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IT TOOK NINE MONTHS.

TO BRING FORTH THE COUNCIL'S REPORT OF INVESTIGATION.

Publicity in the Rock Over Which the Council has Spilt—Ald. Baxter Casts a Grave Reflection on the City Press, of Which He is a Member.

It took nine months of labor to bring forth the report of investigation of the common council. This week, however, it at last made its bow to the public and is ready to hear what critics have to say.

The report has been a great bone of contention among the members. Two or three members of the council have very strongly taken an interest in its production. These are chiefly Ald. Christie, McGoldrick and Shaw. They have confined themselves to depreciating the work of the other aldermen. This is uncalled for, for no matter what people's views may be in regard to the results of the present council's work, no one can deny but what they have been the hardest worked council that was ever elected and that they have spent a great amount of time, much of it taken from their own business, on civic affairs.

They are also a board of practical business men and they have examined thoroughly into the details of civic management and in many ways have led to economy.

The report over which the council has split in publicity. Most of their aldermen did not want the proceedings made public. A few believe that from the first the meeting should have been open to the press and that the committee meetings of the council in general should be open to the press. It may be that later on a motion will be brought in to that effect, opening the door of the committee room to the press and through this agency to the public.

It appears that the latest flurry in the committee was over the publication of the report. A reporter applied for leave to inspect the report before the meeting of the council in order to publish a summary Friday morning. If this was not done, he argued, it was so lengthy and there would be such a rush of other business Thursday afternoon, that he could not prepare a synopsis for Friday.

In committee this request was considered. Ald. McRobbie thought it was a fair request to make and he moved that the papers be laid on the table to be published on condition that they agree not to publish anything concerning it before Friday morning. The other aldermen seemed favorable to this, but Ald. Baxter rose and objected. He said that the papers would not carry out this agreement. That knocked the thing on the head. Ald. McRobbie's motion did not carry and it was decided that the press should not see the report until it was laid on the table in council Thursday afternoon. This meant the prevention of a satisfactory handling of the report Friday morning and another delay for the public hearing the report.

Ald. Baxter explains his action by saying that what he wanted was to allow the papers to handle the report and publish a synopsis of it Thursday morning. He wished to go further than Ald. McRobbie in obtaining this publicity.

Probably this was Ald. Baxter's desire, but when he said that the press of St. John would not fulfill an agreement it was casting a grave reflection upon the city press, of which he happens to be a member. It is to be hoped that it was not his intention to do so.

TYPICAL JOHN BULLS.

Such are Capt. Smith and Douglas, who conduct the Pilgrage Inquiry.

The much vexed pilgrage question is being threshed out more particularly than ever. Two dominion officials, Capt. Smith and Douglas, are conducting and enquiring into the matter at the custom house. The prospects are that the court will sit for three weeks at least and a vast amount of detailed information about compulsory pilgrage and its workings will be obtained.

The enquiry is of great importance and much responsibility attaches. Large interests are at stake, for its results will not be confined to the port of St. John but will effect the system of pilgrage in the Canadian ports. The prosperity of shipping, the reputation of the port, the safety of vessels and of lives and the livelihood of quite a body of men are at stake and so the court is moving slowly and deliberately and is obtaining much information.

There are two sides arrayed. Messrs. Jarvis, Schofield, Likely and others of the board of trade want to show the necessity of establishing compulsory pilgrage. They are represented by Messrs. C. A. Palmer and G. G. Gilbert. The pilots and pilot commissioners are defending the present system and C. N. Skinner and H. H. McLean are looking after their interests. There is considerable feeling over the question and there has been some expression of animus, chiefly on the part of the pilots and commissioners.

Capt. Smith and Douglas are pretty well known here, especially the former. He recently comes to St. John in pursuance

IS ST. LUKE'S VERY HIGH

SINCE REV. E. P. CRAWFORD, THE NEW RECTOR, CAME?

A Leading Member and Official of the Cathedral Thinks not—"We are Essentially a Prayer-Book Church, Nothing Else," says this Authority.

HALIFAX, Feb. 14.—An article, written in Halifax, recently appeared in a provincial paper, in which the statement was made that ritualism is fast increasing in the church of England in this city. A number of instances of this growth were given, and the inference made that the innovations were to be found in St. Luke's cathedral. To ascertain if there was any truth in this a PROGRESS correspondent called upon a leading member and official of the cathedral, to learn the facts.

"Is ritualism increasing in [St. Luke's] since the coming of Rev. E. P. Crawford, who is now rector?"

"I can see no difference in the high church practices at the cathedral compared with five years ago. Rev. Mr. Crawford had trouble with his former church in Hamilton over ritualistic innovations, but he has introduced nothing new in this respect at St. Luke's. I can see no change compared with five years ago. Rev. Mr. Crawford when he was called to St. Luke's came on the distinct understanding that matters were to remain in statu quo. The usage of the church was not to be changed in any particular, and our rector has been true to that understanding."

