

# PROGRESS

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PRICE FIVE CENTS

## TO HAVE A CURFEW BELL

### MRS. MACMICHAEL TELLS WHAT THE WOMEN WANT.

They Propose to Have the Children of the Street at Nine o'clock at Night—The Details of the Plan to be Arranged Later—Some Suggestions.

"Curfew shall not ring tonight," but it will ring some evening at night, and keep on ringing every night of the year, at nine o'clock, in the good city of St. John. That is, provided the ladies of the guild of the King's daughters and the local council of women can carry out the intentions they now have in mind.

The curfew is a more ancient institution than the moneyed aristocracy of this part of the world, for it goes back to the time of William the Conqueror, while some of the plutocracy do not go back as far as the early days of their own fathers for society purposes. The curfew, as a legal requirement, was abolished in England nearly 800 years ago, but the custom of ringing the town bell to let people know when it was time to go to bed has been preserved in some parts of New England, and it is used to be one of the great events of each day in St. Andrews, where, except at court time when there were strangers in town, the sound of the 9 o'clock bell found most of the natives in bed and asleep.

Within the last year or so, the nine o'clock curfew bell has been revived in some live cities of the western states, and in Ontario, for the purpose of warning children off the streets. That is the idea of its proposed introduction in this city.

The matter came up at a meeting of the Local Council of Women, the other day, when Mrs. MacMichael offered a resolution favoring a curfew bell to be rung at nine at night to prevent children being on the street after that hour. The consideration of the matter was deferred until the next meeting of the council.

The views of Mrs. MacMichael as to the necessity of such an addition to the civic machinery have been asked for by PROGRESS, and she explains that there are many children, some of them very young indeed, found on the streets at all hours of the evening, in the vicinity of the Opera House and other public places who are simply learning bad habits, hearing and seeing much that is not good for them. She thinks the police ought to see that they are sent home. Even the newspaper boys, she says, ought to be able to sell their papers before that hour, and be sent home if found on the streets later.

So far only the necessity for a curfew has been considered, and the details are to receive attention later. It was thought there may be some unprepared and almost forgotten law which might be invoked, but as this does not seem probable, new legislation may be sought. This will probably be in the form of a civic by-law, and the city would provide the machinery for having it carried into effect, in the way of ringing a bell and having the police instructed as to their duties. The big bell on the police station might be used, or if that would not suffice all the fire-alarm bells could be sounded with a number not to be mistaken for that of any bell. A curfew bell, or number of bells would be necessary, so that due warning could be given for children to repair to their homes to avoid the police.

Mrs. MacMichael was asked what the police would do when the children persisted in violating the law. Her reply was that she did not favor having them locked up in a jail or police office, as that would injure their self-respect and have a bad moral effect on them. She thought the fear of the police would make them obey the law in most cases. Where they did not they should be taken home, or if really persistent offenders they might as a final resort be locked up. All these points, however, are yet to be taken into consideration and the details of the plan perfected. At present there is only the central idea upon which to build.

A good many people agree that something like this is needed, and it may be in order for PROGRESS to suggest that the definition of who are children in the contemplation of the law should be made perfectly plain. In these days it is pretty hard to tell where children leave off and men and women begin. In what class are to be ranked the youths who dress half like boys and the rest like men, who wear caps on the back of their heads and bangs on the front, and who smoke cigarettes and otherwise make a show of themselves? There are a good many of this class who ought to be sent home at nine o'clock, and there are still larger numbers of mere drifters of girls who ought not to be allowed to roam the streets at any hour of the evening. It is to be hoped these will have due attention in any regulations that may be framed. The classes of young people kept off the street at night are very different from a larger growth.

The police will manage their end of the matter, and it remains to be seen, but this is probably one of the emergencies with which they can grapple even though the chief may have to add to his already onerous duties of keeping books of record and filing away documents. The duties of the force will be greatly simplified should the city become the possessor of an ambulance wagon. This could start out at the stroke of the curfew, with one of the spare sergeants in charge, and take in the town as rapidly as possible scooping up stray children in its course and driving them to their homes or the station as the circumstances might require. Without some such auxiliary, there might be occasional difficulty in capturing the kids who undertook to run up alley ways and dodge around blocks, and it would be as hard to keep children off the street as it has been to keep dogs off the squares. They could be chased, it is true, but like the dogs and the historical cat they would "come back" as soon as the coast was clear. The patrol wagon seems a very necessary adjunct to the curfew bell.

## IS A VERY BAD BREAK.

### SERIOUS RESULTS FROM A LATE HALIFAX FAILURE.

Farquharson and Forrest Come to Grief Through Having Too Many Irons on the Fire—The Effect on People Who Put Their Trust in the Firm as Bankers.

