

PROGRESS.

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THE WIND SWAYS THEM.

NEGLECTED CONDITION OF THE EXHIBITION BUILDING.

Instead of being fit to hold exhibits it is doubtful if they will hold together—The Windows of One Side Shattered—They Should Be Taken Care Of.

They sway with the wind! The magnificent exhibition buildings so lately the pride of the citizens are preparing to strew themselves on the barrack square, some windy night!

The above statements may be startling and may seem far fetched, but they are true. The exhibition buildings, which four years ago cost the dominion so much money and did service for the great Dominion exhibition, have been suffered to rot and are destroyed by the neglect of those who had charge of them, until the fact stands out that if St. John or New Brunswick wanted to hold a provincial exhibition in this city there is no building fit for the purpose.

There is hardly a whole pane of glass in the score of windows in one end of the building. Small boys circle round the structure and see what they can carry away, what they can destroy. Every high wind that comes along shakes the walls and one of them sways backward and forward with the driven air.

Seven-eighths of St. John people were under the impression that the building was yet fit for the purposes for which it was erected, but such is not the case.

The members of the Agricultural society talk of new buildings to be erected at Moosepath. This may suit the agriculturists first-class, but it is extremely doubtful if the merchants would consent for a moment to carry their goods out of town to exhibit them. It may not be too late to have the old buildings looked after and repaired. They were left, it is said, in charge of the city and surely were worth taking care of.

Pretty Strong Language.

If Rev. W. J. Sparling of Kingston, Ont., had decided to accept the earnest call which came to him from St. John, Centenary church would have had an exceedingly plain-spoken pastor. In the course of a sermon preached to the "Prentice Boys" last Sunday, he said:

A large sum of money had been handed to the Jesuits in the Province of Quebec for enable them to carry on their work. The most of this money came out of the pockets of the Protestants, because they are the largest property holders in the province. This money, given to a people who had stood over all civil governments with drawn daggers, comes from the pockets of those whose blood the Jesuits would shed if they had liberty to do so. The speaker was afraid of the party politics business. Here in the province of Ontario, where Roman Catholics have only one vote in six, both parties, Grit and Conservative, are out of breath trying to catch the votes of the Romish people. Premier Mowat, who is a great defender of Protestantism, is just as anxious for the Roman Catholic vote as any Conservative ever was. This was not right. He did not think that one party was more to blame in this matter than another. Both were tarred with the same stick. There is not the tress of a copper between them.

Another Place to "Shop" At.

Ladies and the public generally will be interested in the announcement that Messrs. Barnes & Murray, two young and enterprising gentlemen who have been in the dry goods business in this city for some years with the London House, are about starting an establishment of their own at 17 Charlotte street. The stand is a good one and the members of the new firm are of that stamp who meet success half way. Friday, September 7th, will see the opening of the new store, the stock for which is daily arriving. Particular attention will be paid to fancy goods and the ladies may look for the introduction of some new ideas in this department. *PROGRESS* wishes the new firm that success which follows energetic and honest effort.

They Were Sold.

Two commercial men from St. John were taken in at Trenton, Quebec, a few days ago. They had an hour to spare and noting two handsome young ladies pass, followed idly in their path. A few yards distant the objects of their admiration boarded a small excursion steamer and the St. John men followed. The vessel moved from the wharf and then the boys learned that a deaf and dumb asylum from Belleville was on board the steamer and the only persons on board who could talk or hear were the captain and deck hands. Instead of selling they got sold.

Every Little Helps.

The poet Phillips is said to have entered into competition with the old man who asks pedestrians for the price of the ferry-fare, Phillips' scheme is to enter stores and offices around town with an addressed letter in his hand and ask for 5 cents or a stamp to mail it. In the majority of cases a stamp is put on the corner of the envelope for him. Mr. Phillips returns "thanks" for the kindness, leaves the office, pulls off the stamp and repeats the operation next door.

ON THE ST. JOHN STAGE.