"But what about the ritualistic practices that are acknowledged to be present, and those which have been alleged to exist?"

"We are accused of many high church doings which actually are never seen in the cathedral. For instance there are no candles on the altar, and never were. The gas is lighted there because the altar is dark, which may have caused the candles allegation. No "holy water" is placed near the entrance to the church and there is none of that extreme sacerdotalism with which it is charged. True, there is a small section of the congregation, mostly connected with the garrison element, who are pretty far advanced, as high churchmen go in this part of the world. A few "cross" themselves when entering the church; several bow before the altar, and at certain stages of the service perform the same observance. There are, too, those of our people here who have "conversion," one well known clergyman in our church in particular. But these people by no means represent the congregation of St. Luke's as a whole. We are essentially a "prayer-book church," nothing less, and high churchism has made no perceptible growth within at least five years. The people are against it, no matter what may be the views of the ministers. Rev. Mr. Crawford has holy communion daily."

THE DEVIL AND THE SAINTS.

Liquor and Temperance People Hold Conference Together.

HALIFAX, Feb. 14.—Yesterday was the annual field day for temperance and liquor people with the city council. Applications for liquor licenses came up for action by the city council. In round numbers 130 licenses were granted. The law provides that the license inspector shall report on each application for or against. But this report now amounts to nothing. In the first place not one liquor dealer in Halifax conforms to the license law in all its particulars, and consequently the license inspector cannot rightfully report favorably upon any of the old applications. But it makes no difference about the inspector's reports anyhow, for the aldermen give licenses to whom they see fit and release them also to whom "they see fit." Several whom Mr. Banks reported against were granted licenses by the council last night, and a number whom he reported favorably upon were refused. The liquor license law of Nova Scotia is a screaming farce in this city. The public, the temperance people, the liquor dealers, the aldermen, and Inspector Banks, all know that.

The temperance people last year obtained an amendment to the law which prohibits the use of window screens in liquor saloons, or any obstruction to a clear view of the interior. From the street, to go into effect after May next. Conference are now being held between liquor dealers and temperance people with a view to the abrogation of the clause prohibiting sales

THEIR WORK IS CUT OUT.

THE OPPOSITION OF LIBERALS TO MR. WELDON.

He is supported by Mr. McLean—Why It is in the Interest of the Latter to Work Hard for Him—Mr. Weldon's Salary from the C. P. R.—Other Names Mentioned.

Will Charles W. Weldon, John V. Ellis, H. A. McKeown or John L. Carleton be nominated by the liberal party in this city and county?

This is one phase of the question that is disturbing a large portion of the community. Perhaps never before have the preliminary proceedings of an election been so exciting. This does not apply to the liberals alone, but to the conservatives, who are in just as much of a dilemma as are their grit friends.

The fight between the friends of Weldon and Ellis and those opposed to the old men running again has raged warmly and no doubt will continue to get warmer as the day of party nomination gets nearer. Last evening the wards met to select delegates to the nominating convention—which was done however after PROGRESS was printed. So the result cannot be given. But some idea of the work that was done on both sides will give a good impression of the interest up to date in this contest.

Far from being beaten at the general meeting of the liberals in Berryman's hall, the friends of Weldon and Ellis went to work with redoubled energy. They had not believed that public sentiment was so strong against them, and every available lever was brought to bear to stem the tide as far as possible. With several of their followers defeat in the nomination convention meant so much loss of prestige, so much loss of influence and position that they resolved to come out ahead if possible.

The accounts for the strenuous efforts of Mr. Weldon and Mr. McLean, morning and night, has been in the wards, buttonholing this and that one, oftentimes having a convert, as he thought, only more emphatic in his opposition to Mr. Weldon and perchance Mr. Ellis. Mr. McLean and his friends need not be told that he is not popular. It may not be his fault or he may be unfortunate in the possession of his manner, but the fact exists, nevertheless that a public man would derive more benefit from his opposition than from his support. So when he circles around canvassing for Mr. Weldon he is not making friends for his man but developing his weakness. People not in the secret naturally ask, why is Mr. McLean so anxious? Why does he not permit the people to choose without this advance canvassing? If the people want Weldon and Ellis no doubt they will seek them first as old standard bearers. Why then is Major McLean so anxious?

The answer is ready in somebody's mouth, for by this time it is known that Mr. McLean's importance depends upon Mr. Weldon's importance. The big lawyer represents the Canadian Pacific railway in this province, he also represents the other largest corporation in the country, the bank of Montreal. These concerns do not want men in private life to represent them. They want gentlemen who are in public life and then pay them well for representing them. For example Mr. Weldon it is said, gets \$6,000 a year from the C. P. R., besides other fees incident to such an appointment. The Bank of Montreal is not niggardly with its solicitors and thus it can very readily be understood why Mr. Weldon is anxious to remain in public life. Mr. McLean is his partner and his interest is not far removed.

