

PROGRESS.

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City Court Scenes.

The Poor Man's Court is Used by the Rich and Seems to be Very Popular.

Civil Court Day as it is known at the St. John police court is one of no ordinary interest. The number of spectators generally present on this day, which is of so much importance especially to the younger members at the bar are large and appreciative. Not many weeks ago the chief magistrate noted the fact and condemned the action of so many persons in disposing of their time in such a manner. His Honor in this respect may be right and yet there are many quarters paid for the sake of witnessing entertainments far less amusing than those that are sometimes on the board at the Civil Court. Not that the law is not administered in a dignified and impartial manner, but under the present legal system unique occurrences are bound invariably to arise. The present Saint John City Court was established on the foundation of redressing wrongs and collecting bad debts in the cheapest manner possible—in other words a court for the poor man's benefit. Under this impression it has become a court that the rich man as well as the poor man has taken advantage of. Probably because law has come to be looked upon by many as so expensive that it is a relief to sue and be sued at such a little cost. Not a few citizens have become so well acquainted with the city court proceedings that they have the idea that no lawyer is required. The examinations of witnesses do not, they think, call for any legal knowledge, hence the ridiculous situations that arise in many instances are of a highly interesting character. Not infrequently matters are gone into wholly for the sake of the case, and participants become so excited that all talk at once. It is no wonder that His Honor often finds it difficult to quell the uproar. Men bitterly opposed to each other in law do not hesitate to tell just what they think of each other, and language flows that may be termed juicy. Then there is the litigant, who has not the conceit to think that he knows all the law, but he hates the lawyer just the same, so the constable is sought as his chief adviser. The latter draws the paper. This he informs his employer is just a simple matter and no doubt he feels amply repaid for he gets the fee of serving the paper. The constable is not always successful, but that does not interfere with his payment. His client is the loser and he leaves court a sadder but a wiser man. Next there is the merchant who looks upon the court as a chance to get a snap verdict. He is not always sure of his account, but the case may not be defended and a judgment by default is a clincher. It should happen that the defendant is ready to meet the charge the case is withdrawn and all are made happy. Other individuals have their peculiar modes of proceeding in the poor man's seat of justice and a few are successful.

Thursday is the regular City Court Day and the suers and the sued, the constables and the policemen, the lawyers (especially the younger lawyers) and the witnesses gather for the weekly tussle. His Honor calls attention. Perhaps he has some remarks to make on general matters before proceeding with the civil docket. The police force this week were the subject of his remarks. Houses of ill fame still existed and the guardians of the peace should see that they were blotted out. There was no reason why certain parties because they had an assumed name or reputation in the city should be allowed to escape, while the unknown character was sought out and punished. These were not his honor's exact words but that is the impression conveyed. It was a rap over the knuckles so to speak. There was no photographer present while the address was being delivered, but here was a case where the amateur friend lost one of his greatest opportunities, a picture of the assembled multitude; the impression on the faces of the policemen cannot be described or imagined. There are some sights that can never be recalled to the mind's eye.

After the excitement occasioned by His Honor's remarks, had subsided, the business of the day was taken up. The first case called was for the payment of a bill. A man of somewhat elderly appearance stepped forward as the plaintiff, but

he was met by a more elderly party as his opponent. The judge tried by every means to get some evidence, but no one could blame him for his utter failure in this respect and so the case was dismissed. The plaintiff retired but the defendant stood as one in a trance.

"What are you waiting for?" asked his Honor.

"Are you done with me?" was the reply.

"Yes; that is all, you can go now."

"Am I free, is that all?"

"Yes, the case is dismissed."

That was sufficient. There was a grabbing of a hat and an exit to the door. No time was lost. No Klondike nugget was ever picked up with greater quickness and thankfulness than was that hat, and as for the departure, some men are not nearly as old as they look.