AMATEUR AND PROFESSIONALISTS WILL BE SEEN THIS FALL.

Extra Efforts for the Success of the Pastures' Entertainment, Next Week—Mrs. Jannasch to Come Next Month—"Uncle Tom's Cabin" and Other Readings.

This will be a military work. Parades, reviews, and last, but not least, regimental theatricals will be in order. For some time the ladies and gentlemen who appear in the appended cast have been rehearsing *Jessie Brown*, or *the Relief of Lucknow*, and the public may expect to see this military drama put on in the best style of St. John's first amateurs.

A military play, well put on, is bound to be attractive and pleasing. The company who have set themselves the task are bent on making it a success, and *PROGRESS* doubts not but it will be well worth seeing. The men of the 62nd Fusiliers will assist as Highlanders and Sepoys, and pipers and bagpipers have been engaged. Great care has been taken with the stage settings, and new scenery has been painted for the performance.

The cast is as follows:

- | Character | Player |
|---------------------|----------------------|
| Major-General | Mr. J. H. Hart |
| Captain | Mr. J. T. Hart |
| Surgeon | Mr. G. M. Cleaveland |
| Dr. H. G. Mill | Rev. David Blount |
| Mr. J. D. Shaford | Miss N. S. Sander |
| Ladies and children | Various |

Strange as it may appear, the American drama did not give up the ghost when the Micawber club dissolved, nor did travelling companies then conclude that St. John had been engulfed by a convulsion of nature.

The new Institute management—that is to say, the Institute itself—has been quietly at work during the last few weeks, and the following attractions have already been booked for the next future:

Sept. 6—Pat Maloney's Comedy company.

Sept. 10-12 (with matinee)—Mme. Jannasch.

Oct. 15—Fock & Fursman's new *Uncle Tom's Cabin*.

Oct. 29—Minstrels.

These are all excellent companies, superior to the generality of travelling troupes. One of the four stars will be recognized as a lady to whom St. John cannot possibly give too warm a welcome, for Mme. Jannasch undeniably stands very near the head of the profession. The other troupes are not so well known as hers, but the verdict of the press warrants the statement that all will give satisfaction.

With new scenery and accessories, and the house thoroughly renovated and the management in the hands of gentlemen, the Institute will deserve a liberal patronage this winter.

CRICKET AND CRICKETERS.

The Wanderers-St. John Match—A Maritime Team for Upper Canada.

The Wanderers, of Halifax, and St. John cricketers are battling for victory while *PROGRESS* is being printed. Play began Thursday, and by evening St. John had entered upon its second inning 14 behind the visitors. It was not a great lead, and the prospects yesterday morning were for a close match. The features of the day were Henry's batting, he making 45, more than half of the Halifaxians' score. Comber and Bland played careful ball, and together made 21 runs.

The Halifax boys have as much love for the Irish cricketers as St. John people have. The preparations in Scotia's capital for the reception of the old country sports were further advanced than they were in St. John and the disappointment was of course greater. The Irishmen need not have been afraid of their guaranty in either St. John or Halifax and should have abided by the arrangements of their Canadian agent, G. G. Lindsay, of Toronto.

So Do We.

PROGRESS, of Halifax, has rapidly grown in public favor, and more than deserves all that has been said in its favor. It gives a class of reading that provincialists have hitherto wanted, and found the counterpart throughout the states. The editorials have a snap and fearlessness that must be commended by honest readers, and which the St. John dailies seem afraid to adopt. *PROGRESS* hunts out nuisances, frauds and abuses, and nails them up to the public view—treating rich and poor alike. It has been consistent, successful and enjoyable, and the *Maple Leaf* hopes it may continue to progress.—*Albert Maple Leaf.*

How It All Came About.

