

PROGRESS.

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PRICE FIVE CENTS

EVENTS OF CITY LIFE.

THE CITY MUST PAY THE PATRICK SILVER VERDICT

Which, Costs and All, will be about \$5,000—The Boy Jacobson and His Pardon—He should Never Have Gone to Jail for the Alleged Offense.

The efforts of the present council toward retrenchment received a slight discouragement in the law courts lately. The discouragement is a very substantial one financially and will amount in the end to the sum of nearly \$5,000 that the city will have to expend. Of this \$3,750 will have to go to Mr. Patrick Silver and the rest will go to the courts.

The trial for Mr. Silver's claim for damages against the city was watched with much interest, by some with peculiar interest, for they have cases against the city too. When it was learned that the city proposed to appeal, people wondered, for even the laymen saw that the city had not a leg to stand on and that the case should have been settled in the first place. At least one of the aldermen realized that fact before the case came up; but they all realize it now.

It appears from current report that this summer when the question of contesting this claim was reported to a special committee Recorder Jack advised that the claims be settled. But the committee were eager for economy and they would not pay where there was the least chance to save. But it proved that they were not economical after all.

The expenses of the case will be considerable. There are in the first place the court costs in the circuit court which will be quite respectable as the case occupied some time. Then there will be the costs in the supreme court and the recorder will have a bill of counsel fees. The costs have not been taxed yet, so PROGRESS cannot be more explicit in regard to their amount any more than to state that they will be several hundred dollars.

INJUSTICE TO A JEW.

Is St. John to Become as Intolerant as St. Petersburg?

Israel Jacobson's friends take merely a surface view of the case, they might be inclined to think that justice in St. John is no kinder towards the Jewish race than she is in Russia, the land which they hate.

The charge which was brought against this boy was attempted murder of Mrs. Charles Parker, the wife of the druggist. The trial of the case, and the sentence imposed of three months in jail, created considerable comment and those who kept in touch with the news heard many adverse criticisms expressed, together with sympathy for the boy.

It was generally believed that the boy had no intentions even of assaulting, let alone murdering, Mrs. Parker, and that perhaps in a state of nervousness she mistook his actions. That the boy should have been cleared was evident and public opinion in this particular has been supported by the recent action of the minister of justice who pardoned the lad. But it was not until after he had suffered the hardship and ignominy of spending nearly two months in jail.

It was, however, because justice intentionally miscarried that this happened. It was because of an error of the boy's adviser. When the case came on for the counsel for the prosecution saw that he had no chance to substantiate the charge of murder and so he proposed a compromise. He would withdraw the charge of attempted murder if the lad would plead guilty to common assault. Somehow or other he did so and the boy pleaded guilty.

His Honor Judge Hanington indicated the facts of the case and said he thought the boy should have been cleared but as he had pleaded guilty he could follow no other course than to impose a sentence.

Now the question is does not a crown prosecutor act unjustly when he seeks merely to obtain a conviction rather than to see that justice is done.

MR. WELDON AND NOMINATION.

It Will Pay His Firm for Him to Get It but What about the Party?

As the year draws to a close the interest in the political situation increases. During the past few days there have been two gatherings, both of which have some bearing upon the situation. The prominent liberals of the maritime provinces have been in executive session, and ministers of the crown have fitted to and from the city. One of them, Hon. Clarke Wallace, stopped a while to address his brother orangersmen, fraternize with them and quite incidentally to glance at his department of customs in this city. Minister of Militia Patterson was entertained and shown around and in return suggested the erection of a drill shed in a more central position.

Clarke Wallace was in charge of Major Armstrong and Grand Master James Kelly. They appreciated his company so highly that he missed the train he intended to take to Moncton and had to spend a few hours longer in St. John. The orangersmen

gathered to receive him and take part in the dedication of the new hall. The orator of the evening was Judge Skinner, and it is safe to say that he improved his position as a probable candidate at the next election. His address was splendid—as eloquent as d earnest as the speaker could make it, which is saying a good deal. Those who listened concluded that "Hon. C. N." was good either for a nomination or a supreme court judgeship before a year was past.