HALIFAX, Nov. 27.—The failure of Farquhar, Forrest & Co. in many respects is the worst in the history of Halifax. It is worst because of its fearful effect on widows and orphans, and on the aged who had saved a pittance to support themselves in declining years. Poverty and impoverishment are staring in at many a humble house today, where, before the failure, the exercise of strict economy was rarely sufficient to keep the wolf from the door.

Farquhar, Forrest & Co. carried on a banking and broking business on Hollis street. Besides this they were engaged in a variety of other enterprises. The firm held the agency of the Royal Fire insurance company, which at one time did a good business in this city, but latterly its benefits to Farquhar, Forrest & Co. were not much more than sufficient to pay the salary of the clerk they employed to do the work. The firm was engaged in a wholesale tea business. Whether or not this was paid in a question. The salesman who handled their stock says there was money in it for the firm. Lastly, Farquhar, Forrest & Co. ran a tannery at the Three Mile house, near this city. That establishment, it seems, was a "sink hole" to waste the capital of the firm, help to bring ruin upon it, and, raddet of all, to reduce to penury or pauperism many a widow and her fatherless children, scattered over the length and breadth of the province and scores of them in this city. No statement has yet been made by the assignees or by the surviving member of the firm—Alexander Forrest—but the truth seems only too well authenticated that about \$120,000 on deposit with the firm, much of it representing the hard-earned savings of people some of whom will now have to seek the refuge of the poor house, has every cent of it been swallowed up by the insolvent bankers and brokers.

## ALL ABOUT A TUMBLER.

The School Trustees Called on To Settle a Matter of Words Spoken.

Dr. J. H. Morrison and one of the teachers of the Victoria school have been having a little misunderstanding which will have to be settled by the teachers, and which is now under consideration by that body.

The doctor's little girl is a pupil at the Victoria. Not long ago, while she and another pupil were getting a drink of water, or trying to get one, the tumbler fell from the hands of one or the other or both of them and was broken. It was not a very expensive affair, and could have been replaced for a few cents, but as the teacher thought the doctor's daughter was in fault, she required that the doctor should replace it. The question of which of the girls was to blame came up, and as there some uncertainty about the moral responsibility for the damage, it was thought that both were equally to blame. The doctor, however, finally sent ten cents to settle the matter but this, for some reason, was not satisfactory, and the tumbler was not replaced.

During the course of the contention, it is asserted, the teacher fiercely expressed her opinion as to Dr. Morrison, so as to place him in an unfavorable light in the eyes of the pupil, and much to the discomfiture of the daughter. The final and exasperating climax is said to have been reached when the teacher took the pains to explain that the Dr. Morrison of whom she had been speaking was not the Dr. Morrison of Coburg street, who was a nice man, but Dr. Morrison the specialist. When this was reported to the latter gentleman, he proceeded to make a complaint to the superintendent, who called upon the teacher to make an apology. This she declined to do, and so the matter has been laid before the trustees for their decision. The matter came up at the last meeting, but was not dealt with and will be a subject for consideration at the next session of the board.

## RETIREES WITH HONORS.

The Fire Department is About to Lose One of Its Well Known Veterans.

With the first of December the fireman's year begins, and at that date changes are made in the department when required. This year the important event will be the retirement of Captain W. H. Bowman, of No 1 Hook and Ladder company.

Captain Bowman is a man about 63 years of age, and has been a fireman for the last 35 years, or more than half his life. He now feels that he has done sufficient service, and wants to take a rest and give way to a younger man, though he is still as good a fireman as ever and fully competent to carry out the requirements of his position. His retirement is wholly voluntary, and he leaves the department with all the honors he has acquired by years of good service. It is understood that, following the principle of promotion, the position of Capt. Bowman will be given to his assistant, C. H. Jackson, who beyond question is fully qualified by ability and experience to make an efficient head of the company.

Robert Magee, of No 1 Hose company has also resigned, on account of poor health.

## SAY IT TO HIS FACE.

A paragraph comes to PROGRESS from Halifax commenting upon the conduct of one of the young men who came to this city with the Wanders. The writer omitted his name and while the young man in question may have been exuberant there is greater excuse for his mistakes than for an anonymous and injurious communication such as that received by PROGRESS, the bouquet incident in which the writer of this paragraph knows to be incorrect.

## PLAT FOR COMIC OPERA,

### THE SCOTT ACT WAR IS RAGING IN KING'S COUNTY.

Two Men Who Swear To Two Very Different Stories of Different Characters—One of Them Gets In Jail and Two Magistrates also Get There.

If the versatile Mr. Gilbert of comic opera fame had been in Hampton during the last week or two, he might have found a rich field for the exercise of his talents. There has been a lively amount of hustling, hard swearing and arresting, such as has not been seen, even in King's county in the palmy days of the Scott Act in the past.