Next came a case that did not suit the presiding magistrate as to the way the debt was set out. This led to inquiry and discovery brought out the fact that Constable So and So had drawn the paper. "Well it is wrong and I won't allow it," was the Court's ruling and so it went like many others. "Surely," concluded his Honor "there are enough lawyers left in St. John to draw these papers, they haven't all gone West yet." A happy smile spread over the face of the legal fraternity, the one bright piece of satisfaction they had thus far experienced that morning. And so the cases came and went. Can you blame anyone who has time on his hands at wanting to be present at city court on Thursday morning. It is a poor man's court and why shouldn't the poor man enjoy the pleasant side of life as well as the bitter.

The Departing Soldiers.

St. John gave its departing soldiers for South Africa a good send off. They were a fine looking lot of men and no one has any reason to feel ashamed of those who have gone forward to fight on behalf of their king and country. Of course all didn't go who would have so liked, but that could not be helped. One young man who was most desirous to lend aid to his country's cause was given to understand by his parent that if he went he need never darken his father's door again. The young man did not go and he is now living in hopes that his choice of a wife will not meet with similar treatment. Another's fond parent told his offspring that he need never enter his house again unless he did go. He has gone. Such is the inconsistency of nature. Both parents are happy, but as much cannot be said for the children. Others could not go either because they failed to qualify or they were not wanted. But such is life and the result must be taken in the best of spirits.

The Right and Wrong.

Fredericton held its civic elections this week, a doctor was elected mayor and another doctor an alderman, at the same time the ratepayers defeated the scheme to put down new sewerage and thus benefit the sanitary conditions of the city. Herein lies a conundrum for the wise man to solve. A place that elects two doctors as its representatives must believe that doctors are good men to look after its interests, and a doctor's chief business is to provide health, but Fredericton does not want health either, for it is satisfied with its old worn out sewerage system. The majority of ratepayers evidently think that two doctors will fill the place of new sewerage. This may be so but it is doubtful. The tax payer refused to vote for the new scheme because it might add a few cents to his annual tax bill, that would be all wrong. To have typhoid fever, perhaps have a death or two in the family, pay a physician's bill of some dollars, that would be all right.

They Were Reunited.

There are turkeys, there are chickens as many other estate commodities. They all have their good points. It is seldom however that a pair of chickens ever enter St. John's market like those that Farmer Northrup of Kings produced for Mr. Dean's inspection last Monday. Eighteen pounds said the scales and they were

beauties. Mr. Dean captured the prize and some one of his numerous customers have had a surpassing dinner this week.

SOME MORE GLIMPSSES.

What the Future Proclaims, As Revealed to Date.

The Weather bureau is not always fortunate in proclaiming the future condition of the weather elements. There are often mistakes in its prophecy. So likewise there is apt to occur errors in all scientific instruments. The futuroscope is not yet perfected. Writings in some cases are quite obscure and so if a few blunders are made they are excusable. We cipher the annexed paragraphs.

Under the head "The crop that never fails" the following is taken from a paper of October 1903:

"Eighteen students passed the examination for Attorney of the Supreme Court this week and were sworn in yesterday. It is the intention we believe for some dozen of the number to practise their profession in St. John."

An item taken from a paper of July 1906 is of interest to many St. John persons.

Last night the police made a raid in several of the notorious houses situated in the South end. It is reported that the police have determined to clean the city of these places and the chief is going to leave no stone unturned to carry out this object.

Other paragraphs of exceptional value are the following:—

November, 1908.—Mr. Hannay has assumed the editorial control of the Telegraph. Mr. Hannay occupied a similar position on that paper some years ago. He is the twenty-sixth editor the journal has had in the past dozen years.

March, 1907.—The Liberals had a majority of fourteen in the Canadian Senate yesterday—quite a turn over from the way parties stood a few sessions ago. Mr. Ellis voted with the Liberals.

January—1910.—Madam Albani delighted a large audience at the Opera House last night. The celebrated singer was in fine voice and received an enthusiastic reception. It is learned that Patti is about to make a favorable tour of this country and an attempt will be made to have her come to St. John.