The liberals did not have the happiest of meetings. The prominence of some present and the absence of others did not tend to make the session as harmonious and successful as it might have been. Col. Donville and Mr. C. W. Weldon do not agree personally or politically, and the colonel was not present. It is said that he refused some time ago to follow Mr. Weldon as a leader, and for this he is not recognized as a liberal. From all appearances there are a good many people who will keep the colonel company. Still Mr. Weldon's friends want the nomination for him and hope to get it. The fact is quite well known that there is a selfish motive in this. Weldon & McLean are solicitors for the Bank of Montreal, the C. P. R. with its telegraph and express companies, for the street railway and other large corporations. It is known that the policy of the Bank of Montreal and the C. P. R. is to have the leading public men of the country retained in their interest. When they cease to be public men their influence goes far as these corporations are concerned is gone. Therefore it will pay the firm of Weldon & McLean for the senior partner to remain in public life. The junior partner will shine in the reflected light. Whether the liberals of St. John are willing to be sacrificed for this remains to be seen.

"PROGRESS" IN A SNOW STORM.

Caught While Moving Into Its New Quarters.

PROGRESS was caught in a snowstorm this week and for two or three days there were some people connected with the establishment who doubted if subscribers would receive their paper on time.

Two weeks ago the start to move the plant from the premises the paper has occupied for the last five years in the Masonic building on Germain street, was made. The weather was all that could be wished for the first two weeks and the big press of the Daily Record—the largest and latest two-feeder in the city—was successfully transferred to its new quarters. Then PROGRESS job office with its presses, electric motor, shalting, paper cutter, stitching and other machines was taken out. Friday and Saturday of last week saw the big composing room deserted and desolate and bright and early Monday morning work was begun in earnest in the new office.

Still there were the two big presses of PROGRESS to move beside the paper stock, etc., to say nothing of the counting room. The first big press had been loosened when the blizzard struck the town. Then the light tailed and both the new and the old offices, depending upon electricity for light, were in darkness. By the aid of lamps the daily paper was printed but it seemed impossible to make much progress upon the erection of the presses. But Thursday the light returned and by means of all night work upon the presses the printing of the paper was accomplished. If it is not as good as usual and for other deviations from its usual excellence this must be the excuse.

A Man of Local Lore.

HALIFAX, Nov. 8.—The man who knows more of the history of Halifax than any other in this city is Hon. Senator W. J. Almon. He is head and shoulders above every one else in his knowledge of men and places during a century of its history. A question can hardly be asked concerning any event that has happened, or regarding any public man who has lived in this city since the century began, to which Senator Almon will not be able to give a satisfactory answer. If the Senator could be prevailed upon to compile a volume, or in some way put his vast knowledge of the history of Halifax into permanent form he would be conferring a favor upon his native city, and the province at large, which could only be met by a heavy debt of gratitude on the part of his fellow citizens.

"Progress" in "Newspaper Row." In a day or two the counting room of PROGRESS will follow the mechanical department to the new quarters of the newspaper on Canterbury street. Four of the daily newspapers and PROGRESS will then be in a row on the same street. From Princess street they come in this order: The Sun, The Daily Record, The Telegraph, The Gazette. PROGRESS and The Daily Record occupy the same building which is now being altered to suit them. The advantage to the public and consequently to the newspapers to have so many of the latter together is manifest. Their situation is central, convenient to the post and telegraph offices and in the heart of the business portion of the city.

MR. McLENNAN'S BLUFF.

HE THREATENS LAW AND ALL MANNER OF THINGS

Because His Attempt at Blackmail was Exposed in last Saturday's "Progress"—Also has it In for the "American Tourist's Wife" and the "Officer."

HALIFAX, Nov. 8.—The interest created when PROGRESS came to hand last Saturday was equalled only by the partial revelations of blackmailing which had been made locally some days before. There is no word of condemnation of the disclosures except what is uttered by some of the interested parties. Right-thinking people praise the outspoken way in which some of the evils that exist in privileged quarters, were exposed. There are those who have no fear of the law before their eyes when they determine upon questionable or bad courses. They manage in great measure successfully to defy public opinion and often are able to escape the law's demands. It was not solely with a desire to write what would prove interesting that the article on the Lears' doings was penned and that the story of McLennan's attempted blackmail was told.

The facts were written from a sense of duty—to PROGRESS' readers who want the news, and from a strong sense of what was best in the interest of public morals. It was not fitting that the wholesale blackmailing described should go unreported. The exposure was made and the remonstrance written for the public good. If the law is not made a terror to evil-doers the press may be called upon to assume the far from pleasant task of drawing public attention to the facts. There was no intention of being painfully personal in the matters treated of last week. A more agreeable subject might have been selected. But when such palpable wrong-doing seemed likely to go unpunished duty demanded that the evil should be made apparent—that the public should be given an insight into the true state of affairs. This applies to equal force to the wholesale and successful blackmailing by Lear and to the isolated attempt made by McLennan.