What is known as the Scott Act War has raged in Hampton for several years past, and has been the cause of more hard feeling, hard swearing and hard usage than it is probable even free rum could have created. In the celebrated Belyea case, which was fully dealt with by PROGRESS at the time, Brunswick Belyea lost his property, his liberty and finally his life. This seemed to satisfy, for a time, the people who wanted law and order at any cost, but the war has never ceased, breaking out in skirmishes here and there, until at last another battle has been fought.

The central figure in the conflict has usually been W. T. Scribner, proprietor of the Vendome hotel, who had a good deal to do with the Belyea trouble. Scribner had sold liquor with more or less regularity for years past, but a few months ago he was appointed the licensed vendor under the Scott Act, the idea being that he would henceforth be a good boy and sell no liquor except when duly authorized to do so for medicinal, mechanical and artistic purposes. He is not charged with having done so yet, but he has recently been called on to answer to a charge of having sold liquor as long ago as the 10th of August, before he was appointed vendor.

The information was made by a hired informer, a man named Peck, who makes a business of going through the Scott Act counties and laying information. Peck had, as he alleged, about eight cases in Kings county this time four of them which were against Scribner was not made at the time the offence was said to have been committed, but just in time to come within the limit of the three months allowed by law. Scribner was brought before Justice Piers and McLachlan, and Peck made oath that he had got liquor from him on the night of the 10th of August.

Scribner had another story to tell. Peck had sworn that he got the liquor from Scribner in person, but the accused swore, and adduced corroborative evidence, that he was not in Hampton that night, which was Saturday. He had gone to Springfield, twelve miles distant, on Friday the 9th, and did not return to Hampton until Sunday morning.

On the strength of this statement, Magistrate Thos. A. Peters, who will be remembered in connection with the Belyea case, issued a warrant for the arrest of Peck for perjury, and the arrest was made when the informer was about to continue his testimony in the court of Piers and McLachlan. The next remarkable proceeding was the arrest of these two magistrates as witnesses and their lodgement in jail, at an hour when they were about to resume their hearing of the Scribner case.

Had the magistrates been kept in jail, the proposition was to have the hearing of the case resumed within the prison, but they were released in time to get back to their court within the hour named for the hearing to begin. This would have been one of the most extraordinary things in the history of courts in this or any other country, and there is a good deal of question as to how far a prisoner in jail can have the prison thrown open to the public for the purpose of holding a court and trying a case while he himself is in custody. Supposing it were necessary to ask the prisoner in such a case, all the justice would have to do would be to ask the offender to remain and share his quarters, thus combining the duties of judge and host in a way that strongly reminds one of Peck Bah in the "Mikado."

The Scribner cases have yet to be dealt with, and Peck has been released on bail, by a judge's order. If Peck is guilty and Scribner is also guilty, the question will be which court is the more entitled to be believed.

The Scott Act War is a very serious thing for the morals of the community, but the varied complications it assumes from time to time are anything but serious. It has ranged in its scope all the way from a farce-comedy to the worrying of a man to death.

## MR. TREMAINE HARD TO PLEASE.

A correspondent writes from Halifax that Lawyer Tremaine had a busy day last Saturday seeing that PROGRESS bulletins were torn from where they were posted. Mr. Tremaine should have thought of all this when he took up the case for the

**Arrived too Late.**

Society notes from New Glasgow and Bridgetown, N. S., were received too late for publication this week.

## LEARS. He objects to seeing his name in print and especially to seeing it decorate the dead walls of Halifax. Hence his activity. But since the paper contemplates his defence in extenso and his wonderful bill against the Lears he should rather have been pleased to see it printed and himself given the benefit of all he had to say. Some people are hard to please.

### CALM AND RESIGNED.

#### Wells Has Been Accepting the Situation With Great Philosophy.

The trial of John P. Wells was to take place in the circuit court yesterday, the grand jury having found a true bill against him early in the week. Wells did not succeed in getting bail after his committal, and from all accounts has not been anxious to do so. For him, so far, "stone walls do not a prison make, nor iron bars a cage. Minds innocent and quiet take that for a heritage." He has been accepting his fate with true philosophy.

According to the statement of the policeman who went to the house on the night the girls were found in the room of the old man, Wells was sitting up, partly dressed, with his glasses on, devoutly reading the bible. This has been one of his lifelong customs, and his knowledge of scripture has been something wonderful. He could quote texts for all sorts of emergencies, and especially for the purpose of admonishing the thoughtless and improvident who come to him to borrow money at one-half per cent a day interest.

Since he has been in jail he has shown the utmost calmness, and has apparently given himself no uneasiness over his position. So far as anything in his manner or conversation indicated he was about as much at ease mentally as if in his own house or in the office of the Bank of Emery.

Just what points may be taken by his counsel, Mr. Macrae, remain to be seen, but Wells himself has evidently been of the opinion that there was nothing to worry about as to his future.

