

PROGRESS

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IN DISSOLVING VIEWS.

THAT IS HOW CANDIDATES FOR ST. JOHN APPEARED.

End of the Fiasco Under the Auspices of Some of the Liberal Party—Premier Blair Shows There With Both Feet and Alfred Augustus goes Back as a Dealer.

The machine of the exhibition which recorded the correct weight of prominent citizens has been beaten out of sight during the past week by the way in which some enterprising politicians and wire-pullers have had it air weight ascertained to the satisfaction of others, if not of themselves.

At the time when PROGRESS went to press last week, the Committee of One Hundred which had proclaimed itself as the liberal party was on the chase after two running mates for Brother O'Brien of the Irish Literary and Benevolent Society and Brother McKeown of the Loyal Orange Association. Candidates to match this wonderful combination were apparently hard to find in the ranks of the Weldon-Ellis party, and they were just as hard to find when Friday night came and the names of four candidates were to be presented to the meeting. The names of Messrs O'Brien, McKeown and J. C. B. Allen were given, but the selection of a fourth name was left to be made by the committee and the candidates at a later date.

There were some speeches, of course, by Messrs O'Brien, McKeown, and the latter spoke with especial vigor, possibly having a premonition that he would not again have a chance to exercise his oratory in St. John during this campaign. Subsequent events proved that he did well in embracing this opportunity. Then Mr. Ellis made a plea for his partner, Mr. O'Brien, to whom he gave an excellent character. The meeting came to an end with a silent but emphatic resolve of the Weldon-Ellis-O'Brien-McKeown party to find a fourth candidate or perish in the attempt.

The latter said alternative was the one they were finally forced to accept. Scarcely had the Saturday papers announced that C. B. Allen had consented to run when the word came that he would do nothing of the kind. This left only the original two for whose nomination the liberal standard had been unfurled in the first place. Then the Diogenes who had started out to look for a man found that two men were to be sought, and that the lantern of tradition utterly failed to disclose their whereabouts. They began to suspect that even an arc light would be of no avail in such a waxy quest, and they were quite right in the supposition.

The view of the whole fiasco was that intimated in the remarks of PROGRESS last week. The step of a few well meaning but short sighted men of the liberal party in attempting to draw the party line in local politics at this juncture was ill-advised in the extreme. It was inopportune and was engineered in the worst possible way. It was in practical opposition to Mr. Blair and it had not the sympathy of the liberal party outside of a limited few. Its only effect was to weaken the liberal party in St. John by exposing it to the ridicule of its opponents. That there were some hearty workers in this movement, those who have done splendid work in every election and who were doing what they thought was for the best, only makes the matter more regrettable. That the impolitic step was urged and commended by Messrs Weldon and Ellis only makes more apparent the lack of judgment of these men as local leaders of the party.

Saturday and Sunday passed, while O'Brien and McKeown posed in the isolation which at times environs men who are elevated to an eminence above the common crowd. By Monday it was apparent they would continue to pose without company, and so they quietly retired from the field, their recession being amid a solemn silence which was in marked contrast to the flourish of trumpets which had heralded their advent on the scene.

The attempt to raise the liberal war cry to injure Mr. Blair was one reason why the movement ended in a fizzle. Another reason appears to have been that people are not yet educated into the style of politics in which one or two men first find a candidate and then call a convention to find a ticket to fit around him. The opposition had no trouble in forming a ticket. Alfred Augustus Stockton, the anti-dealer, anti-Blairite was to the front and so was our own and only Silas Alward. The latter had declared that he would not be a candidate, but those who knew him said he would be. They based their prediction on the idea that the prudent doctor would not want to surrender the dead-head privileges he enjoys, in his capacity as a legislator, on certain lines of transportation. Silas is said to love a pass as much as he used to abhor the record of the tory party.

Wm. Shaw also came forward as a candidate, and was singled out by the Telegraph as the subject of a most un-called for attack on his business as a baker.

It would have done no good to the government had there been a contest, and it certainly did no good to the Telegraph. C. Burton Lockhart was the fourth man, in place of his partner A. C. Smith, who said he would not be a candidate and meant it. It's all in the firm, however.

At the opposition meeting for nomination, Alfred and Silas burned their bridges behind them by avowing themselves with the Tories henceforth in all their battles. Possibly, when Silas went home he also burned the last copy of his famous work, "The Record of the Tory Party."