The following letter from C. P. McLennan is one which he wrote to the Halifax evening papers and is taken from the Mail:

I notice in St. John Progress today an attack on my character as villainous as anything that has ever appeared in the press of this country. The maliciousness of the attack is so very evident that it is needless for me to say the "blackmail" feature of the story is absurdly false. I may also add for the benefit of the "officer" in question and "the American tourist and his wife," that I shall have the whole matter placed before the public at the earliest opportunity. I may also add for the benefit of Progress that I have retained counsel and shall take immediate steps to bring the authors of this wicked fabrication to justice, unless a complete retraction and absolute apology are made.

McLennan's denial is not worth the paper it is printed on. Detective Power knows all the facts; so do the colonel's lawyers, and so does PROGRESS. There, therefore, can be no retraction and no apology. No blackmail was actually paid, but the attempt to levy it was made, nevertheless. PROGRESS expresses no opinion upon the prior conduct of the officer upon whom the blackmail was unsuccessfully attempted, because it knows nothing about the case. The officer may be assumed to be innocent until he is found guilty. The chances are there was no wrong-doing whatever, except in McLennan's imagination.

OLIVE POLITICS.

The Change in Management of the North British Society.

HALIFAX, Nov. 8.—It will be remembered by PROGRESS readers that at the time of the National society's banquet to Earl Aberdeen, there was some feeling in the North British society of this city, because Hon. W. S. Fielding was given the honor of presiding, over the head of Dr. A. H. McKay. He, as president of the senior society, had the right, and though he voluntarily relinquished his claim, the selection of Mr. Fielding was far from pleasing to the liberal-conservatives in the society. The annual meeting of the North British was held last week, and several matters, which politicians and others considered wrong, were righted in a rather emphatic manner.

Politically there is a decided change in the officers. John Forbes, the president, is a conservative; vice-president A. Stephen is a conservative; the senior assistant vice-president, J. A. Chisholm, is a conservative; Dr. A. H. McKay, John MacInnes and other liberals, were candidates for these offices and they were defeated by a good vote. Hon. William Ross, one of the leaders of the liberal party in Nova Scotia, who has long been prominent on the charity committee of the society, is also relegated to the comparative obscurity of ordinary membership.

Other reasons also than political caused the change in management which was made. The North British is a wealthy society. Its invested funds amount to \$22,000. Last year \$1,000 was dispensed in charity. It is a noble organization and does a vast amount of good, dating its formation away back to 1768. But the

membership, which at one time reached 300, is now away down to 100 or so. Many members rose in their might, swept out of office the men, or the stamp of men, who hitherto had held control, and placed in power office bearers with more popular and more modern views as to how a society of this kind is to be managed. In future quarterly meetings are not to be merely gatherings for dry business, but the social element is to be made, if not supreme, at least very much more important than it has been in the past. An active canvass is to be made for new members, and when they are secured they will be made to feel they have joined a society which is well worth the time and the money they spend upon it. This at least is the good resolution with which the society's year is begun. The Scotsmen will doubtless be as good as their intention and have the pleasure a year from this of seeing their membership doubled, and a proportionate increase of interest in its affairs apparent.

HALIFAX'S RICHEST MAN.

He Dresses Much Plainer than Many Poorer People.

HALIFAX, Nov. 8.—The richest man in Halifax, beyond a doubt, is William Roche, M. P. P. He is worth at least three-quarters of a million dollars. \$300,000 of it was left Mr. Roche by his uncle Charles Roche; his father bequeathed him a large amount, and Mr. Roche has made the rest of it by his own exertions. Money makes money. The owner of this great wealth lives less pretentiously than many men on \$1000 a year. The residence of his preference is on Water street among the noise and bustle of the city's traffic, though recently, because the government expropriated some of his water front property, he had to move a short distance away to Brunswick street. He has money in nearly every local enterprise that pays a dividend in the city, and his name is conspicuous by its absence from the lists of shareholders of concerns that have been more of a speculative character. William Roche, with his \$750,000, keeps no carriages and dresses more plainly, for instance, than his clerk. With an annual income of at least \$40,000 Mr. Roche could buy out "Half of Halifax society," and yet have a good margin left, but he is above such trifles as balls and "functions" and that sort of thing. He is engrossed in business and has no time for frivolity. What leisure he has he spends in reading and his knowledge of literature is considerable. He is an enthusiastic liberal and when it comes to an election campaign he is in the forefront on the hustings and doubtless also goes deep into his purse in contributions to the funds of the party. Mr. Roche's business is coal selling and the supplying of numerous tramp and other steamships of which he has long been the agent, and the drawing of his dividends from the various companies in which he is interested. Though not what is known as a generous giver Mr. Roche is not deaf to all appeals for help to the needy and deserving.

