GOVERNOR JOHN BOYD.

A GRAPHIC SKETCH OF A BUSINESS MAN'S CAREER.

From The School Desk to the Gubernatorial Chair — His Schoolmates Were Bishop Sweeny and Senator Stonewell—His Talk to the Student Teachers at Fredericton.

In the little one storey wooden building known as the grammar school, where many of our leading men were educated, in 1838 sat three boys together on the same seat, John Sweeny, aged 16, Stephen Stockwell, aged 14, and John Boyd, aged 11. The first quiet and keeping to himself, the second and third also. All were good students, but the second and third fond of dogs and horses, and of each other, and the love of one to another lasted while life did. The first is the Catholic Bishop of St. John, the second was editor of the Boston Journal and Senator of Massachusetts, the third was Senator of Canada, and is now Lieutenant Governor of New Brunswick. At school not one of them had an enemy, neither have they now in the larger school of life, the Bishop, Editor and Governor. Each left school in 1838—the first for theological study in college, the second the printing office of the Journal in Boston, the third into mercantile life. It was pleasant when in after years they met, and worked out the problems of life. Hon. S N. Stockwell died ten years ago, the Springfield Republican expressing for him "admiration, as one of the most faithful workers in journalism, a deep thinker, an earnest believer, and wise statesman."

Mr. Boyd was from a boy a great reader, and in 1847 he gave a lecture on the "claims of seamen" for a home here, and on then through his busy life, he continued giving lectures, some of which we recall, "The Crop that never Fails," "From London to Paris," "Our Old Home in 1869," these he was called on to repeat all over New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, and some in Ottawa. These and his readings, notably Dickens' "Christmas Carol" and Trench's "Traits of the Irish Peasantry," were especially interesting and the Telegraph states "that the proceeds of the numerous entertainments in which he took part, have helped to pay many a church debt, or ministers' stipend, to build many a hall, and to aid in furthering many benevolent enterprises, indeed many thousands of dollars." In crossing the Atlantic too he always got up concerts for the Seamen's Orphan Asylum and Capt. Smith, R. A. R. gives him the credit of having induced him to get up these entertainments, and on his last trip home in the "Germanic," his evening put $215 into the funds, and on his return in the "Etruria," $360; adding the next morning $150 for the hospitals "Aurania and Etruria" which Capt. Haines built, asking him to help him in furnishing. From 1851 he got up these, and old travellers recall their genial chairman to this day. In this city now, old soldiers recall the days of 35 years ago, when for the Royal Artillery, 60th Rifles, and 15th Regiment, he took charge of the hall on the Barrack Square, giving lectures and readings to the men there, under Major Strangeway, Col, Hawley, and Col. Wilkinson, and to the ships of war, whose jolly tars enjoyed those evenings right merrily.

Whenever his name appeared: the Hall of the Institute was full, long before the time. He was one of the most popular platform lecturers, and pleasant readers in Canada. "The crop that never fails"—"Who giveth this woman"—"Bezaleel"—"George Stephenson"—"Dr. Holland"—"Extra Luggage," were among the forty-two lectures of two hours in length, all of them, and the people never tired of them He contributed to the press here on educational, Commercial and political subjects: from 1849, he was a constant writer to the Boston Journal from here and the Old World; since then, through Mr. Nordhoff to the New York Herald in defence of New Brunswick, and Canada. In 1858 the Chamber of Commerce published 5000 copies of his pamphlet advocating Railways in New Brunswick which caused attention to, and helped the construction of the line westward which was opened in 1862

He was, along with Mr. C. H. Fairweather, Wm Parks, Chas. Fisher, a delegate to the Detroit convention in 1865, for the Reciprocity Treaty between Canada and the United States, and has made made addresses since, in New York, Boston, Bangor, for larger trade between the two countries; his letters through Mr. Nordhoff to the New York Herald all tending to that end. His speech on the C.P.R in the senate, at the close of the great debate there, and republished ten years after, showed the wise judgment of the speaker and was most argumentive and convincing, his predictions concerning the construction and course of that great work having been fulfilled nearly to the letter. Talking with him lately on this work, he said he had written an article lately on "the story of the C. P. R.," which, when delivered from the lecture platform, will throw new light from the standpoint of one who has the acquaintance of some of the men and measures connected therewith.

During the discussion on confederation in 1866 he took a leading part, speaking twice daily throughout part of the province, and aided largely in obtaining the vote by which it was carried. Grip has had him in many forms, one of the best being in the cartoon of the "Fairy Statesman" and Grand Chorus of Canadian Peers, along with Sir John A. as leader, Sir D. McPuerson, Sir Alex. Campbell and William Miller and the "Roll Call" in 1881 as he looked in 1878, when he received Sir John A. Macdonald's telegram to "Dear Boyd:" "No increase in tariff, only adjustment," a telegram which Ontario said won that election, and has been credited to Mr. Boyd ever since.

In 1852 Mr Boyd found in Weymouth, Nova Scotia, one of the most beautiful girls in that region; Miss Annie E. Jones, daughter of C. P Jones Esq and granddaughter of Judge Jones, possessing all the charms of person, and all the make-up of a good woman, who is beloved by all who know her.