Having quietly witnessed the collapse of the Weldon-Ellis-O'Brien-McKeown combination, Mr. Blair came out with his ticket Monday night. It was composed of two former candidates, Dr. Geo. A. Hetherington and Rudman Allen, with two new men in the persons of James Pullen and Geo. A. Knodell. It was a ticket to which no exception could be taken as regarded the individuals, and was far and away ahead of some of the tickets which rumor had said would be in the field. It was very clearly understood that the government ticket had no chance of winning in St. John city, and especially after the Weldon-Ellis capers which had been out, but it was just as clear that the Blair government would be as solid as ever, and the men who fought the battle would have at least the patronage here. In the county, despite of a threatened movement against Mr. Dunn here and Mr. McLeod were deemed fairly sure of their return as against such opponents as Wm. Irvine and James Rourke. It was not a dead sure thing, however, and it was therefore apparent that if the county government men could be allowed to go in without opposition Mr. Blair could more than afford to let the opposition have the city without a contest.

This deal was made, and Alfred Augustus Stockton, the great anti-dealer, suddenly proved himself to be a dealer from Deal-ville. The respective candidates for the city and the county were elected by acclamation.

One of the opposition papers made a lament over this alleging that the government candidates in the city had backed down while the opposition was ready for the fray, and that the opposition ticket would have been run in the county had it not been for the weakening of James Rourke during the night preceding nomination day. The humor of this statement is apparent when it is known that at a meeting of the executive of the opposition, the evening before, presided over by Dr. Christie, the chairman, it was decided that the county candidates should be withdrawn. It was a deal, pure and simple, and Mr. Blair got the best of it.

So far, counting the counties where candidates have been returned by acclamation, where government supporters are sure of election, the government has 18 men to five opposition. The government will probably have a four-fifths majority in the house.

Mr. Blair gets there with both feet this time, and does not even have to go through the form of a contest for his own election in Queens county.

ALL ANXIOUS TO PREACH.

Twelve Applicants for Rectory of St. George's Church, Halifax.

HALIFAX, Oct. 10.—The rectory of St. George's, has been vacant since the resignation of Rev. Canon Partridge, now of Fredericton. An advertisement was recently inserted by the warden in one of the church papers asking for applications for the position. No less than eleven were received. Men were found willing to assume the rectoryship from all the parishes of Canada, from Nova Scotia to British Columbia. The twelfth candidate was Rev. Mr. Pitman, who was with Dr. Partridge, and has since continued to officiate. The salary is \$1,000 besides the use of the rectory. When twelve men are thus found anxious to become the minister of a church in this way, surely it cannot be said that "the harvest is great but the laborers are few." The harvest in Halifax is great sure enough, but the laborers they are many.

The election took place to night when it was found that the choice of the people rested on Rev. Mr. Pitman. The eleven will have to seek for other flocks to lead. Everybody Liked Him.

The base ball season has a pleasant incident in the record this year. After the death of the favorite Joe Morris, who was killed a short time ago by falling from a staging, the proposition was made for a game between the Roses and the Portlands the proceeds to be for the benefit of Mr. Morris's family. It was not on the ground that they were in special need of the money, but as testimonial of the esteem in which Mr. Morris was held. The game was played Thursday and the Roses won. The short notice given, over 1,200 tickets were sold, and a testimonial of \$125 raised in cash. Everybody liked Joe Morris.

Great Values in Pocket Bibles at No. 130-132, King St.

MORE CONNOLLY COSTS.

COUNSEL FOR THE CITY DIVIDE A SLUG LITTLE SUM.

Brother Pugsley Comes in For the Lion's Share—How Recorder Skinner Made Up His Mind—Question of How Alderman Baxter Ought to Be Retained.

The counsel for the city in the Connolly case are not without their reward, even though the trial came to an end when it had scarcely got a fair start. They will divide \$1,901 between them.

There are four of them and it is not an even divvy, by any means. Brother Pugsley absorbs the lion's share by taking nearly half. His bill is for \$810, but this does not include a retaining fee of \$100 which was paid to him some time ago, making his total \$910. His charge for attending court was \$50 a day for the eleven days the trial lasted, but he generously throw-off a day by charging only \$500 for this class of services, and figures up \$310 for examining pleadings, consultations and other legal knock-knocks incidental to the case.

Recorder Skinner does not say in his bill at what rate per day he values his services, but lumps the bill to the tune of an even \$500. He has a record for lumping costs, as was shown in the historic Hunter bill case when Mr. Skinner was judge of probates. As no recorder has been allowed a counsel fee of more than \$25 a day, the inference is that he has charged a total of \$275 for the eleven days and has considered \$225 about right for his time and trouble outside of the court. Brother Skinner does not propose to bother the public with items which only a lawyer can understand, and if he undertook to make a bill up on this line it might amount to more than he claims now. As it is, he appears to be willing to sacrifice himself and take \$500 to call it square.