"CHINNY" MITCHELL'S ESCAPE.

How a Noted St. John Character Failed when Attempting Suicide.

About thirty years ago, there lived in St. John a man without a chin, that is, the lower extremity of his face ended in his mouth. He is also said not to have had much brains. He was unpleasantly reminded of his former infamy by being called "Chinny" Mitchell. In spite of his deformity he was, for a long time, happy. A charming young lady was engaged to be married to him. She really loved him, until, one day, she met a very fascinating man who, in addition to his other charms, had a chin. Then she wrote a note to Mr. Mitchell, saying that she could never marry a man who had no chin, and who went by the name of "Chinny."

Poor Mitchell was distracted. He bought a pistol, determined to end his life. He then went home, and loaded the pistol. He stood in front of a large mirror, and prepared to blow his brains out. The other people in the house heard a loud cry, "here goes poor Chinny Mitchell!" and the report of a pistol.

"Chinny" had absent-mindedly aimed at the reflection of his head in the glass. The most remarkable thing about the occurrence was that it had the effect of making "Chinny" a far more sensible man than he had ever been before. He recovered from the love for the lady who had jilted him, and he often afterwards told of his escape from death in great glee. He often used to say, in alluding to the event: "The reason why I didn't blow my brains out was because I didn't have any brains to blow out."

"Progress" is on sale in Boston at the King's Chapel news stand, corner of School and Tremont streets.

A ST. JOHN MAN'S AGENT

GOES WRONG IN THE CITY OF HALIFAX.

He Looked for Mr. Short and Was Short in Different Ways—Some of the Facts Surrounding the Case—What Will it all Amount to?

A visitor to Halifax, who is somewhat interested in insurance matters, has recently returned to St. John. He tells us that there is much trouble in an insurance office in the sister city, and he goes on to say: Slackness in business methods and expensiveness in living are often the prime causes of commercial disaster with men who otherwise would have been well off. In case of a partnership, if one of the firm has those characteristics there is apt to be friction and discontent; if both partners answer this description chaos must soon follow. There is a large insurance agency in this city at the present time which forms an illustration of this, though "chaos" has not yet come; indeed the firm companies referred to are very well represented by the estimable citizen who has control of them in Halifax.

It was a remarkable kind of a partnership—that between those two insurance men. About two years ago it was dissolved, whether by "mutual consent" or otherwise no one knows except themselves. Neither is slow to tell how it was, and each flatly contradicts the other. From the dissolution up to this summer the junior "partner", whose picture is here



given, was employed as a clerk. Then his services were dispensed with even in that capacity. Yet, strange to say, he goes in and out of the old office, and tells his former senior partner and employer that he may get out as soon as he pleases, and take his desk with him. That is a peculiar thing for an ex-partner and discharged employee to do. It is what has been seen and heard in that insurance office more than once. There must be some unadjusted and inexplicable difference between them when such a thing is possible. One reason for it is that the lease of the office was taken out in the name of the junior partner, and he exercises his alleged right to go in and out of the old office in a way most aggravating even to a very patient man. In order to avoid the publicity that a trial in the stipendiary court would have entailed, the agent not long ago brought suit privately before a justice of the peace to recover \$200 claimed by his late partner and clerk. The case hung on there in the merchant's office for some days and now the defendant boasts that the plaintiff backed out, while the agent says it was the justice who lost jurisdiction by the lawyer's delays, and that a more serious action will soon be commenced from which there will be no retreat, as there may have been from the justice of the peace. It may become a fight to a finish.

