

PROGRESS.

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THEY WILL BE MISSED.

CITIZENS WHOSE NAMES WERE WELL KNOWN TO ALL.

The Singular Coincidence of Their Deaths—Sheriff Harding and a Few of His Characteristics—Some Anecdotes of the Good Old Days.

The death roll this week contains the names of Robert Sheraton, George S. DeForest, James L. Dunn and James A. Harding.

Perhaps never in the history of St. John and certainly not within the memory of this generation, have so many men of note in the civic history, passed away with so brief an interval between their respective deaths. Three of them passed away on one day, and the fourth who was to have been a pall-bearer at one of the funerals, died two days later. They were all men of ripe years, three of them had been school-mates and life long personal friends, and all had been closely identified with the interests of St. John, before many who are to the front today had even been born.

Messrs. Sheraton, DeForest and Dunn, all died in one day and they had all been not only leading merchants, but prominent in many other ways in St. John, during what the older people are fond of looking back to, as the palmy days before the fire of 1877. Thirty years ago they were the busy men of a busy time, and though Mr. Sheraton had ceased to reside in St. John for some years past, Messrs. DeForest and Dunn had been active in the trade and commerce of the port, up to quite a recent date. All three were good citizens, and men who were personally valued for many good qualities of head and heart.

It is needless to attempt any eulogy of these men, or of the fourth of the list, James A. Harding, high sheriff. He had been so long and well known by everybody, and so universally esteemed, that to say that he has been called hence, is of itself equal to saying that all classes mourn, not only the most prominent official of the city and county, but a man of sterling worth whose memory will ever be honored. The sudden taking off of one whose active step and erect figure had been noted on the streets but a day before, caused a shock of sadness seldom felt by the mass of citizens at the announcement of any death, and wherever one went, there was the one topic of which all thought and spoke.

Sheriff Harding was a man who, save for the greater whiteness of his hair, had changed little within the memory of most people. At the time of his death he had nearly completed three quarters of a century of active life, and the 50th anniversary of his wedding was close at hand. Yet his figure was more erect than that of the majority of young men, his firm, quick step was noticeable as he walked, and in all ways it might be said of him that "his eye was not dimmed nor his natural force abated." To all appearance he bade fair to live for many years. He was not an old man in his ways or his thoughts. On the day before his death, he was around the streets without an overcoat, and when somebody told him that he should not run such risks, he playfully remarked that the young men nowadays took altogether too much care of themselves. He had been blessed with a splendid constitution, and to his mind, he could stand as much in the way of exposure as if he had been fifty years younger.

He and Messrs. DeForest and Dunn had been schoolmates and lifelong friends, and when he was into the office of the clerk of the peace, last Wednesday, he remarked that he could not come in again until Friday as he was to be a pall bearer at the funeral on Thursday. At that funeral his own death was the topic on which all conversed with subdued voices.

A sketch of Sheriff Harding's life properly written, would make a history of St. John for the last half century at least. He was preeminently a St. John man, keenly alive to the needs of the city and interested in all that pertained to its welfare. Had he remained in political life instead of accepting the position of sheriff, 35 years ago, he must have held a leading position in dominion affairs, for he was one who was bound to come to the front in whatever he was engaged. It was, indeed, because his political power was eared, that he was made sheriff by the provincial government in 1858. The circumstances are interesting, as showing the sheriff's determination to accomplish whatever he undertook.

Mr. Harding had studied law, but like others before and after him, found the vocation not to his liking, and entered into mercantile life. Charles Johnston, high sheriff, died on May 3rd, 1858, just four days after his brother, John Johnston, police magistrate, dropped dead in the court room. The position of sheriff had been sought before Sheriff Johnston's death, and two men had the written promise of it. One of them was Mr. R. W. Crookshank and the other was Mr. Harding. The government was thus in a dilemma between the two, but Mr. Harding soon solved the problem. He had been in the legislature and had been speaker of

THE CHOICE A WISE ONE.

MR. HENRY J. THORNE LIKELY TO BE SHERIFF OF ST. JOHN.

It is Necessary That Some Appointment Should Be Made at Once—Why Mr. Thorne is Likely to Get the Position Rather than Mr. Sturdee.

Although the people have hardly yet realized that Sheriff Harding is not among the living and the suddenness of his death is a general topic of conversation, the nature and importance of the office that he held, also makes the probable appointment of his successor a subject for some discussion. To say that any one man had put himself forward as an applicant, so early in the day, would not be correct, but the friends of very few who would stand any chance of being considered, seem to have been quietly pushing their claims for consideration.

