PROGRESS.

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HOW THE CONTEST GOES

ALL THE CANDIDATES AND WORKERS ARE HUSTLING.

The Meetings of the Week—Talk About Mr. Chelsey's Retirement—The Attitude of the Sun—The Attorney General and Mr. J. V. Ellis on the Same Platform.

Nothing is talked of but election. Day and night the candidates and their workers are at it and the people keep up the discussion all the time.

The advent of the independent candidates in this city and county has made the situation complicated but still so interesting that no man knows what the result will be. Messrs Pugsley and McLaughlin are putting up a great fight and the other parties are carefully guarding their interest in all directions.

The machine end of the conservative party naturally very angry with the Independents because they have come into the field and are rapidly gaining ground and votes. There seems to be a very cordial sympathy with the candidature of Mr. Pugsley for the city, and there is no doubt that the voters in the county are glad indeed to have an opportunity of marking a ballot for such a man as Mr. McLaughlin.

There have been some surprises during the week, and everybody seems to be taking a deep interest and working as hard as possible. This is noticeable in the Independent committee rooms, where not only can be found those leading citizens who supported the movement, but also the candidates when not speaking, and scores of workers who are industriously going over the ward lists. Such reports as this did not come from the liberal and conservative committee rooms where the workers are few and the enthusiasm so scant that it is a hard matter indeed to keep them together.

There have been big meetings both in and around the city, starting with Fairville on Monday night, where the independents got such a royal hearing, and such a grand reception, that as their first experience in the county it was a splendid encouragement. Then on Tuesday night there was a grand rally of liberals in the Opera house, and the spectacle of the Hon. Attorney General and Mr. Ellis seated again upon the same platform. It was not so very long ago that they were exchanging the compliments of the season in exactly the same place, but they were of a more interesting character than their references to each other on Tuesday night. Perhaps this is one of the surprises of the campaign. Nobody doubts for a moment the Liberal politics of the Attorney general, but even his friends hardly thought to see him again on the same platform with the Liberal candidate for the city, and urging the electors to vote for him. Still from the standpoint of party politics no fault can probably be found with any man for advocating the election of him who is the representative of that party. The surprise was there all the same.

Very many of the Conservatives who were entirely in accord with the Conservative platform so far as remedial legislation is concerned are urging the retirement of Mr. Chesley, and the substitution of Mr. Pugsley. This would not involve, they say, the retirement of the independent candidates, but the Conservative voters in the city would throw their support to Mr. Pugsley, and ensure his election beyond a doubt.

That is pretty certain as it is, still the fact that such a "deal" as this is being talked over on all sides indicates what the feelings of the people are. From the present attitude of the Sun, however, such an arrangement as this is hardly possible or probable. The Sun is bitterly opposed not only to Mr. Pugsley, but to Mr Hatheway and all those conservatives who bolted from the ranks. It is inclined apparently to fight the question out upon the remedial business, and does not give those merchants who protested so earnestly against the injustice to this port, credit for their efforts in that direction at all. But little gain has resulted from such a course, and the comments on the attitude of the Sun are not complimentary to that journal.

Does Not Give Satisfaction.

The electric cars are again running on King street East but the service does not seem to be giving general satisfaction to the people in that vicinity; nor is it likely to benefit the company financially under the present regulations; as it is the service on that route is more of a luxury than a convenience. The first trip is at eight o'clock in the morning and the last at the same hour in the evening. It is usually after 8 p. m. that people like to make use of the cars.

A Little Excited Over Politics.

There is nothing so exciting as politics when men get properly interested. Everything, including home duties and business affairs, is neglected until the fever begins to abate. A Princess street gentleman is so deeply immersed in political matters just now that he has no thought of anything else. The other night he attended a meeting of the particular party of which he is an enthusiastic follower and at the close of the evening he and a friend, who lives a little further up the street walked home together. As the night was fine they stood together on the sidewalk discussing the situation until nearly twelve o'clock when he entered his residence and retired, unconscious of the fact that he had not even closed the front door as it was found wide open by the servant the next morning.

SOMERBY ON DECK AGAIN.

The Wonderful Showman Makes a Flying Visit to St. John.

Rufus Somerby was in town this week renewing old acquaintances and making arrangements to bring his wonderful show here. He is the same Somerby and the best variety manager in the country. Everybody knows him and likes him. It is not difficult to recall his splendid success in this city, the great crowds that attended the "Jap" bazaar, the throngs that crowded to see Bristol's horses and then Gleason the horse trainer. The secret of Somerby's success in his honesty to the public. He always keeps faith with the people, charges reasonable prices and always shows what he advertises.