But if all accounts are true, Mr. Weldon and his friends will have the hardest fight in their lives to secure a nomination. They give out openly with no hesitation they have no hope of winning the election, and yet in the same breath it is whispered that a check for \$5,000 or \$10,000 will, in the event of a nomination, find its way into the funds. This brings up the question, why are Mr. Weldon and his friends, if they feel that they cannot win the seat, so desirous of contributing \$10,000 to a campaign?

There is no doubt of the fact that Mr. Ellis is stronger than Mr. Weldon. The former has been a consistent liberal and about the only thing against him is the old charge of disloyalty that springs so readily to the surface as an election war cry. Whether it has much effect on not is a question, but the liberals dislike to face it and wish, if possible, to avoid it by getting new material.

New material! That is the rub. There is plenty of it, plenty of good men who would do credit to themselves and to their constituency but the difficulty is to get them to consent to run. The names of men have been mentioned who would sweep the city, whom every one would be glad to vote for and yet they are likely to consider their business interests and their home comforts before the work and worries of public life.

Then there are such men as H. A. Mc-

BY THE GLASS, AND ON THE OTHER HAND

LIQUOR PEOPLE WILL NOT ASK FOR THE REPEAL OF THE SCREEN SECTION.

Nothing could be done to make a stringent law more lax in its administration, so that it is not much difference what arrangement is come to, or what amendments are made. People will suit themselves about the observance.

By the way, Inspector Banks and Alderman O'Donnell are the bitterest kind of enemies imaginable, and they tell each other so.

CLERICAL SALARIES COMPARED.

A County Clerk Who Resembles the Provincial "Willing Horse."

HALIFAX, Feb. 14.—PROGRESS last week showed that the clerical salaries at City Hall were \$28,000 and that the taxes collected amounted to about \$400,000. An interesting comparison is the cost of administering the affairs of the municipality of Halifax county. It does not cost \$3,800 for the same work in the county. Of course the assessment is not nearly so great, but including the amount collected by districts for schools, the amount collected by the city and paid to the county, the government grant for roads, and valuation at \$1 per day for statute labor performed upon the roads, an income of more than \$122,000 is represented. All that it costs the county for clerical salaries to collect this amount and expend it, is some \$2,800. County clerk W. H. Wiswell, who is the executive officer, receives \$1,000 per year. Collectors' commissions on county rates are about \$850, and other salaries those enumerated at City Hall amount to not more than the balance of \$350. Though the amount collected is much less than that raised in the city for taxes, the number of rate-payers in the county is equally as large as in the city. In the city there are some 30 miles of streets, while in the county the road mileage runs up to the thousands. There is no doubt about it, the county's affairs are administered economically and furnish an object lesson to our city rulers. If the same extremely thrifty care were practiced in the city there would be less complaining by poor tax-payers, but it is likely that even then some of them would not be satisfied.

It would not be just to work the officials at city hall as hard as county clerk Wiswell labors. They could not stand it, and it must be too heavy a burden for Mr. Wiswell, accustomed as he is to heavy work. But the county incorporation act came into force in 1880, at least \$3,700 was paid to three officials to do less work than Mr. Wiswell undertakes alone for \$1,600. The difference is that he has to work night and day, and burn much "midnight oil," while his predecessors had an easy time of it. Mr. Wiswell exemplifies the truth of the old saying that the willing horse is the one which will be given the most work to do. The county councilors should look into the matter and see if they are not piling too heavy a load upon the shoulders of their clerk. Another set of men who should look into this question are the civic rulers of Halifax. Their object in the scrutiny ought to be to ascertain whether the city salary account might not be cut down without impairing the efficiency of the service. But they have no intention of doing this, for the civic estimates recently passed provided for increases in the pay of several officials. "Those that have shall receive, and from those who have not shall be taken away that which they seem to have, is about the way the verse runs which in a way illustrates the comparative condition of Halifax city and county officials.

MR. DOANE LEARNS A LESSON.

Halifax's City Engineer is Thrown Out of his Sleigh.