The previous recorder Mr. Jak has also a bill which has not yet been filed, but which is stated to amount to \$270. This is for legal services in the early part of the case, and possibly for consultations in the later stages.

Alderman Baxter who came into the case at the last moment presents a bill for \$320. This is made up by a retaining fee of \$25 and \$25 a day for the eleven days, with the extras for examining and copying records and other work done outside of the court.

Some of the other aldermen have been asserting that Ald. Baxter was not retained by the city or the treasury board, but went into the case on the invitation of Mayor Robertson. As PROGRESS had but lately hailed His Worship over some moderately heated coals for inviting Recorder Skinner to prosecute the Sunday observance cases, in which the city had no concern, it seemed out of the question that he would again commit himself without some authority on behalf of the citizens, and it would now seem that he did not. The retaining of Ald. Baxter was done by what may be called an emergency committee at the mayor's suggestion, and on this committee were the chairman of the board of works and of the treasury board.

It will be remembered that Ald. Baxter was a member of the council and of the board of works at the time the Connolly wharf was built, and took an active interest in the work as it proceeded. Mr. Pugsley came into the case merely as a lawyer and with no personal knowledge of the locality or of the questions in dispute, other than as they were told to him. The same may be said of Mr. Skinner, who has been recorder for less than a year. Ald. Baxter's statement of how he came to be retained is to the following effect:

About three weeks before the time set for the trial of the case, the mayor told Baxter he felt that he ought, in the city's interests, to be retained in the case, as he had a personal knowledge of it and could render valuable assistance. Baxter replied that he was not seeking any such appointment, and that if he were retained there would probably be a good deal of talk about it. He heard nothing more about the matter until two days before the trial. Then the mayor again saw him and spoke to him the same effect as on the previous occasion. He was not at all satisfied, he said, with the nature of the preparations which had been made to defend the case, and he deemed it necessary, in the public interest, that the city should have the assistance of Ald. Baxter, as so little seemed to be understood in regard to questions of locality and the like. Baxter's reply was, as before, that he was not seeking a position in the case, and that his being retained then would be very likely to provoke comment. To this the mayor replied that he considered the matter was of great importance to the citizens and he was willing to take the responsibility. He requested Ald. Baxter to call at his office at a certain hour that afternoon.

Ald. Baxter did so, and found there the mayor, Recorder Skinner and Ald. McRobbie, chairman of the treasury board.

Ald. Christie, chairman of the board of works, had been requested to come, but was not then present. He subsequently attended and assented to the action then taken. The mayor stated the case, the recorder agreed with him while Ald. McRobbie made no objection. This, with the subsequent assent of Ald. Christie, constituted Ald. Baxter's retainer.

Up to this time, though the trial was close at hand, no work had been attempted in the way of going over the records in the common clerk's office and procuring material which would be necessary at the trial, nor had the chamberlain been spoken to in regard to preparing his statements. When Baxter went to him, he said he had been expecting to be called on for these statements for the past three weeks but nobody had mentioned the matter to him. From that time forth Ald. Baxter was kept busy in helping to get the case in shape in regard to evidence and in active work as counsel during the trial.

The \$1,900 charged by the lawyers is not all the city will have to pay in the way of costs. There is a further charge of \$271, for half of the charges of court. This makes a total of \$2,171 costs, which added to the amount paid the Connollys for settlement make a grand total of \$9,045 which the settlement of the case costs the city.

WENT BUT NOT FORGOTTEN.

A Well Known Carleton Man Departs to the West Indies to Sell Books.

There has been mourning in Carleton during the past week over the departure of a well known young man for the West Indies, where he is said to have gone as an agent for the sale of family bibles and other high class literature for the family circle. He leaves a number of sorrowing friends who are stuck in the worst kind of a way through having had an overwhelming confidence in him as a heaven-born financier. This he appears to have been, but his abilities were used for the benefit of himself, rather than for the help of his friends.

Brother John P. Wells, of the Bank of Emergency, is understood to be in a heap of trouble over the matter. He is a disbeliever who generally takes a big share and sometimes big chances. He did so this time, and there are indications that he and others will have to whistle for their money.