August 1909.—The new flying machine is proving a great success. The trip between here and Fredericton was made yesterday in less than thirty minutes. The Morgan syndicate of the States controls the new machine, but the C. P. R. are large stockholders in the enterprise.

April, 1907.—The Alderman elections are exciting no little interest especially in North End, where Dr. Christie and Dr. Smith are opposing each other. It is not the first time that these gentlemen have met in contest, in fact for the last ten years or so they have been fighting it out.

April, 1912.—It is said that St. John will soon have its much coveted Dry Dock, and practical steps are being taken to carry the scheme out.

PROGRESS CONTENTS TODAY.

PAGE 1.—This page speaks for itself. Read it.

PAGE 2.—A few hints from Paris—Many matters that interest the people of the French capital.

PAGE 3.—Musical and dramatic news of the week.

PAGE 4.—Editorial, poetry events of the week and other timely topics.

PAGE 5, 6, 7, and 8.—Social items from all over the provinces.

PAGE 9.—Just Lord Robert's way.—A pathetic incident of the British Boer war.

PAGE 10.—Flotters in Paris Cafes—Conspirators from all over the world found there.

PAGE 11.—Conclusion of the interesting serial "Under a Ban."

PAGE 12.—A whole page devoted to reading for the Sabbath.

PAGE 13.—Story of an Argonaut—Hardships the early pioneers experienced.

PAGE 14.—Facts and fancies from the realm of fashion.

PAGE 15.—The smashes of Kansas—Women have been wrecking saloons there for years.

PAGE 16.—"Old Ready"—A tale of hospital life. Births, marriages and deaths of the week.

WHERE THE FAULT LIES.

Bad Management Has Made the Exhibition Unpopular With the Powers That Be.

Exhibition matters are engaging a considerable portion of the attention of the people of St. John at the present time. The disinclination of the government to grant the request of the association for a grant of \$5,000, as well as the refusal of the common council to see its way clear to co-operate in the scheme proposed by the directors of the exhibition appears to have so disheartened those gentlemen that they have concluded to abandon the show and throw themselves upon the mercy of the city and the province for the payment of their indebtedness.

There has been so wide a difference of opinion in the city in regard to the management of the exhibition, that there is not so much surprise felt at this conclusion of the executive as might be supposed. The directors of the association are good citizens, most of them merchants in splendid standing, but they have not had the time even if they had the inclination to attend to the details of the work that they undertook, in the same way that they would attend to their own affairs. Year after year they have left the management of the show to Mr. Charles A. Everett and it has been repeatedly pointed out that he is not the right man in the right place. Mr. Everett's ability in certain directions is no doubt conceded but it does not run in the line of exhibitions. This gentleman at the outset possessed no knowledge of the show business and at the finish he has failed to exhibit that which would naturally come from experience.

The people as a whole have generously supported the exhibition. The exhibitors, on the contrary, complain that they have been so hampered by conditions, that were unbearable that they have been unable to exhibit without great expense and little satisfaction. PROGRESS has pointed this out time and time again and shown in what department the exhibition was a failure. Of late years so much attention has been paid to special attractions, which no doubt are very proper in a certain way, that the exhibition as such has been neglected. This paper has shown that machinery hall, which in time gone by was one of the great drawing cards of the show has become literally a place where nothing is to be seen, except the great useless engines, the power of which is not required and the expense of which is very great. In spite of this fact, mechanical superintendents have been hired at the same expense year after year, attendants to the same number have been added to the pay sheet, and all for what? For the purpose of driving one or two machines of little attractiveness. It is acknowledged on all sides that while the expense of machinery hall has been great, the results have been practically nil.

The management has been, in the opinion of many, very extravagant in the erection of buildings, grandstands etc. No one will deny that a grand stand is very necessary nor would any one say that outside buildings for special departments are not necessary but they have been altogether of too extensive a character, costing too much money.