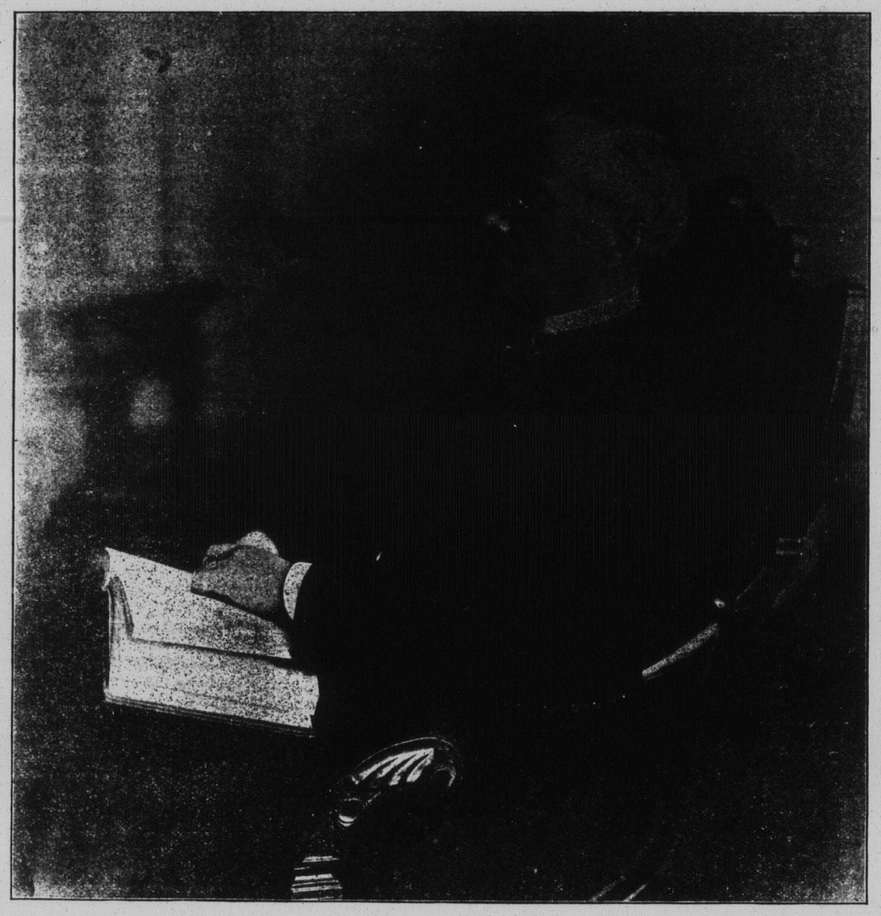
His educational work has been of great value, given specially at a time when a hot-headed leader might have caused rebellion, his wise judgment, and conciliatory methods tided over the difficulty, and for some 17 years protestants and catholics are one in good works thanks to the meeting of the committee of Senator Boyd and Bishop Sweeny.

The Lieut. Governor when visiting the schools in Fredericton last week, by invitation of the school board, spoke to the Normal School of having taken an object lesson from a practical teacher, Alexander Gibson, whose remarkable history he gave in a few words as that of a North of Ireland man, who settled on the Nashwaak, some years before, and on that spot he has now a small town built, an Ottawa for lumber and a Lowell for cotton. With the saw mill, cutting 25 millions yearly, besides what is sawn in Blackville, with gang saws, shingle mills, lathe mills, alongside which the railway take in their loads, with brick works capable of turning out 15 millions a year to furnish houses for the 2,000 inhabitants, there is a grist mill where the finest flour is ground for them, five graded school houses in which to educate their children, and five churches, one, a Wesleyan, which he himself built years ago at a cost of $60,000. The residences of himself and his sons are very fine; two of his married daughters keep house with their father, and a generous, happy home is under that stately roof; his five stores of all that is necessary for the town, is close by; the farmers of many miles around have a good market here for all they produce; the Canada Eastern Railway, which runs across the St. John river on a fine iron bridge from Fredericton through Marysville to the Miramichi, is owned by him alone, and crowds of passengers go on it from all the stations on the 116 miles which it runs over through a splendid country.

As we pass near Marysville, said Mr. Boyd the river is full of logs going to the mills, cut from his own timber lands, to be sawn and shipped to Europe, from St. John. We meet railway trains coming in with raw cotton from the Southern States, and trains of manufactured cotton going out from his mill, passing to every point in the Dominion. We then ask to see the cotton mill, erected by himself from the bricks close by. Here is a sight: the workers, unlike those in larger places, who are rough and hard to manage, are educated, happy, cheerful, respectable, turning out goods equal to any in the Dominion, from 702 new looms in the mill, by six hundred workers.

When Prince Napoleon visited here he asked to be shown where the "poor people lived." He was shown one of the double brick houses, of which there are fifty, with lace curtains and carpets. He repeated his request to see where the "poor people lived," and when again told these were the homes of their poor, he refused to believe. He was "takin' notes and goin' to prent them." But in these brick houses, or the many wooden Queen Anne cottages, he found no poor: in this model town of busy workers, where the inhabitants pay no taxes, whose head is all over the place by 6 30 a. m., looking after all details of work and saving of fuel in mills and railways; of this model town with its imports of $500,000, and exports of $1,000,000 a year. A student of the Jewish Psalmist, of Shakespeare, Milton and Burns, he quotes from these masters by the hour; and while having little living company outside his own chosen friends, he is in their society, never lonely.

When Lord and Lady Dufferin visited his house, the Irish Lord was glad to see the son of his father's tenant from County Antrim. Here, where the Governor General met with a royal welcome, he learned in a short time what a country we had in New Brunswick,—its possibilities, when taken hold of by those whose heart was in the work; and all this Mr. Boyd pressed upon the young teachers going out, to impress these lessons upon their scholars, for he always held up Mr. Gibson in press and on platform. May he extend his sketch of the King of the Nashwaak to a wider field that all may hear it. PROGRESS trusts his high office may not keep him quiet on such subjects.



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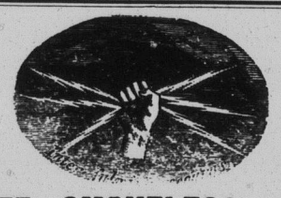

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