The young man in question had an ingenious and effective method of procedure in raising the wind. He secured the rates of his friends, indorsed them and had them discounted. These friends were of various callings and occupations. There were small merchants, clerks, mechanics and young men of no occupation in particular. They all seem to have been very obliging sort of fellows and signed notes whenever they were asked to do so, without troubling themselves with the thought of how it was all going to end. According to their stories, their own absent friend would get a note signed for a certain amount. As the time drew near for it to be paid he would tell the maker that he wanted to renew it, and would thus get a new note for a little more than the amount of the original one. It does not seem to have occurred to them that they were entitled to get the original notes back, and they did not do so, for the very good reason that the originals were renewed. Instead of that the old notes continued to run, while the new notes were discounted at some other shaving shop. The makers of the notes were not notified where their paper was overdue, as they would have been had they been endorsers, and thus they were innocently having new liabilities created every time they supposed they were merely getting an extension of time on the original liability.

The amount of the liabilities thus incurred is said to be in the vicinity of a thousand dollars, apportioned in varying amounts among ten or twelve confiding note makers, few of whom are in a position to meet their obligation. As a result, one small dealer in Carleton has closed his shop and gone out of business, while others have been giving bills of sale to protect other creditors before the evil day comes when the last of their notes mature.

The young man who has gone to the West Indies to sell books was a member of a prominent Carleton family, and was connected by marriage with prominent West Side citizens. He was an individual who put on a good deal of style and was an active member of no less than three secret societies.

Wanted the Office.

Somebody, whose name is not disclosed, filed the following application for the vacancy in the assessors' office, during the recent rush for the position: Dear Sir I hereby send in application for the clerkship in the Assessors office having instructions to do so by Wm. Bowen. I remain,

CONFUSION OF CLOCKS.

STANDARD TIME, LOCAL TIME AND OTHER TIMES.

How a St. John Citizen Can get Very Badly Mixed If He Wants to Know What Kind of Time is Kept—Why Standard Time Ought to Be Fixed by the City Authorities.

Admitting the axiom that there is no time like the present time, the question of what the present time is in St. John is a little difficult to solve.

Speaking by the book—that is to say, the almanac—St. John time is that given by observation of the sun, and is indicated by the time ball on the custom house. This time serves a good many people. It is the legal time and when an act is to be performed at a certain hour the contemplation of the law is local time only. The courts are run on this time, and so are the churches and the schools. It is the time by which people go to sleep, get up, and take their cocktail, noonday snifters, and night caps.

Just the same, it is only one of four species of time used and recognized in St. John. When the ball at the custom house drops at one o'clock, local, the Greenwich time, used by the ships at the wharves is 5 hours, 24 minutes and 16 seconds. Evening has begun in London, and though the St. John dunes who roll up their trousers when there is rain in London do not begin their evening at one o'clock local time, the ships kept that time on their chronometers just the same as if they were on the other side of the ocean.

The eastern standard time is kept by the railways, the steamers, the post office, the express companies, most of the hotels and by a number of places of business. When the time ball drops at one o'clock, standard time is 12 hours, 24 minutes 16 seconds, and people have to remember that there is just 36 minutes difference between the two. Some people can tell, without stopping to think, that the local time is 36 minutes faster than the standard, but a good many have to stop and figure out whether it is faster or slower. This is quite a process with some people, and it happens every hour of the day.

At the Western Union Telegraph office, Halifax time is kept. Halifax declined to accept eastern standard time, but it adopted what the maps call Intercolonial time, possibly because the Intercolonial railway does not use it. It is the time of the sixth meridian and is just one hour faster than eastern standard time. Most of the railway towns in Nova Scotia use this time so as to be in line with Halifax and to avoid the confusion of keeping their local time. They will not have standard time, because some of the towns are so far east of the 75th meridian that they would not get badly mixed up by the difference between the sun and moon and clocks.

Halifax and the other places in Nova Scotia get along very well with sixteenth meridian time, because it is an even hour ahead of the railway time. Now and then a stranger, going by the local clocks, rushes himself out of breath or drives furiously in a hack to get to a station an hour before his train leaves, but these are exceptional cases, and the system, as a whole, works very well.

Several times the proposition has been advanced that if St. John would not adopt standard time, and be in line with nearly every other city on the continent, it might improve matters by dropping the odd six minutes and making an even half hour difference. This would be a compromise which would give the people an arbitrary time, neither standard nor mean, but it would save a good deal of trouble and calculation.