There is not much doubt but that either Mr. H. J. Thorne or Mr. H. L. Sturdee will be the next sheriff of the county of St. John. Both gentlemen stand upon the same ground and yet in such widely different positions. Both of them have been candidates in favor of the present administration, both of them have been diligent in their respective offices under the government, both of them have held a remunerative office under the government, both of them have held a remunerative office under the government, both of them have held a remunerative office under the government.

Kind and obliging in many ways, he was a man of great strength of character, and never hesitated to do his duty. Three times during his official career it became necessary for him to enforce the death sentence, and on one occasion under circumstances which, personally, were unusually trying. Yet his principle was that duty was duty, and could not be shirked. "I shall always try to do my duty," he remarked after one execution, "so long as I am satisfied that the offender is guilty. If I had the slightest doubt on that point, I would resign my office."

St. John has not too many men of the stamp of the late sheriff. He will long be missed, and his memory will long be cherished.

AS TO THE GRAMMAR SCHOOL.

The General Opinion that Something Should Be Done at Once.

The statement made by PROGRESS last week in regard to the insufficiency of the school accommodations in Odd Fellows hall are likely to lead to a better state of things. The owners of the building are willing to meet the school board, it is said, and do all in their power to improve matters. As regards the class rooms, they have high ceilings and are well lighted, but too many pupils are crowded into them. The quarters vacated by the Church of England Institute can now be had, however, and would materially improve the condition of things. It is said, too, that the owners of the building are willing to give the school board, offices on the ground floor free of charge, and to take over the offices on Germain street, now occupied by the board, so as to relieve the latter from the responsibility of the rent.

When the improvements are made at the Odd Fellows' building, the first place to be looked after will be the basement. The present sanitary arrangements are equally opposed to health and decency.

Repairing the Marsh Road.

There are over four hundred rods between the one mile house and McEvoy's and Mr. David Connell has the contract for repairing the Marsh road between those points at prices ranging from \$4.50 to \$11.50 per rod. There will only be a few rods at the smaller price which calls for top graveling only, more than nineteen twenths being for brush, earth and gravel. The cost will probably approach close to \$5000 before the roadway is completed. Mr. John Jordan will overlook the work. The brush that is to be used for the first covering is being hauled now and the gravel and earth will soon follow. While the chances are that the Marsh road will be a lively scene this spring and summer, the life will be altogether of the useful rather than ornamental kind and the workers will score one on the trotters.

Still More Donations.

The following additional donations have been made to the city Cornet Band's Columbian Fair, which is proving to be a success in every respect. Fancy clock, D. O. L. Warlock; statuette, Mrs. Joshua Ward; pair of lamp mats, Miss Pine; alarm clock, R. I. Coughlan; cigars from Messrs. Driscoll, Ross and McBrearty. For the refreshment table donations were received from the following ladies: Countess DeBury, Mrs. M. Hogan, Miss O'Neil, Miss Leonard, Mrs. J. Murphy, Mrs. I. McMan, Mrs. Maguire, Miss Donovan, Miss McCarthy, Mrs. Lawlor, Miss Crowley, Miss O'Brien, Mrs. Regan, Mrs. Carney, Mrs. J. Kane, Miss Murray, Miss Condon, Miss Murphy, Mrs. O'Neil, Mrs. T. Whalen, Mrs. McLaughlin. Donations were also received from White, Colwell & Co., and Ham Bros.

HURRAH FOR ECONOMY.

THE ALDERMEN KEEN FOR THE ODD DOLLARS AND CENTS.

But the Round Hundreds Drop Into a Mud-Hole—The Mayor's Incidental Curtained to the Extent of Two Dollars and Fifty Cents—Other Reformers.

The mayor made a good inaugural address at the meeting of the council last Tuesday, which was none the worse from the fact that the rough draft of it had been heard by those who were in Berryman's Hall when after the close of the polls the week before. A number of new points were added, however, and as a whole the "speech from the throne" was one of which His Worship has no reason to be ashamed.

There were two or three broken slates in the make-up of the committees for the year. Ald. W. A. Chesley wanted a good deal more than he got, but in the end got more than some intruder he should get. He was chairman of the Public Safety department last year, but his eye was on the Department of Public Works this time. The idea was that the Public Works should be first dealt with, and Ald. Shaw put out to make room for Ald. Chesley. Should the latter get the chairmanship, a Carleton man was to be had at the head of the safety department. Should it not work, Ald. Chesley was to take his old place. It did not work, because somebody who was on the alert caused the Public Works choice to be first made, and Ald. Shaw got his old place. Then Ald. Chesley was elected to his old place as chairman of the Safety Board.

