the voice were safe. There had only been a quiet little game of cards. So far as can be learned a good looking lawyer and an able-bodied commercial traveller had sat

CUT THIS OUT

Silver Service Coupon.

To the person who Sends in the most of these Coupons by Saturday, September 21, PROGRESS will present a handsome Silver Service of seven pieces, Quadruple Plate, Guaranteed, valued at \$45

CUT THIS OUT

down to try their skill with a \$5 stake. The game was pretty close and the traveller finally won by a fluke, it is claimed. The lawyer protested, but finally laid a bill of that value on the table. A little later in the discussion he took the money up and put it in his pocket. The traveller demanded it, but the lawyer laughed him to scorn, whereupon the traveller took the lawyer by the throat and guzzled him, proceeding in the meantime to search the pocket and secure the \$5 bill. It was the vocal efforts of the lawyer during the intervals of the performance that excited the fear and wonder of the people on the street. That was all.

"Progress" Is Not In It.

It is lucky for PROGRESS that it can get along without civic advertising, or at least that civic advertising that comes from Director A. Chipman Smith and the Board of Public Works. There is a pretty general impression that Chief Smith runs the board and so far as the advertising is concerned the impression seems to be pretty nearly right. A "call for tenders" can get all the publicity necessary in four daily papers. There is no doubt of that; neither is there any doubt but that two dailies would do just as well as four, and again no one will question that PROGRESS alone could give it wider publicity than any two of the dailies. The board, however, and the director seem to be "down" on PROGRESS and forget it, which is an offset probably to the very excellent memory and imagination of the assessors who see to it that its contributions to the city treasury increase with remarkable regularity. There is no hard feeling over the absence of the "ad" in PROGRESS office, but its repeated failure to show up has become amusing. Complimentary or uncompensated notices of Mr. Director Smith and his board will appear as usual, and good citizens will make up their mind that city officials are small in their methods and almost as insignificant as the shrivelled cedar scrubs that disfigure King square.

The Premium Demand.

Two bright little girls called at PROGRESS office early Monday wanting to know how many new subscribers they would have to secure to get the 30 inch tricycle, which sells at retail for \$14.00. "Sixteen new subscribers" was the answer, and the reply that they thought they could get them, the little canvassers went out. Sets of Dickens and Thackeray have captured several new names this week and this is the first week too. Although there are fifteen books in one set and ten books in another and the weight of Dickens is about 22 pounds, the express rate secured by PROGRESS for its subscribers is so low that it need not enter into consideration. The rate will be cheerfully given upon application and if any person would care to look at one of the sets before investing PROGRESS will send it for examination and pay return express charges should it not prove satisfactory. On the eighth page of this issue a six ball croquet set is offered for one new subscriber and 65 cents additional.

One Slocum of Toronto.

A poor woman in Bloomfield who is ill with consumption, some time ago trusted the plausible statements of one Slocum of Toronto, to the effect that ten ten dollars he would guarantee a cure of her disease. His offer was accompanied by printed guarantees, calculated to deceive trusting unsuspecting persons, which promised "money refunded" or more medicine if no cure was brought about. Of course, there was no cure, and the woman sent for more medicine. This was refused unless more cash accompanied the order. The result was that the woman and her neighbors forwarded the letters to PROGRESS to warn other people not to be persuaded to do likewise. Slocum has advertised very lavishly in some of the city papers which have had hard work to get their money—if, indeed, they have got it at all—and from his mail literature it would appear that he is as well prepared to gull the people as the newspapers.