This week the post office adopted standard time, and so did the express offices. The post office clock, on the front of the building now indicates 11:24 when the auctioneers on the corner announce that noon has arrived. Men who have been accustomed to take their bitters at 11 o'clock in the morning, now come out wiping their mouths and wondering, as they look up, if they have not begun to drink too early in the day.

The Carleton ferry, just below the post office, is run on local time. The last trip is at 11:20 p. m., and people have been accustomed to get by the post office clock to catch the last boat. Now, when the last boat leaves the east side, the clock gives the impression that there is more than half an hour to spare. A stranger who thinks the clock is on local time is bound to get left.

The unsuspecting stranger passing through St. John is liable to get dizzy, if he tries to get the time of day or night from the clocks he sees. He may be an Englishman, with his watch set on London time, as some Englishmen do when traveling around the world, and he stands at the head of king street on his way to take a train for Moncton. He is anxious to know what time it is in St. John. His watch shows the hour to be 6:24 p. m., just as the post office clock strikes two. He naturally supposes that the post office is

that used by the city, but he looks up at the city clock on the London house and finds the hour to be 2:36. This amazes him, and he steps into the Western Union office in the hope of finding out what the time really is. There the dial indicates just 3 o'clock. He loses no time in getting to the depot to catch the C. P. R. train, giving up the question of finding out the time as a hopeless job. On the train he asks the conductor by a railway watch what the hour is and is more than amazed to be told that it is 14:16. When he reaches Moncton it is somewhere in the vicinity of 18 o'clock, he is told, and he believes it, though he does not know what on earth to think about it. By that time he is ready to believe it is 1895 o'clock, if anybody tells him so.

St. John will have to adopt standard time, as every other live city has done where there are railways and steamboats. Some of the lawyers say that the city cannot do so, but that any such change must be made by the legislature. This opinion is based on an English case when a city adopted Greenwich time in place of local time and some case was decided before ten o'clock mean time. On this point there was an appeal, and Chief Baron Pollock decided that a city could not make an arbitrary change from mean time to the time of some other place. This was in 1858, and Chief Baron Pollock is a back number as regards the age of electricity and steam. Some of our judges would probably feel competent to up his decision were any question to arise. At any rate, the cities of America have done just what he said a city could not do, and the country has stood it, just as long as it would stand it were St. John to come into line.

The ferry boat connects with the trains and it is an anomaly to have the one run on local time while the others are on standard time. Here is a chance for the council to adopt standard time with the plea of public convenience to justify its action. The effect might be to wildly distract Admiral Glasgow for a time, but the results would be satisfactory in the end. The city would then adopt standard time, and everybody would accept it. As things are now, life is too short for people to lose time in calculating the difference between standard and local time when they want to catch a mail, a train or a steamer.

BACK TO THE OLD STAND.

The Telegraph to Move Over to the Building Used by the Daily News.

According to all accounts the Daily Telegraph does not propose to confine its changes to the personnel of the staff and employees. It intends to make a move, and will have new quarters in the old Daily News building on the opposite side of Canterbury street.

There are good reasons for this change. The present Telegraph building was erected after the fire of 1877, when a good many extravagant notions were current among people who undertook to build. It was planned to have a great deal of expensive room, under the idea that offices would be rented in it and tenants would be glad of getting such a desirable location. There were many blunders in the planning which were not the fault of the architect, and the building, when completed was poorly adapted to the purposes for which it was intended. There was much waste room, a good deal of unnecessary darkness, which the sanitary arrangements were entirely too much in evidence at the most prominent places.

No tenants came, and the newspaper has used all the main building, except a portion of two flats on the southern side which has been under lease at intervals. It was this portion which was occupied by PROGRESS in the earlier stages of the history.

The Telegraph building may be very well adapted to other purposes than a newspaper house, but there are other reasons than those given for making the change. The building is on leased ground, on which there is the enormous ground rent of \$150 a year. The saving of this sum means a good deal to any newspaper in these times, and is in line with the policy of retrenchment adopted by the new owners of the Telegraph.

The News building is not large, and how the Telegraph will stow all its plant to advantage there is a question which those who have figured out the situation can best answer. One report is that the job office is to be discontinued.

The News building has the advantage over the Telegraph of economy of space and it has plenty of light both for the writing and mechanical staff. It has been awaiting an occupant for a long time.

The Telegraph, before the fire, was in a queer old fashioned wooden building on Prince William street, next to the city hall and had a press room entrance from Canterbury street. It was the ambition of the Mr. Elder to have a building worthy of his paper and he thought he was getting one when the present structure was erected.

22c. Supp. to Standard Time, on sale at Messrs. Arthur's, King St.