This time he has a monkey show or rather a monkey theatre and those who have seen them say that they are wonderful. Mr. Somerby took this show to Nova Scotia by way of Yarmouth, then along the line to Halifax and now is en route to Cape Breton. It may be three months or a month before it reaches New Brunswick. In Halifax it was evidently very popular if the following paragraph from a special correspondent of the Mail gives one a correct impression.

"Prof. Wormwood's monkey's and dogs display an intelligence that is really amazing. Tricks that have always been looked upon as wonderful when performed by other travelling companies are as child's play for Wormwood's clever animals. I had a chat with Mr. W. a night or two ago. He is a very unassuming gentlemen, but what he doesn't know about animal training is not of much account. He told me one of his monkeys does the balloon and parachute act, going up 400 feet, and seems to enjoy it, too, Several of them do aquatic tricks, such as swimming, turning somersaults, etc., under water in a tank and one of them does a high jump and dive, but these performances are only for warm weather. Wormwood has a troop of trained horses, which he thinks are superior to any on the road.

"I came very near forgetting to say that Prof. Wormwood has an under-study for all the principles in his monkey theatre, and that the tiny baby monkeys are the first monkeys ever born and bred in this country, though they have been born in captivity before."

THE LANGUAGE WAS MILD.

But the Innocent Officer Thought It Bad And Made an Arrest.

Another instance in which one of the members of our city constabulary in his eagerness to average up made a false arrest, occured last Tuesday evening on the West Side. Engineers H. Petty and W. Osborne of the British steamship Ayer, it appears, were returning from the city to the steamer and reaching Carleton by the ferry, were walking up the carriageway of the floats when accidently one gentleman stepped on the others foot. The gentleman whose foot was trodden upon uttered a sharp, half aubible ejaculation in which the word "damn." was heard.

No soon had he spoken when a bullying voice from behind called out "If your don't get out of this middle walk you'll find yourself in the middle of somewhere else." Thinking the man behind, who was dressed in civilian's clothes was either drunk or seeking disturbance, they passed on without any remonstrance whatever, but on reaching Protection street were very much surprised when the policeman without uniform arrested Engineer Petty on the charge of using profane language. Reasoning was useless, Officer McConnell was bound to lock his victim up and he did so. When Petty was taken before Magistrate Ritchie the next day Officer McConnell failed to appear against him under the pretence of a sprained ankle, and the case was dismissed as the language used was not considered profane according to the law. Officer McConnell had evidently found out that he had acted rashly and would not face the music. The incident was most humiliating to the young Englishman; and magistrate Ritchie must have observed by his address and bearing that he was a gentleman. Again, the fact of his having been arrested will damage in no small degree his sworn character which will have to be given on future occasions when seeking promotion. A lawyer was consulted, with a view of entering a suit for damages, but owing to the early sailing of the steamer Ayer the matter was dropped.

WILL SHOW NO MERCY.

CHIEF O'SULLIVAN IS AFTER THE SUNDAY LIQUOR SELLER.

The Police are Entering upon Their New Campaign Regardless of the Inspector—Proprietor of Caledonia House Tried And Convicted—Other Happenings.

HALIFAX, June 4.—The liquor dealers who sellen on Sunday in this city seem to be in for a season of trouble, not so much at the hands of Inspector Banks as at those of Chief O'Sullivan. The latter official is understood to be preparing for a vigorous campaign against this practice, and to be about to let out his dogs of war, in the form of the police force, against any dealer who can be caught in the Sunday selling business. Hotels large and small, good or bad it matters not, are to be watched carefully and no mercy shown them. A beginning has been made with one hotel,—the Caledonia house, owned by William Baker. The proprietor was summoned, tried and convicted and fined $20. The fine is a serious enough matter in these hard times, for the month of May is the dullest of the year in the hotel business, but $20 is a small matter compared with the other penalty for conviction of Sunday selling, which is forfeiture of the license on the first offence. Baker was fined all right, and he paid the money, but his license has not yet been cancelled. Selling as Baker is now doing is really selling without licence, and if Brother Banks does not look into this matter some one else may, at his expense. This is intended merely as a kindly pointer to Brother Banks.

The police are proposing to enter upon their new campaign regardless altogether of the inspector, and if they once begin, as it seems they intend to do, where will Banks appear?

SHE DIDN'T LOSE THE JOB.

And she Didn't Apologize for Enforcing the Rules of the Store.