One of the boarders at St. John hotel was a clergyman. Another was a foreign gentleman of musical tastes. The two were not warm friends, but ate at the same table. The f. g. had some foreign friends to dinner with him one day. They talked in German. They spoke their minds freely, and the subject of the talk was the clergyman. They did not praise him, but as they had no idea that he could guess the import of their words they had no fear of his wrath. When they had exhausted the subject they paused. It was the clergyman's turn, and he improved it by giving them his opinion of them in German as plain as they had used. Then he left the table and has since left the house.—*The Grippe.*

Every Man to His Business.

"Humph," said an old man from the country, who stood at the head of King street, Wednesday, "these city people don't seem to know nothin' about gardenin' at all. Look where they've got a gate post in the middle of the walk." And he pointed in the direction of King square.

AN AFTERNOON'S SPORT.

The Races at Moosepath Should Draw a Large Crowd.

There will be six races and at present every horse entered is expected to start. In the words of the bill, this is one of the most attractive programmes ever offered to the patrons of Moosepath, and no lover of a good running race should fail to see these contests.

In every other city in Canada and the United States, and in fact, the world, a day of this kind is looked forward to as one of the great events, and is attended by the multitude. In Halifax, with a programme of this kind, some 4,000 to 5,000 people wend their way to the park, and make it a popular and exciting day. Both horses and riders appreciate a crowded stand, and if the day of St. John wish to establish such a day at Moosepath, no better opportunity can be offered to cast their vote than the afternoon above named. Every facility has been furnished for a big attendance. A train will leave the I. C. R. station at 2.30, the rear car, or if necessary, the two rear cars will be reserved for ladies and their escorts, and buses will run from the head of King street at 2 and 2.30 p. m. In order to avoid the rush at the gate, tickets will be for sale at Mr. Alfred Morrissey's, King street, and at the I. C. R. station.

Remember the Moonlight Excursion.

LIVE AND LET LIVE.

People Who Live Off the Community and Do Their Buying Outside.

"Some people puzzle me," said a King street merchant. "They solicit you for orders, every day of the week, and get them. They invite you to look at that and buy this, and you usually comply with their request; in fact, you buy more than you want, just to oblige them; but if you expect any custom in return, you get sorely left. Why, a man came to me yesterday, and learning the price of that article there, said he could get it \$1 cheaper in Boston. I looked at him in surprise. 'But, my dear sir, what about freight and duty?' 'Oh,' said he, 'I would smuggle it through in my trunk.' I had nothing more to say for a minute, but I managed before he went out to inform him that if, instead of buying at his store, everybody smuggled his goods through in small lots from Boston, that his trade wouldn't be much. And he evidently came to the same conclusion, for he bought the article. But you'll meet the same kind of men every day. If they can get goods outside of the city they will do so before patronizing our trade. It seems natural to them. They forget that we are all living off one another, practically speaking, and that every dollar's worth bought outside lessens some man's trade and makes him poorer. I believe in reciprocity in trade—in that reciprocity which leads the man who patronize to come to you and buy his goods if he can get them at the same prices as your competitor sells for. Live and let live."

Go to Shediac, with the City Cornet band.

The Blame on the Right Parties.

Messrs. C. D. Smith, W. H. Blatchford and S. G. Kelly, representing the employes of James Harris & Co., called at *PROGRESS*'s office, Thursday afternoon, in reference to an article entitled "The Men Paid for Them," which appeared in this paper last Saturday. They said the statements in the article were correct, but as they might lead some persons to think that the deduction from their pay was made with the knowledge of the representative of the firm, Mr. Robertson, they wished to state that the "bosses" were alone to blame in the matter, as they should first have asked the men's consent to the contribution—ten times which would have been gladly given for the purpose—instead of informing them of the deduction at the time the paymaster was making his rounds.

Progress has learned, upon reliable authority, that the statement that "one of the firm" paid the funeral expenses of the employe was correct, but the fact that the men's contributions to the expenses incurred during his illness were not deducted from their pay until after his death gave rise to their story that they paid for the funeral expenses and another got credit for it.

Smoke "Mungo" Cigars.

The Board of Trade is on a Vacation.