Among the business done in the early part of the meeting was the consideration of the report of the treasury board. This body has had a severe attack of the prevailing epidemic of economy lately, and has decided to cut down its printing bills. Not long ago it resolved to advertise only in the two daily papers which have representatives at the board, and on Tuesday it went a step further and concluded that subscriptions to all newspapers, except one for the chamberlain, be discontinued. Another recommendation cut down the number of city directories supplied to the office, and left the mayor's office out of the list which were to have such a luxury. Directories cost \$2.50 each. The mayor explained that a directory was absolutely necessary in his office, and as the licenses are issued there, his contention seemed sound. Ald. W. A. Chesley, however, thought that the one in the common clerk's office would serve for both officials, and so this section also passed.

In future when the chief magistrate of the fourth city of Canada, in commercial importance, wants to consult a directory, he can hunt around the city hall to find one that is not in use by some of the interior officials. The city does not gain much in dignity, but it saves two dollars and fifty cents.

Some retrenchment seems necessary, for the bills committee must have an annual holiday trip to Fredericton. They were economical enough in that respect this year, for the amount was only a trifle over \$50 for seven of them this year, while it was \$75 for four of them in the last published accounts. On the first trip this year they all had free passes from the C. P. R., which was interested in one of the bills. Some of them made a second trip to oppose the Tax Reduction Bill, for the passage of which 5,000 citizens had asked, and which did pass.

The bills in 1891 were as follows: John Kelly, \$22; W. D. Baskin, \$8; S. G. Blizard, \$20; W. A. Chesley, \$22. This year they were to this effect: Ald. McLaughlin, \$4; Ald. McGoldrick, \$8; Ald. White, \$5; Ald. Blizard, \$5; Ald. Kelly, \$11.75; Ald. W. A. Chesley, \$10.15; Ald. Baxter, \$7.25.

The treasury board also recommended that the recent cut in salaries take effect on the 1st of May, though there seems to be an impression that where men are hired by the year there ought to be a month's notice. Even this did not satisfy Ald. Christie, who offered a motion that was not only unjust, but retroactive and impossible of enforcement in law. It was that the officials be notified that the reduction of their salaries began the 1st of April, and that those who refused to submit to this arbitrary dictum retain their present salary until the 1st of May. This meant that they would be dismissed on the latter date. This was seconded by Ald. Law who explained that he supposed when he voted for the reductions they were to begin at once. He seemed to have the idea that the dictum of the aldermen was like the edict of a big Pooh-Bah, and could equally defy law and precedent.

The council, however, seemed to realize that the application of ex post facto legislation to men who were already victims of a sham attempt at economy was not the fair thing. The only men who voted for the motion were Ald. Christie, Law and W. A. Chesley. The Board of Works has got itself into a hole, and a mud hole at that, in connection with the Connolly wharf. There are thirteen men on this board and of that number there may be four who know anything about what should or should not be done in wharf building. They have relied on the city engineer, but have occasionally interfered just enough to make the responsibility go home to nobody, the engineer, inspector of works and other dignitaries laying the blame one on the other, and asserting that this or that thing should have been done or not done. At any rate, there has been some bad blundering by somebody in regard to the ballasting, pile driving and other things, so that the wharf is now out of position and to make it secure some \$600 or so will have to be paid out.

This will come out of the ratepayers. No wonder the economists of the council get panic stricken and reduce salaries, if this style of extravagant bungling is to be continued. Nor is it any wonder the Tax Reduction Association has risen like Banquo's ghost and is likely to abide until there is a better class of men in the council.

DO YOU WRITE POETRY?

If So Write It at Once or Be Out of the Prize Competition.

The competition for the best original verse published in PROGRESS during February, March and April will end next Saturday, and no prizes will be given for May. There is already a sufficiency of accepted verse on hand to fill the allotted column, but room can be made for a few more, if sent in early. Now that the readers of PROGRESS have had three months in which to exercise their talents in versifying, it is considered well to stop at this point, according to the original announcement. It is in contemplation, however, to continue to offer prizes for literary work, and the idea and details of the next competition will be announced next week.

A Hard Task Made Easy.

One of the difficult duties of a good house-keeper's daily life, is to remember just what to order from the grocer when she starts out on that particular errand. To make this easy in fact, to overcome it altogether, has been the aim of Mr. Hardness Clarke, the proprietor of the well-known cash grocery on Sidney street. To this end he has had an alphabetical list printed of all the articles used in the kitchen, opposite each of which there is a pin hole. When this is pasted on a card and hung up in the kitchen the cook can indicate each day, just what is required, by sticking a pin opposite each article. The "House-keeper's Monitor" as it is called, is made still more useful by having the complete city fire alarm and the ferry time table for week days and Sunday. Mr. Clarke is not only a capital newspaper advertiser but his special ideas in this line are bright.

