

## PUSHED TO THE FRONT.

STREETS WHICH ARE A CITY IN THEMSELVES.

The Great Contrast of the St. John of Today and That Seventy Years Ago—As Evidenced by the New and Old Buildings—Our Great Business Centre.

Men are now living who remember when Prince William street, in front of the City hall, was a narrow lane or cartway, cut through the rock. An apothecary shop was on the site where the Bank of New Brunswick stands today, while between that and the Market Square were scattered small shops and private residences.

That was less than 70 years ago. In those days there was no stately post office

all the business thoroughfares, particularly mention may be made of blocks on Prince William and King streets and the Market square. Many of these appear to advantage among the engravings of this issue. Some of the best of them are there. Well as the engraver has done his work; but a slight conception of the really beautiful appearance of the streets of St. John can be gathered from the necessarily limited number of views.

The city, in its appearance, has nothing to fear from comparison with any city of similar size. Nor can it be said that this is wholly due to the fact that the fire made it necessary to build anew. The improvements had begun long prior to 1877. New and substantial structures were taking the

## WE ARE IN THEIR DEBT

FOR THE PLEASANT SERVICES WE CANNOT DO WITHOUT.

Messrs. Stephens & Figures, Importers and Wholesale Dealers in Tea, Coffee and General Groceries—A Business Based on Twenty Years of Fair Dealings.

It is hard to realize that tea and coffee have only been in common use for the last half century, for at present they seem as necessary as bread or meat, and the poorest man in the country thinks his meal incomplete without the one or the other. The business of wholesale importation of these two articles has risen to great importance

street enabling them to carry an enormous stock of goods, so that they can at any time fill the largest orders without delay. Another important feature in their favor is that they have always been able to utilize the services of experienced and far-seeing men. Their patronage has never been gained by unwise concessions, nor has it come spasmodically, under the stimulus of "loud" advertising or ruinous discounts. There is a safe, quiet, yet progressive and increasing business, such as any firm might be proud to command.

What a Dollar Will Do.

A Dollar is not a very large sum of money. It doesn't make much of a hole in your grocery bill, your coal merchant turns up his nose at it, and your landlord

## A GREAT TRADE CENTRE.

PRINCE WILLIAM STREET AND THE WATER FRONT.

The Heart of Our Business City—The Market Square For a Centre and King, Prince William, Dock and Water Streets Leading Into It.

It may be that the Loyalists of 1783 never pictured, in their brightest dreams, so fair a city as is seen today. Whatever may have been their hopes, they could scarcely have foretold the changes at that part of the shore where some of them landed. The solid ground now known as the Market square had no existence. The water washed the shore near where the Western Union Telegraph building stands,

It was planned with great wisdom and foresight. Had it been a street of the ordinary width, it would scarcely have sufficed for the uses to which it is steadily put, nor would it have shown to such fine advantage the splendid structures which rise on each side from square to square. Take it how you will, from the head, foot or middle, it makes an appearance which cannot fail to please the eye, as a thoroughfare worthy of a live and enterprising city.

But the Market square itself, the heart of the system, has been merely mentioned in general terms. Standing in its centre and casting a glance around, it is seen to be surrounded by every evidence of material prosperity and business push. The blocks on the north side are of no common or in-



PRINCE WILLIAM STREET, LOOKING NORTH.



PRINCE WILLIAM STREET, LOOKING SOUTH.

building. The mails were received and delivered at the grocery store of JOHN KERR, on the Market Square, and the Coffee House, on the corner where the Bank of Montreal now is, was the centre towards which the old time merchants gravitated.

It was in these days that THOMAS MILLIDGE built himself a dwelling on the north corner of King and Charlotte streets. His astonished friends wanted to know why he chose a site so far out of town. The land to the eastward of Charlotte street was virtually a common.

City properties were sometimes of generous proportions. HENRY GILBERT lived on the northeast corner of Prince William and Princess streets. The corner of his front yard was where the Halifax Banking company now does business. His barn was where the Savings bank is today. Canterbury street did not exist.

The city had then about 8,000 inhabitants. The houses were chiefly of wood, and of the character seen on many of the streets of Halifax at the present time. The street lines alone were very much as they are today, though some of the streets were "creatures of the mind and existed only in contemplation." PAUL BIDDELL, who made the first survey, did his work with such a faithful adherence to the principle of rectangles that the paths were made plain for all future time.

It has cost something to build those streets. The task of making ways through masses of solid rock was one of no mean

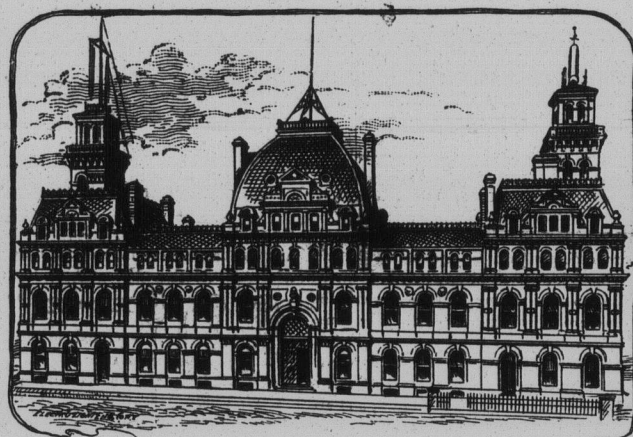
places of the wooden houses, slowly it may be, but steadily and surely. The old wooden sidewalks were passing away and asphalt was taking their place. All other evidences of progress were present. The people were alive to their opportunities and were moving ahead rapidly before the calamity came.