The shipyard at Clifton, Kings county, where so many vessels have been built and launched, is now a strawberry field. The lesson is obvious. No longer is sole dependence placed upon the shipyard. The farm has taken its place and is proving an excellent and profitable substitute.

Boston Will Try Him.

Base ball player—"I've been released. They said I couldn't play ball a little bit." His friend—"Well, I suppose you'll give up the business now?" Baseball player—"No! not quite. Boston will try me, I guess."

CAPTAINS ARE BRIBED.

THE PORT CHARGES INCREASED BY THE STEVEDORES.

Who Give from \$300 to \$250 for the Privilege of Loading a Steamer—The Shipper Has to Pay the Bribe and the Foreign Captain Gets the Money.

"Who loads the tramp, Gregory or McDiarmid?" "That all depends." "Depends upon what?" "Depends upon McDiarmid's figures. If he offers more than Gregory he'll get the job."

A brief but a very suggestive conversation. It was overheard by a respectable citizen, who gave it to *PROGRESS* word for word. A few explanations may be interesting, and when the people have read this they will have arrived at one of the reasons why the assertion is made that the port charges at St. John are so high that they interfere with the port's business. The captains of the two Spanish steamers which were in port recently, and which gained some notoriety by contributing \$400 each to the customs, as a penalty for smuggling, were besieged as soon as they cast anchor in the harbor by stevedores, for the privilege of loading the steamer. One stevedore offered \$230 to each steamer; the other stevedore offered \$250 for the privilege, and the higher price gained the day and the contract.

Who pays the \$250? And who gets it? The stevedore pays it in the first instance and charges the shipper enough extra to cover the amount, which in nine cases out of ten goes to the private pocket of a foreign captain, who gets all the benefit.

So long as this system prevails, just so long will the port of St. John labor under the charge of heavy port charges, which do it a great deal of harm by compelling shippers to load their deals at other ports.

A leading wharf owner said yesterday: "We have our own people to blame in this matter. In the case of every large foreign vessel which comes into port it merely resolves itself into this. Who can give the captain the highest bribe? Captains are not fools and they soon learn that money is to be made in this way at our port. The result is they hang out for the highest bidder and he gets the job and the bribe comes out of the shipper's pocket. Stevedoring must be a very profitable business when the boss can afford to give such amounts for the privilege of loading one vessel."

THE LIBEL SUITS DROPPED.

The Stewart Concern Falls to Deposit \$3,500 in the U. S. Court.

Robert A. Stewart has dropped his libel suits against the American papers! It was a wise course. The average American newspaper in a libel suit is like a bull dog in a fight: it never lets go until its victim is worried to death.

It has puzzled many people in the states to know why Stewart should bring suits against American papers and leave Canadian publications in these quarters alone.

It is not hard to account for his course. A New York or Boston daily is worth hundreds of thousands of dollars as a rule and damages in the event of success would be tolerably secure. Again, the Stewart firm would stand a poor show with a Canadian jury. As it is, the probability of the libel suits being brought to trial awakened the newspapers and agents have secured for them such a mass of information that the history of the Stewarts and their transactions only remains to be written. Much of the information was gained in St. John, and had the Stewarts put up their \$3,500 costs deposite in the U. S. court, would have been interesting reading.

But the stage is empty. The star actors in the Maritime bank drama have disappeared, probably for ever, from St. John. It would be well if all had gone and none remained to remind the duped of their imprudent folly or prey in future upon another gullible bank manager.

Excursion to Shediac.

The City Cornet band hold their annual excursion, this year, to Shediac, in connection with Rev. A. Ouellet's picnic. The band's excursions are more popular every year, and Rev. A. Ouellet's congregation are noted for the excellent way in which picnics given by them are conducted. Their method of serving dinner on the grounds will startle some who have never attended a picnic other than those run from St. John. Numerous attractions have been provided, and it is thought that the picnic will be the largest and best ever held in the province.

Moonlight on the River.

The moonlight excursion, to be held Monday evening by the Young Men's Christian Association, promises to be a most enjoyable affair. The splendid steamer *David Weston* will take the excursion up the river, and music will be furnished by the Artillery band.