Mr. Haystead Should Keep Quiet.

The Josie Mills company had a splendid opening house in Fredericton Monday evening and the audience was well pleased with the performance, though the effect was marred by the afterpiece, viz: Manager Haystead's speech. That gentleman may be a manager but he is not an orator, and his attempt to impress upon the people that he had the brightest star, and the greatest company that ever came into the province, was received with a smile which depended into a broad grin when he concluded by saying that on the following evening they would present for the first time in that city "The Golden Giant." This was a grievous slip since fully half of those before him had seen Harkins and his company in the same play in the same hall but a few months before. After the first night, business was light.

Murphy Is Coming Again.

Murphy is coming again. The first three days in May will see him and his excellent company at the Mechanics' Institute in the two ever popular plays "Kerry Gow" and "Shaun Rhué." No Irish dramas have proved so popular as these in the Maritime provinces, and splendid audiences always greet Murphy no matter when he comes or where he plays. He appears in Woodstock and Fredericton, St. John and Moncton.

Good Ground for Complaint.

Dr. H. D. Fritz seems to have just cause for complaint because his name was entered on the public books as a transgressor in doing business without a license. It would seem that where the police are in any doubt in regard to such cases, the most obvious and courteous way, would be to first seek an explanation from citizens and report them, if they refuse to comply with the law.

Send Them at Once, Please.

It is important that the names of persons who have recently moved or intend to move should be handed in to PROGRESS not later than Wednesday next, so that the list published on Saturday may be as complete as possible. Send your own name and the names of such of your friends as you may have positive information about. As far as possible, give number as well as street.

THE ROYAL DARKS IN SESSION.

Something Wrong With The Treasurers' Accounts—His Statement of Expense.

The report that the big mill would start about the 4th day of April caused quite a stir in and around Hecroville last week. The president of the Royal Dark club informed the "members" of the club that a special meeting would be held Monday evening, the 3rd of April. Word that Mr. Higgins had presented the club with half a barrel of peanuts to be given to the members at the meeting, went like wildfire.

At the last meeting of the club, eighteen members were present, but long before the hour appointed for the opening of the door, fifty persons had gathered around the club. The door was opened at the usual time, eight o'clock, and with one grand rush and a wild yell for "peanuts," the mob of members took possession of the room. Several of the young members in this grand rush got, as they said, "kind of squashed." The president took the chair, and, in a few minutes, obtained offer; with a few opening remarks, he instructed the members how they should come into the club. The meeting was opened by singing the club's anthem, "Going Back to Dixie". At the end of the first verse, the president jumped to his feet, and requested the members seated on a box near the stove, "to cease dot pou ndin wid beils on de box. Wid dese remarks proceed to finish the openin oide." The pounding did stop for about one minute, but recommenced shortly afterwards and continued till the song was finished.

The president then fined Mr. Wm. Henry Ogden seven cents for trying to start "Ta Ra Ra Bomy de Aye". This was followed by a lengthy discussion on music, and it was decided to change the opening oide. The following were appointed a committee to select a piece to take the place of "Going Back to Dixie."—Messrs. George Burt, Sam Hector, Frank McAleer, Charles Stewart, Oscar Hector and Wm. Jones. This committee will meet next week.

The president then called upon the treasurer to make a statement, and after some time, that gentleman arose and informed the members he had no statement to make. Crys of "kick him out" and "bounce him" were heard on all sides. The treasurer then said that after the last meeting, his health had given out and he decided to go abroad for a little; so he spent three days in Fairville and three weeks out to Loch Lomond, but before going away he had given the books, keys and property of the club to Mr. Samuel Hector, the janitor.

Mr. Hector was then called and told the president he had "kept his eye on the conser over since de treasurer went away." The cash book was produced, and the following statement read.—

Does collected in February 50 cents.
Does not collected \$5.10
New Members, 4, (They did not pay, will pay when big mill starts) \$4.00
Fines Paid \$4.00
Money Paid Out \$11.20
Money left \$1.80

And I am out six cents for these candles,

Whitewash vs. Mase.

One bright little girl in this city was anxious to hear Gilmore's band, and after going to Murphy's to see if there were plenty of seats, bore down upon her father for the cash. "I'm afraid I can't afford it," was the reply. "These tickets cost a lot of money." The little girl thought a moment and then said that he was like the lady she saw buying tickets that morning. "When she had found two seats to her satisfaction she asked the price."

"Three dollars," was the reply. "Three dollars!" she said. "Why that would white-wash one of my parlors," and she did not take the tickets."

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