The strangers who come from the great cities of the United States, every year, are surprised and delighted with the appearance of St. John. Some of them have pictured it as an old-fashioned colonial town, "away down East," where there is winter for nine months of the year and fog for the rest of the time. They have citizen TRAIN'S idea that GEORGE III. still lives here. They come out of curiosity, much as they go to the sixteenth century city of Quebec. When they find a commercial metropolis, built in accordance with modern ideas, and are met by a live and energetic people, they have learned a lesson in geography which they will never forget.

As the years pass by and the occasional vacant lots are again built upon no city will have a more solid and substantial look than St. John. Prince William street, straight as an arrow, with its long lines of fine structures, varying in design but uniform in their solid look, will be a thoroughfare well worthy of the visitor's admiration. King street, with its great breadth and its commercial emporiums, is already an avenue which older and wealthier cities would give much to possess. Charlotte and Union streets, on which not many years ago it

within a comparatively brief time, nevertheless. At present it employs a large amount of capital and energy.

In the great cities many firms trade exclusively in these articles, men being paid large salaries for tasting the tea, enabling the firms to buy the very best article.



THE CUSTOM HOUSE.

St. John has a number of firms whose principal business is in tea and coffee, and who import in large quantities and supply the rest of the province, as well as the cities, with the pleasant beverage. Among these the firm of Stephens & Figures has

—well, your landlord simply ignores it, unless it travels in company with other Dollars.

And yet one little lonesome Dollar, ineffectual, you would think, to do much good in the world, can make a whole family happy for a whole year!

while a rough, rocky ridge lay along the line of the present Dock street. Water street was in part simply land covered by water. Chipman's hill was an eminence which only stout legs could surmount with a trifle of weariness. People had their choice of climbing it on their way to Portland or making their way along the crooked path which lay along the shore.

Today the Market square may be called the business heart of the city. It is a centre of busy life. On and around it there is a ceaseless activity from daylight to dark. In the Market square are seen the masts of the coasters which come not only from all parts in this and the adjacent province, but from the cities of the United States. The great staples of life are brought hither and stand in the roomy warehouses which line the wharves. On these wharves there is ever the rush and bustle of business. They are never silent, save in the hours of darkness and on the Sabbath day.

This is one of the great veins leading to the heart. The arteries from which the vitality of business is sent forth are the streets which radiate from it. Dock street along which comes the great bulk of traffic from Portland and the freight which gives work to two great railway systems is worthy of special note. It has always been a thoroughfare which impressed the stranger with the sense of large business operations. It is here that the houses dealing in East India and other foreign products have had their abiding place. Even more than the

ferior character in appearance. They are solid, and a solid business is done in them. To the eastward are seen such stately buildings as those which adorn the King street corners, while to the south are the great business houses of Prince William and Water streets.

Through the square at all hours is a steady procession of vehicles and people. Not the least of the sights is that of the street railway, which connects widely distant points in St. John and Portland, and ere long will extend as a network through all parts of the city proper. It has come to stay. The people will not do without it. Taking the Market square as a centre and the distance to the Custom house as a radius, let the circumference of a circle be described to the eastward from the shore to the south until it touches the city of Portland to the north, how much commercial wealth is found in the area?

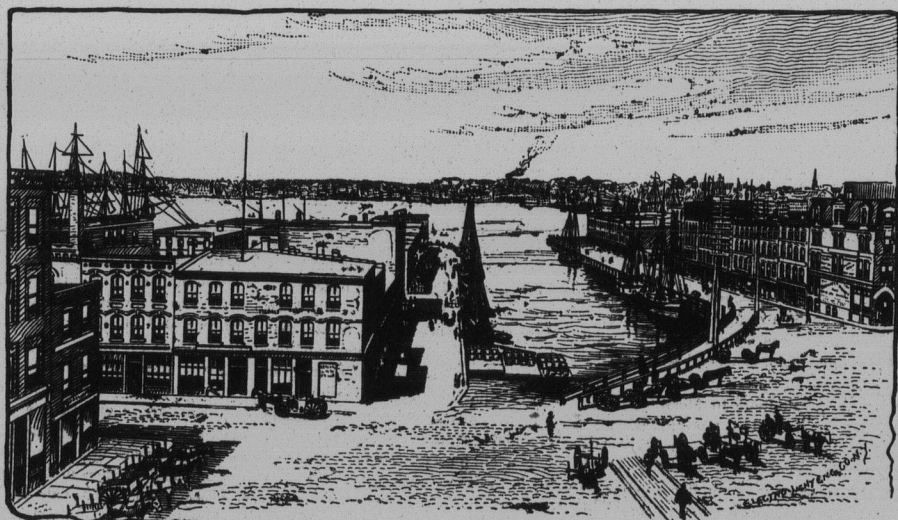
The answer to this problem might be figured out by experts, but who can answer this question:

In the same area, how much pluck, perseverance, energy and enterprise is to be found among the business men?