With an attendance such as the exhibition had last year, with the additional receipts that it obtains from the special attractions, with the large income that flowed into its coffers from the excessive rates charged for space, under economical management the show should have paid without any subsidy from any quarter. It is little wonder that the government of the province and the city of St. John cannot see their way clear to place confidence in the exhibition under its present management. The city has always been liberal, either in the way of grants or of guarantees. The province last year gave \$4,000 towards the show, so that but little fault can be found with them in the matter of generosity. The city this year promises to give \$3,000, the province holds aloof. If the gentlemen who are in power in Fredericton could have made a grant under certain conditions the people would have been well pleased. They receive a great deal of money from the city of St. John by reason of special taxation, succession duties etc., and any

reasonable request from the citizens towards such an object as a provincial exhibition should meet with their most serious consideration. No doubt they have pressing demands from other quarters. The exhibitions in Sussex and Woodstock have been successful, not only because they were good shows, but because as well they came out at the right end financially. They did not take months after the show was over to send out a statement to the people, as in St. John. In other large cities were exhibitions are held and are a feature of the progress and life of the community the management of the show present a statement to the people a very short time after the fair has closed. Here it was months before any satisfaction could be obtained as to the results of the exhibition from a financial standpoint. The directors, themselves, complain very much about this, and were not satisfied at all with the explanations that were given them. Probably the fact was that the show was so poor, that the longer it could be postponed the least comment would be made upon it.

It is sincerely to be hoped that the people will not rest quietly under the present state of affairs but will urge upon the directors, upon the city and upon the common council as well as upon the government the necessity of continuing the annual fair, which has become in fact one of the features of the year in the province of New Brunswick.

Somewhat Sudden Death.

The quite sudden death of Mrs. P. M. Goldrick on Sunday morning to her many friends who in common with the family and relations esteemed her highly. Heart failure was the cause of death and the estimable and aged lady who was in her usual good health in the morning at noon had passed away. Warden M. Goldrick and Rev. Thomas McGoldrick were her two sons. The latter arrived on Monday to attend the funeral which took place on Tuesday morning. The attendance was large and the service at the church of unusual impressiveness. A husband and two daughters as well as the sons have the sympathy of many friends.

Well Known Here.

The death of Mrs. L. G. Stevens was heard in St. John this week by many with sincere regret. Mrs. Stevens who was the wife of the former rector of St. Luke's church had a very large circle of friends in this city especially in the North End. The most of her lifetime was spent in this vicinity. She was the daughter of the late Dr. Waddell, formerly superintendent of the Lunatic Asylum and as Miss Waddell she had endeavored herself to a large circle of acquaintances.

The Pet Bear no More.

Joe Harley of the North End has lost his bear. This is a happy ending for a good many people had an idea that some day Joe would vanish and nobody know anything about it but the bear. Sergeant Baxter was the man chosen to do the deed and with a good rifle he thought he was once more in his native woods looking for game. What sport there might have been if the bear had been let loose in some wood land and a party of hunters followed him up.

He Has No Pauper's Grave.

It is due to Mr. H. Ervin of the Daily Telegraph that the body of the sailor Elliott was not laid in a pauper's grave. The subscriptions he collected were enough to give him a decent interment and his mother returned to Eastport with at least that consolation. Why there is not some provision by which sailors can be buried out of the mariners fund is difficult of explanation but it is a fact that no proposition came from this quarter.

That Spring Excursion.

An alderman, a shipping man and several well known merchants secured the wharves west out of town in a sleigh this forenoon. The excruciating cold and a ripple of curiosity on Charlotte street, and there is a suspicion that the party went out into the country to see if the sap had commenced to run.—*Tuesdays Star.*

Another rumor was to the effect that it was an expedition for picking up chips—perhaps for summer fuel at Robesay. Or it may have been a private committee of inquiry in regard to the election list.