The history of the disagreement seems to be one of charge and counter-charge; denial and counter-denial. Rents not remitted, insurance premiums not paid, mortgage returns not made, illegal making of post office keys, wrongful opening of letters, and overdraw of accounts, are some of the offences charged and counter-charged and which may soon be ventilated in the courts. Meantime the agent in charge goes on his way rejoicing and "waiting" a large insurance business. From other sources the names of these disagreeing partners and the full particulars of their disagreement has been learned. It supplies further chapters to the story one side of which was suggested in PROGRESS a couple of weeks ago. That was the statement of how Mr. Spike, an agent of that city, had gotten into trouble with his employee. It now appears that there were two different employers with whom he was in hot water. These were Dr. Walker, the wealthiest man in St. John, and an insurance office in Montreal for which he was agent.

Much money has gone from the possession of these two parties through the operations of their agent in Halifax. It amounts up into the thousands but how much more is not yet known and even the men who lose it cannot tell how much their purse has been injured. It has been going on for a long while and what Mr. Spike did with the money cannot be imagined for he did not appear to follow the courses which usually melt it away.

It was Mr. Short, his former partner and his present assistant in the Halifax agency of the Standard Life and other insurance companies, who found out what had been going on. Mr. Short used to find things claiming his attention other than the duties of his agency, and he left the transaction of business pretty much to his partner. But lately he found a means to render those pursuits less attractive and he began to devote some attention to his business. He soon saw that there was something wrong and he called to his aid an experienced accountant to go over the books.

The latter disclosed a whole series of transactions which were calculated to prove financially profitable to Mr. Spike. All sorts of feats of juggling had been performed with insurance premiums, rents, mortgages, bank accounts, etc. Mr. Short reported the matter to the head office at Montreal and correspondence between the parties followed. That correspondence was seen by a St. John insurance man and in a letter of Mr. Spike's written last week to the head office he confessed his guilt. But even then he did not stop his speculations. He seemed to be afflicted with a mania for shortly after that it was found that he had performed another crooked piece of work which brought a couple of hundred dollars to his coffers. How it will all end is not definitely known. Various things are talked of, but what will prove the correct culmination of the troubles can only be surmised. The company, it is stated, hope to be able to get back through the efforts of Mr. Spine and his friends some of the money which they had lost. Whether proceedings will be instituted or not is another of those unsettled questions.

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Then besides Mr. Spike's trouble with the head office there is his disagreement with Mr. Short and here the two meet on pretty even ground, for one thing in which Mr. Spike has the advantage is that he has the lease of the office and he will not get out despite Mr. Short's command. Mr. Short also incurred an expenditure, in employing the accountant, which he would like to get back.

Now comes the other story and that was to do with Mr. Spike's handling of Dr. Walker's interests in Halifax. The St. John millionaire has considerable property there, and for many years Mr. Spike was his trusted agent there, collecting rents and transacting the other business incidents to the management of real estate, and other properties. Never did Dr. Walker suspect anything until lately. Then the papers told of Mr. Spike's business ways and that took him to Halifax on the double quick to look into things. PROGRESS' story about the \$700 mortgage was the chief influence that took him there and when he went he found strange things. He discovered that rents had been paid for which returns were never made and various monies had been received of which the doctor had never had any account.

One thing he succeeded in accomplishing by going over. The \$700 mortgage was settled by Mr. Spike in some way or other. It was fixed up on Friday a couple of weeks ago either by payment in full or in part or in some other way. In some of the people who paid amounts to Mr. Spike without obtaining receipts were persons of business habits and they would not like to have their names made public.

Dr. Walker lives very much within himself and he did not take any pains to scatter the facts abroad so that very few know of the extent or nature of the defalcations. He was approached, it is stated, by a daily newspaper man of this city, but he told him that there were people in Halifax who could give him the whole facts. This was the doctor's unique method of getting rid of the reporter. Halifax usually has a sensation on the tapis and just now there are two or three up and it is a question whether the Lear, Horneman or the Spike escapade is the most startling. If PROGRESS used the terms with which a St. John insurance man described Spike a person would have to hunt the dictionary through to find stronger epithets.

Mr. Bell in a New Role.

There is very little new in turt circles at this season of the year, but the latest bit of gossip is furnished by the veteran C. W. Bell. It appears that Mr. Bell was not pleased with some of the criticisms passed upon him last summer and that now while he has the leisure he proposes to see if he cannot win a libel suit. The exact nature of his grievance is not public or the offending words or sentence, but the offense is said to exist and as a legal friend of his has been kind enough to offer his services free of charge the matter is receiving his very serious consideration. It is a matter for congratulation that Mr. Bell will be busy during the "off" season, but it does not succeed in winning any more libel suits this winter than he did some last summer the result will be disappointing to him.