HALIFAX, JUNE 4.—Diplomacy is needed in business these times to retain trade. This was illustrated when a lady entered a large Barrington street dry goods store near St. Paul's church some days ago and handed back to the sales-woman a paper pattern which she had before taken home. It had been opened, and might have been used, and the rules of the establishment were that in such cases patterns could not be returned. They only cost about 30 cents anyhow. This lady, when this rule was explained to her waxed indignant that her request to relieve her of the pattern should be refused. She is on the "edge of society," lives in the south-end and is anxious to get nearer the social centre if she can. That phase of her character has nothing particularly to do with this incident, however. She made a statement to the saleswoman which she evidently thought would settle the business.

"How can you speak to a customer such as I in that way, talking to me of rules; do you not know that I have a bank account, and will be welcome in any shop?"

Strange to say this onslaught did not frighten the champion for the rules and regulations of her shop. The society lady appealed to the proprietor of the establishment for satisfaction. He had made the pattern rule, true enough, but he was afraid of losing his customer, so he ordered the saleswoman to apologize and he took back the pattern. This is where the diplomacy appeared for when his employee refused to make any amend, the proprietor said he would have to dismiss her, and thus gratify the irate society purchaser. But that was only a bluff to secure peace for he did not do any dismissing, and that saleswoman is yet in the store.

THE YOUNG LADY WAS RELEASED.

She had Accidentally Taken too Much Wine at an Evening Party.

HALIFAX, June 4.—Mayor McPherson was an angry man some days ago, his anger being aroused in this way. A young woman, not unknown to the police, was arrested late at night and lodged in the station. Two young men who had the "honor" of her acquaintance interested themselves in her case, and at two o'clock in the morning they wakened his worship out of peaceful slumbers and poured a pitiful tale into his ear. One of the young men is very well known in vocal musical circles and the other has become acquainted to the public in a different way. The two worked up a fairy tale that the young woman was a nice person who had simply committed the slight indiscretion of taking a little too much wine at a party, and the intoxicant going to her head on the way home, she had fallen into the hands of the police. His worship is one of the most kind-hearted men imaginable and he telephoned orders to the police station to have the young woman released. This order was carried out, and the young men were on hand a few minutes after to receive the thanks of their fair beneficiary. Next morning she was fined $2. It was when the mayor became aware of the true facts that the police had previously more than once been called upon to take charge of the woman, that the musical man and his friend had imposed upon his good nature and had taken advantage of it; it was then that his worships intregation blazed forth. The next time two men come on a similar mission, there will probably be a more careful investigation before they succeed.

AN OFFICIAL WHO TAKES BRIBES.

Various Estimates as to the Amount he Receives.

HALIFAX, June 4.—A group of citizens the other evening were discussing PROGRESS article and the corrupt Halifax official, who was therein accused of wholesale bribe-taking. All were agreed that he takes the bribes and that he takes them systematically. The only question was as to how much his blackmail nets him anually. One of them placed the figure as high as $5,000, besides salary. Another, and he is a man who might be supposed to know, considered that his corrupt gains did not aggregate more than $1,000 annually. As in most such calculations, a correct approximation is likely about half way between the two extremes. If this is so then this Halifax official reaps in bribes about $3,000 a year.

It certainly is not a creditable state of affairs that an official of this city can be talked about in this way, and no steps be taken to put an end to the evil complained of. It is only a matter of time, however, when the inevitable exposure will come, and the sooner the better, in the interest of the newspapers who will delight in such a sensation, and in the interest of public morality which demands that an end be put to such a scandal. The forbearance of the public in the meantime, is probably owing to two causes; first the difficulty of obtaining absolute proof: and secondly, that they consider it to be largely a matter that interests solely the bribers and the bribed, and that others who, if affected at all, or effected only indirectly, need not particularly concern themselves about the matter.

SHE REFUSES TO TAKE THE DRESS.

And it Now Reposes on the Dressmaker's Table—Trouble May Follow.

A few days ago a lady who has in the past been a leader in a certain set here gave an order to her dressmaker for a dress which was duly fitted finished and sent home in time to be worn to an interesting event to which the lady had confidently expected an invitation. Even up to the eleventh hour she looked longingly for the invite but it failed to appear. When the lady saw she was to be passed over she had her garment returned to the dressmaker sending at the same time a most impertinent note saying that the dress was not only a misfit but that the bill was far larger than the dressmaker had told her it would be. The dressmaker indignantly refused to have anything more to do with the affair and has declined to alter a single seam and says that unless her bill is paid within a few days she will have legal satisfaction, in the meantime the dress, carefully wrapped up repose on the hall table of the dressmakers residence.