To this there is no reply. The past, with its discouragements, has shown that the people possess these qualities to a wonderful extent. The future may show even greater vitality than in the past.

The Best In Everything.

PROGRESS is the best paper in the Maritime Provinces to advertise in. It goes just where it is wanted.



MARKET SQUARE.

magnitude. If it had to be done again the prospect might well appal a stout heart. But it has been done year by year, slowly, patiently, and well, and there is something to show for it.

There is something to show, also, in the handsome and substantial buildings which line those streets. They are the work of the last ten years. They were built at a time when misfortune bore heavily on the people, and the future looked gloomy and uncertain. But they were built by those who had faith in the city and in themselves, and they were built well. They are structures of which the citizens may feel proud. They are the monuments which commemorate push, perseverance and pluck. They tell the story of faith, hope and courage.

While buildings notable for their size and architectural beauty may be found on

was rare to find other than wooden buildings, are also far advanced as thoroughfares on which are seen fine specimens of architectural taste, and the indices of material prosperity. The business men are pushing on, "conquering and to conquer." They live in the present and for the future.

The Liverpool and London and Globe Insurance Company.

PROGRESS has to thank this company for a neat calendar for 1899.

From the report in the last issue of the *Monetary Times* it appears that the company's stock is now quoted at about 1800 per cent. This is an advance of upwards of 100 per cent. since the beginning of the year, and speaks volumes for the conservative management of the company.

Everybody reads PROGRESS.

for the last 20 years been conspicuous for enterprise and fair dealing. Started in 1870, the firm has made many rapid strides forward in public estimation and patronage, until today it finds a market throughout the provinces. This house imports its teas direct from England and China, its coffees from the old country and the United States, and having exceptionally good opportunities for buying can sell on most reasonable terms. Besides tea and coffee, the firm deals largely in fruits, soaps, spices and canned goods, the former of which are imported from the United States, the West Indies and the Mediterranean; the latter from the United States.

For the accommodation of their large trade Messrs. Stephens & Figures have splendid capacity, their warehouse on Dock

lacking satisfaction. If you give the Dollar to your grocer or coal merchant or landlord, as aforesaid, the satisfaction will be lasting—but it will be on the other fellow's side. If you are a sensible man (and, since you read this paper, you must be), you want that dollar to be productive of permanent benefit to yourself, your wife and children—don't you?

Well, then, send the Dollar to PROGRESS! PROGRESS will invest it for you, and pay you 52 dividends; and if, a year hence, you aren't a healthy, wealthy and happy man, send and get your money back.

Subscribe!

Advertising pays—if you advertise in PROGRESS.

wharves, it is ever busy, not only by day, but until all traffic ceases in the late hours of the night.

Water and Prince William streets are other arteries, running parallel, but both absolutely necessary to accommodate the steady flow of business. Far down on the latter street is a most important adjunct of the trade circulatory system—the Custom House. It is a building which would add to the beauty of any city in the world, and it is as substantial and well built as it is handsome in appearance. Its appointments are in keeping with the age. It is modern and complete.

Due east from the Market square runs the great vein or artery—it is as much one as the other—King street. It is the inlet and outlet for a very large part of the city.

They Were to be Fitted.

Two unfortunate but respected citizens met on King street, last Saturday, and exchanged the following remarks:

"What's that paper, PROGRESS, that you have in your hand?" asked the first citizen.

"I never heard of it before."

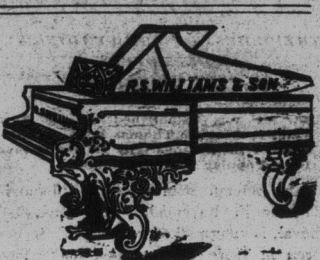
(N. B.—He was deaf.)

"It's the best paper in Canada!" answered the second citizen. "I always try to buy it, but sometimes I get around too late. I'd give \$500 if I could see it every week!"

(N. B.—He was blind.)

Almost everybody who isn't blind or deaf has seen PROGRESS and heard that its subscription price is only \$1 a year. Have you?

Isn't this paper worth 9 cents?

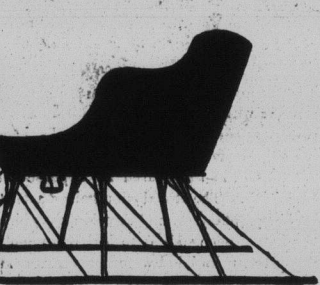


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make periodical visits to our customers,



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