EVERYBODY LIKES PLUMS.

Mr. T. B. Hanington, Agent for Sharpe's, Is Doing a Thriving Business.

"Plums are always the favorite preserve," said Mr. T. B. Hanington to a representative of *PROGRESS*, a few days ago. "Everybody wants to make sure of them, no matter how all the other fruit goes. Just as soon as we announce them in the papers the orders flock in."

Sharpe's plums are always sought after. The name has become familiar everywhere, and the excellence of the fruit alone seems to have been the cause of its coming into favor.

About the last of next week there will be a busy scene at Mr. F. W. Sharpe's great orchard, at Woodstock, when the "picking" will begin. Mr. Sharpe is an enthusiast in his business, and grows plums of all kinds that cannot be excelled anywhere. In his orchard there are about 3,000 plum trees. Sharpe's green gage plum has long been favorably known, but Moore's Arctic, a large purple and very rich plum, has of late years been much sought after, as it is a great plum for preserving. Besides these there are the peach plum, red plum, Magnum bonum and a number of other varieties.

There will be an average crop this year, of fine quality. The small crop of last year seems to have made buyers cautious, for Mr. T. B. Hanington, who is the general agent for Sharpe's plums, has already received large advance orders from all parts of the province.

Plums have never before been shipped to the United States, but this year Mr. Hanington has already received orders for over 1,000 boxes from Portland and Boston.

Smoke "Crescent" Cigars.

WHAT MEN WILL WEAR.

A Talk with James S. May & Son on Fall Fashions.

There are few people who do not, either in spring or fall, have to submit to that agreeable—or otherwise—interview with their tailor, and decide upon what kind of an external appearance they will present for the next few months. The time is about at hand when such duties begin to weigh upon the minds of men, and the merchant tailors take advantage of their distress and endeavor, as far as they can, to relieve them. New goods and plenty of them, pretty patterns and plenty to choose from, make such tasks easy. Messrs. James S. May & Son showed a representative of *PROGRESS* a very large consignment of new goods received by them this week, and gave some interesting facts bearing on the prevalent fashions.

"Our fall stock," said Mr. May, "is earlier than usual this year, for various reasons. We want to catch all the American trade we can—for you know that our neighbors can get the finer grades of goods much cheaper here than at home—and we want to avoid the great rush incident to late stock and everybody wanting their suits at the same time. Those who intend to call upon us this season have a large and uncalled stock to select from now, they can suit themselves better, give us more time and get their suits promptly, while, if they postpone giving their order for another month, they will, ten chances to one, have to wait until others are pleased.

"The new patterns this fall are numerous and pretty. In tread suiting, stripes and ducks in variegated colors prevail. Loud patterns are going out. No man wants a suit so pronounced that he can be pointed out half a mile away. Wide stripes are the favorites in good pantaloons, and check patterns are small and few. The finest West of England goods are worth from \$8 to \$14 for pants, but they are good value. The leading lines in cheap pantaloons are worth all the way from \$4 to \$6, while the medium-priced goods cost from \$8 to \$8.50.

"We are showing some nice Canadian patterns, imitation of Irish tweeds for suitings. They are cheaper than other goods, and many people like them just as well. There are a good many kinds of overcoatings, in fancy Elysian and beavers, and meltons are going to be much worn. We have them in all the leading colors, in different shades. Any person who wants a nice choice of goods had better give us a call at once. Procrastination steals the best patterns."

The Institute and the Mechanics Club.

The Micawber club, or the individuals who composed that defunct organization, and the Mechanics' Institute will appear in the October county song. The Mechanics' Institute has been used by the first-mated parties and among the items of the bill is one for \$25, for the use of the act drop for two nights' performance of *Lilla Book*. This case has a good deal of interest for the public, from the fact that an old and honored institution is the defendant in the suit, but it can be made much more interesting if the origin and composition of the Micawber club are inquired into.