THEY ASKED TOO MANY QUESTIONS

At The Political Meeting and Had to Leave Rather Suddenly.

Among the many who attended the big meeting of the independent party at Loch Lomond Wednesday evening last were two well known St. John men. Messrs John Finnemore Ashe, barrister; and Mr. Alfred Henry Martin, clothier. These two gentlemen are strong liberals and attended the meeting, full—of strength. Their purpose was to break up the meeting, but they only succeeded in getting themselves into trouble and nearly getting hurt.

While Mr. A. H. Hanington was addressing the audience Mr. Martin put many questions which were promptly answered. At last the questions were put so thick and fast that they assumed the look of a disturbance.

There is no telling where Messrs. Ashe and Martin would have stopped had not a stalwart Loch Lomondite arose and pointing to Mr. Martin said "you get out or I will throw you out." Another got up and said "yes and if you don't go I will throw you out of that window." It is needless to say that Messrs. Martin and Ashe beat a hasty retreat and the meeting progressed harmoniously.

New Opera House Orchestra.

The many patrons of the opera House will miss the familiar faces of the members of the Harrison orchestra hereafter, as the latest move by the ever hustling management of that brilliant and good paying place of amusement has been to remove the orchestra and replace it by an amateur band of two or three pieces, led by Willie Bowden. The change whereby Mr. Harrison and his orchestra were dismissed was made from economy. The Harrison orchestra has been furnishing music at the Opera house since its opening over four years ago and the move of the management in putting an inferior organization in its place will not meet with general favor by the patrons of the house.

WEARING OF THE GREEN.

SOME YOUNG COUPLES WHO SAT TOO NEAR THE PAINT.

Mount Pleasant an Ideal Place for Lovers but the Fresh Paint Fiend Invaded the Spot this Week—Several Young Folks now Mourn Ruined Clothes.

"What a tell tale thing is an empty sleeve," not half so much, however, as a newly painted fence, particularly if the color is green. The fence in question is around the Burpee property at Mount Pleasant, and through the day the fence comes in for a good share of praise and compliment, but by night severe words of condemnation and abuse have been hurled at the harmless iron gating for the damage it had done to the "boys" coat or the to the "ladies" dress.

Of course the praise and condemnation as well as the attention to the silent fence has only been a matter of the past two or three days, in fact only since the spring painting begun. But the condemnation and abuse as well as the argry looks that have been turned towards that innocent structure in the short time mentioned was so general and plentiful, that the innocent onlooker who enjoyed the fun, come to the conclusion that the painting of that must have inconvenienced more than one couple.

Mount Pleasant has been to St. John the Lovers Lane of Halifax, Bangor and other cities. It was to Mount Pleasant that many an engaged young couple betook themselves of a quiet evening just to whisper sweet nothings. It was to Mount Pleasant that the gay bachelors and coy maidens wended their way and talked over matters of the heart. The same favorite resort is responsible for the school girl and her first beaux, while all classes found Mount Pleasant a regular paradise.

The reason Mount Pleasant became so popular was because it had pretty walks, excellent air, shady trees and artifical seats that could be enjoyed in sweet solitude. These sweet solitude seats are what draw the couples, the lovers, the trois, the pairs, but never the singles, as what could any fellow see in sitting alone on a fence abutment on Mount Pleasant, especially after dark.

Among the seats of Mount pleasant are many grassy mounds rustic seats and moss covered rocks, but perhaps none was more sought than the abutment of an iron fence. It was just high enough, and just low enough and besides it had the spear shaped iron fence railing behind that formed an excellent back. Last night many of the loving couples who wended their way to their favorite seat, smelled new paint, and they walked on, a little angry perhaps at the intrusive paint, some there were who were deaf, dumb and blind, to all save love.

They saw nothing but each other, heard nothing but the chirping of the birds and smelled nothing but prospective orange blossoms, and in this blissful state they sat down on the abutment and leaned back against the fence—and the fresh green paint. There were more than these two as the fence stretches a long way and there is plenty room for a whole regiment to sit side by side. There was in the throng a well known widower and a young lady of the valley; they took seats, likewise plenty of fresh green paint. A commercial traveller with a tight fitting pair of trousers, found that abutment so slippery that he investigated and found he had rubbed the wood clear of its coat.

However the paint stained clothing was not half so bad as having to face the crowd of young fellows who had themselves got bitten and who waited under the bright light of a Wall street drug store to watch the branded youths, and maidens pass.

The first to appear were the bachelor and his lady friend. His coat had two distinct arrow heads of green, while his lady friend had her light dress a mottled brown and green.