HALIFAX, Feb. 14.—The city engineer is the man on whom largely rests the responsibility of seeing that the streets are kept safe for pedestrians and uses the horses. In a special manner it is changed with the duty of watching the street railway, and guarding against the rendering of the streets unsafe by the company in cleaning its tracks of snow. When the plow is run along the line the snow piles up on both sides, leaving the centre of the street like the bed of an ancient river, whose banks rise perpendicularly. Mr. Doane attends to his work with some diligence, but nevertheless there are complaints on the part of citizens, who allege a degree of laxity. The city engineer will have a practical sympathy with those complainants in future, for the other day he met the late himself which has befallen many a good man in the past on those very Halifax streets. He was thrown out of his sleigh on the horse car tracks and received a bad shaking up. As he recovered himself and looked along the street with the great elevation of snow on either side, and the railway tracks in a valley-like place below, he doubtless got a new sense of the evils he is called upon to prevent. The foreman of streets was in the sleigh at the time, and the lesson received should bear good fruit upon both of them.

Keown and John L. Carleton—young, enthusiastic and popular and yet with objections in the eyes of many, prominent in the party.

In the first place those strong in support of Weldon and Ellis, are equally strong in their opposition to those two representatives of the new element in the liberal party. The Catholics, in rare cases, say that they will not support Mr. McKeown and the friends of the latter do not relish the idea of Mr. Carleton. So it goes. It seems impossible as this stage to get men free from some objections and the liberals will probably have to unite on the least objectional. But there is no mistaking the ring in the words of these two young men. They are for the success of the party and not for themselves; if the party thinks they are the best men they will carry the standard, but, if not, they will follow the leader the party thinks can win.

Among the most favored new men mentioned is Dr. John Berryman, but, so far as PROGRESS can learn, he has not been approached by any committee, nor has he said whether he would run or not. The same cannot be said of Mr. George McAvity who has repeatedly declined to have his name put forward in this connection. But in spite of all rumors, the liberals have ten days to think about their men and when the day of the convention draws near will probably be found ready.

SEVERAL KINGS' CONVENTION.

Complicated Political Emergencies in Other Counties.

Never has there been so much interest in an election in New Brunswick as is being manifested in the approaching Dominion contests. There seems to be a plethora of candidates for nomination and where usually willing candidates are hard to find this year there are all too many. In the counties which have been before the public especially there has been shown a disposition to oppose the machines on both sides of politics. In St. John, York and Kings rebellion has arisen in the ranks of both parties.

This has not been marked in York, it being merely confined to the temperance men who want to put forward a third party candidate. But in St. John both liberal and conservative machines have lost strength and there has been a determined opposition to them. In the liberal ranks the young men have been protesting and readers of this article will have had views of its culmination in the results of the ward meetings on Friday night to elect delegates to the convention. Whether the young men succeed or not they will have left their impressions upon their party politics and will in future have to be heard. The conservatives will also know what disaffection is when they hold their convention. The machine is weakening its hold and the north end wing and the orangemen will have to be heard as well as their nominees, Messrs. Chesley and Armstrong.

In Kings County there is also dissatisfaction as was plainly shown this week. The prospects now are that there will be a three-cornered fight between Dr. Pugsley, Col. Domville and Rev. Dr. McLeod. Some of the conservative prohibitionists have revolted and at their convention at Hampton on Thursday they nominated the Frederickton clergyman. Mr. Foster and Mr. McLeod are relatives but that did not prevent the former from opposing the latter's nomination. If Dr. McLeod runs it will be a serious blow to the machine and many prohibition conservative votes would be placed to the credit of the clergyman. Three quarters of the prohibitionists in Kings are conservatives, so they would lose most by Dr. McLeod running.

If Dr. McLeod runs it would be an exchange of counties with Mr. Foster, the Frederickton man going to Kings and the Kings county man to York. It is, however, improbable that the distinguished temperance man and member of the Royal commission will accept the nomination when he hears all the circumstances.

There have been many strange events arising from temperance in Kings, but none stranger than the prohibition convention that was held Saturday. For an unruly, noisy and disorderly convention it carried the palm. Into a little hall the people were wedged like sardines and there was a strong odor of whiskey discernible, indicating that some of the anti-temperance people were magnanimously assisting their opponents to settle their internal disputes. Frequently several were taken at once and not even the quiet dignity of Mr. Foster or the thunderous demands of chairman Keirstead for silence could preserve the equilibrium of affairs.

One of the features of the day was grand master Kelly's revolt from the machine and his support of Rev. Dr. McLeod's nomination. In supporting the nominee, however, he castigated the chief nominator, Rev. Mr. Grant, for his methods; which he declared hurt the temperance interests. Rev. Mr. Grant was also severely handled by Hon. Mr. Foster. Mr. Grant had been speaking frequently and when Mr. Foster arose to reply to him he rebuked once or twice to Mr. Grant by name. Mr. Grant objected to this, saying that he was not the leader in this nomination. Mr. Foster said he thought he was and asked him how he might define it. The objection could not give him any satisfaction on this point and so the finance minister continued. The invisible and unnamable element which had just spoken, it stood on its feet and said, "Of course there was a laugh."