## HIS WAS A HASTY EXIL.

### A Falling Body Said To Have Broken a Semaphore.

On one of the railways running out of St. John there is a station house. This is not a remarkable or a startling fact but near the station house is the residence of a railway employe and in that household a pretty woman presides.

There are times when the husband of this pretty woman is away and it was during one of these temporary absences that an incident occurred that has caused much mystery and not a little talk.

On the night in question a train was approaching this station when the driver discovered that the semaphore barred his way and he stopped the train and began to sound the locomotive's whistle. No reply being received he walked to the station and a short investigation proved that the semaphore wire had been broken.

The train proceeded and the fact was reported to headquarters. The official whose business it is to inquire into such matters proceeded to investigate but so far has not been able to discover why the wire was broken.

Several theories are advanced to account for the strange accident but it is all very well to theorize. One of the most amusing of these explanations is that a heavy body fell from one of the windows and struck the wire, breaking it, and causing the semaphore to change its position. Another of the inmates of the residence could explain this and how it was that that one of them was so hurried and unceremonious.

## ONE LESS ON THE LIST.

The retail license held by P. O'Regan, who died recently, has been transferred to Edward McGuiggan of Water Street. Mr. McGuiggan appears to have been something of a prophet, for when he got a wholesale license last May he fitted up a bar for retail business, greatly to the annoyance of his neighbors who were running a retail business in the same neighborhood under proper license. Mr. McGuiggan has shown now that he wants to comply with the law, and will no longer be in dread of a visit from the vigilant chief inspector.

## ANOTHER EXCITING WEEK.

The daily papers have been kept busy this week in recording the blowing down of fences around town and the discovery of holes in the sidewalks. The most startling piece of news of this kind appeared in Wednesday's Sun, when the announcement was made that "a barrel of rotten apples and rubbish was found by the police yesterday at the corner of Union and Crown streets." All honor to the vigilance of the police. The Sun has not yet reported whether it has learned who lost this valuable parcel.

## A CHRISTMAS HINT.

The appearance of Messrs. O. Flood & Sons advertisement upon the fifth page is a reminder that the holiday season approaches and a hint to look through their varied and attractive stock.

WORLD.  
SUN LISH  
Points which  
ron, but burn  
Polish is Brill  
Each package  
moistened with  
Polish.  
...OOO TONS.  
& CO.,  
ENTS  
...all, 50.  
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...rope, 85.  
...helm, 70.  
...sgan, 91.  
...Ferner, 92-1.  
...Owson, 68.  
...Dogget, 54.  
...therland, 87.  
...n, M. D., 32.  
...ses Lunie, 55.  
...Frattick, 90.  
...en Bells, 48.  
...John Ross, 63.  
...an Blackett, 60.  
...Ferguson, 66.  
...Ferner, 69-1.  
...Armstrong, 83.  
...nd P. Kenay, 82.  
...n McDeveld, 66.  
...S. Rosy, 84.  
...goe Batherland, 69.  
...Nicholas Wolfe, 69.  
...D. Morrassy, 25.  
...ow Martin Berry, 45.  
...s. Ella Lawrence, 55.  
...of Lotrip Sewell, 24.  
...H. D. King, 65.  
...e of George Sharpe  
...Mrs. Thomas Bonnar,  
...of William Somerville  
...of John E. McLellan  
...Mrs. Henry A. Lawrence  
...A. wife of Cuthber  
...Mr. and Mrs. William  
...n, wife of C. E. Mor  
...th, wife of Peter Heck  
...Mrs. Oliver D'Entre  
...wife of Alexander Mc  
...Ellis F., wife of James  
...widow of the late Rus  
...daughter of John and  
...Hannah Anella, wife of  
...la M. widow of T. G  
...an Arbuckle, widow of  
...Marguerite, daughter  
...E., daughter of Fred  
...us of Delhi and Lizzie  
...Elen, only daughter of  
...d, only son of Benjamin  
...A. Abner, son of Mr. and  
...A., infant daughter of  
...d, son of Welson J.  
...H. child of George and  
...Francis Lindsay, son o  
...daughter of Frank A. and  
...months.  
...Oct. 29, Jane, daughter of  
...d, child of Edward and  
...months  
...are E., adopted daughter of  
...Cornelius, 9.  
...Alice Margaret, daughter o  
...Harvey, son of Heman  
...4, 4 months.  
...ing on Epitaph.  
...episcopal), of Alabama,  
...story teller, says that  
...lost a dearly beloved  
...orrow, caused these  
...hed on her tombstone:  
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...arried within a year,  
...the bishop was walking  
...ard with another gentle  
...ishop what he would say  
...state of affairs, in view  
...a tombstone. "I think,"  
...the words "but I have  
...atch" should be added."  
...illage Marknenkirchen  
...every working person—  
...child—is engaged in the  
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...our Tobacconist.  
...and  
...y it.  
...will be pleased.