The next couple, an insurance clerk and a young married lady were adorned with the same popular shade of green.

This was the result of the vain endeavors of the two to try and erase some of the obnoxious paint by the aid of their handkerchief and handfulls of grass.

The commercial traveller in his attempts to conceal his misfortune, took off his coat and hung it over his arm, with a big spread behind so as to cover all vestiges of paint that might show itself and pretended that the night was to warm to dress otherwise.

The procession of painted people that passed that drug store were many who will have to dritt from Sunday school teachings of the truth, to account for the paint on their clothing.

He Forgot the Ring.

Among the many who embarked upon the sea of matrimony this week were three young lawyers and the friends of one of the happy young men are having a laugh at his expense. He had purchased the wedding ring several days before the interesting event but a few minutes before the bridal party were to have taken their places before the officiating clergyman, a friend jokingly hoped he had not forgotten it. The young man with a startled look dived deep into every one of his pockets but the ring was nowhere to be found. It was found necessary to postpone the ceremony for a little while; in the meantime messengers were dispatched to his rooms and to his office, and after a painful wait of half an hour the ceremony was performed, the ring having been found on the bridegroom's bureau.

HOW THEY DUN DELINQUENTS.

The Methods Used by Constable in Collecting Overdue Accounts.

There's a good deal of indignation and stir over the methods applied by some of the city constabulary and marshals in collecting private and city accounts, and the talk is now so general that a movement is on foot for an enquiry before the council regarding these ways which are "foul" to say the least.

The action of Constable Wiley in stopping a man on the eve of his departure by the C. P. R., on a business trip for a debt of $11, was one case where the constable over reached his authority and left himself in for censure, as the amount had been paid by note though the note had not matured.

A day or two after this Wiley again got himself in trouble by using abusive language to a gentleman on King Square.

The gentleman very properly had the obnoxious abuser arrested and taken before Magistrate Ritchie.

Stories are current of methods used by Constable Prince in his collections of city taxes. Prince is said to have entered a working man's humble home, where the man's wife lay dangerously ill, and used such threats that the woman became very nervous and the family had to call in medical aid.

Only a few day ago Prince and Smith, two marshals who work together, attempted to arrest a millman at Pleasant point for a tax bill. The attempt wound up in a row in which the two limbs of the law came out decidely underneath.

Constable McPherson has still another way which is hardly the proper one. He sets in his house at a good fire-side or comfortable table and writes threatening letters to the unfortunates.

These letters are in the black mail order viz "Call at my house with $——or I will arrest on sight" etc.

While these modes of collecting may be all right, yet there seems to be sufficient "foul" means to warrant an enquiry and the sooner the better.

HE GOT THE BICYCLE.

It Only Cost Him Sixty cents, and a Little Display of Cheek.

Bicycling has made such rapid progress lately that those who don't ride the silent steed in this city are falling behind in the march of progress. Young men, old men, ladies and children all enjoy the wheel, and it is seldom, if ever, a day is passed now but a new boy or new girl is seen doing the streets or roads. Of course to own one's own wheel, is a luxury that every rider cannot afford, but to see some young fellow sporting one of his own, surprises many as the boy is usually getting a very small salary.

However to ride a wheel is one thing, but to own it is another; yet own one they will, if they have to resort to the methods sprung upon Manager March of the cycle rink by a young man a few days ago. The fellow who was attired in a partial outing get-up called at the rink and asked to hire a wheel for an hour or so. He was particular and wanted none but the best, so a Harvard was given him and the fare per hour, sixty cents was collected.

The cyclist was a stranger here, but he had an honest face. But he never came back nor did the $125.00 wheel. The police were given a description of the thief and wheel, but he disappeared as though the ground had opened up, and he had gone down only to come up serenely somewhere else, with a wheel which cost him sixty cents and a little coolness and cheek.

This Will be a Great Race.

Mr. E. Le Roi Willis has been especially fortunate in getting three such horses together for a race as Arclight, Special Blend and Lady Bug. All of them have records under 2.20 and they will put up the fastest race ever seen on Moosepath. Arclight is in the hands of Mr. Henderson who has had him all winter and it is said that he came out this spring in well nigh perfect shape. There are many people of the opinion that this horse has never had a good honest chance to do the best he might and they would like to see him go against Special Blend when in good shape. This he will attempt to do next Wednesday when Lady Bug and Special Blend meet him at Moosepath. The race is to be mile heats, but three in five and the fight for victory will be such a one as will stir the blood of those who love a good horse race. Arrangements are being made for excursion rates on the Intercolonial and from across the bay and other points. The attendance will no doubt be very large.