

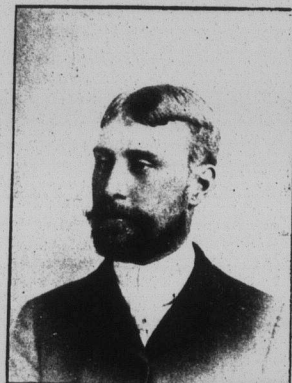
THEIR RECORD IS GOOD.

HALIFAX FEELS A PRIDE IN THE WANDERERS CLUB.

Some Things They Have Accomplished and What is Proposed for the Future—Money That Has Been Well Spent—Facts of Interest in Regard to the Club.

HALIFAX, Apr. 16.—One of the institutions of which Halifax people undoubtedly are rather proud is the Wanderers Athletic Club. The club is not an organization which is here today and may begone tomorrow, but it is as permanent a factor in this city as any other enterprise that could be named. The club possesses grounds second to none on the continent for beauty and completeness of arrangement. True the Wanderers do not own these grounds, for the club leases them from the city, at a nominal rental of \$100 per annum. But practically the club does own the grounds for no other charge is made for their use than that \$100, a sum less than they would be called upon to pay in taxes were the title vested in the club. It is therefore, cheaper for the Wanderers to hold the property as they do than to own it outright and be called upon for taxes, etc. To show how secure the Wanderers are in the possession of these grounds it may be stated that some weeks ago, five years prior to the termination of their present lease from the city, the club asked for a renewal of the lease, and without any ado a new lease was granted by the city council for another fifteen, making a total of twenty years, tenure now ahead of the club.

The Wanderers, in addition to obtaining a lease from the city must in a sense have the formal consent of the war department to use the grounds, and once a year a detachment of British troops are marched through the grounds as a proof of military control and right to the grounds should the exigencies of service demand it. This is in consequence of the conditions upon which the city obtained a large portion of its area from the imperial war department. Before the club could proceed with the erection of their proposed pavilion and club house, which will be built this spring, and completed by July 1st it was necessary to obtain the consent of the war department. There has been some friction between the officers of the garrison and the Wanderers, and the obtaining of this consent had to be gone about delicately for fear of objections by the officers. Accordingly General Montgomery Moore was interested in the matter by the committee and before many knew what was going on he had written to the war office at London and secured the required permission. A \$3,000 club-house and pavilion will, therefore, be built at once. The club has this amount of money on hand in its reserve fund. It is a comfortable feeling to realize, when you are about building a house that the whole of the money necessary is in your pocket waiting to be taken out for the purpose and that you need not trouble your head about mortgages etc.



J. NORWOOD DUFFUS.

Including this \$3,000 which the Wanderers are about to lay out on their club-house, the organization has spent at least \$10,000 on capital account in improvement of the grounds, for all that the city gave them was a waste field. With that \$10,000 the grounds have been made what they are and the pavilion will be built. This large amount of money was not raised without an effort but after all, the gathering in of the cash was pleasant work. Two mammoth bazzars and two or three entertainments at the academy of music, together with 10 per cent on the yearly subscriptions, tell the story of how the \$10,000 was raised.

The bye-laws of the club make it obligatory to put away, in a reserve fund, 10 per cent. of the membership subscriptions. The roll now stands at 300, which at \$5 per head makes annual subscriptions of \$1,500, and gives \$150 for the reserve. It takes \$2,000 a year to run the Wanderers A. A. club, and as the years pass this sum will increase. The difference between the amount realized from subscriptions and the total required, is made up from gate receipts during the season, which lasts from the Queen's birthday to the end of November. The executive committee met on Monday night and elected sub-committees to superintend the various branches of sport, and arrangements are rapidly being made to inaugurate a vigorous and successful year. These sub-committees are:

Ground—J. N. Duffus, chairman; Dr. Kirkpatrick, W. H. Wetherby, F. P. Bligh. Pavilion—Same as above with Ald. Lane and Dr. Cogswell. Cricket—Howard Smith, chairman; W. A. Henry, F. A. Kaiser, W. H. Neal, jr., R. P. Green's ood. Football—G. S. Troop, chairman; F. Grierson, W. G. Robertson and two to be selected by the players. Tennis—W. C. Harvey, chairman; C. B. Burns, Percy Almon. Sports—A. M. Bauld, chairman; Ald. Lane. Bicycling—Dr. A. W. Cogswell, chairman; and two selected. Boating—Dr. A. W. Cogswell chairman; F. Grierson. Entertainment—J. N. Duffus, chairman; Dr. Kirkpatrick, W. H. Wetherby. Bowls and quoits—A. D. Johnson, chairman; R. T. McIlreith, A. A. Johnson. Other athletic organizations in Halifax and elsewhere have come and gone, but the Wanderers remain. What is the reason for this prosperous permanence? It is because the right men have been in official control of the club. Practical business men, young and older, possessed of intelligence, tact, and good common sense, and who love athletics not only for the immediate pleasure to be derived from such pastimes

but because they feel that the future well-being of our people depends upon sound minds in sound bodies. Since the organization of the Wanderers men have been at the head of the club who were prepared to deny themselves if need be for the good of the organization. The result is that the Wanderers is today the premier athletic organization of the maritime provinces.

J. Norwood Duffus, the president of the club, whose picture PROGRESS this week presents is a sample of the excellent official heads the club has had though none of them ever equalled Mr. Duffus in all around usefulness. He has been honored with a third term as president and though he would rather have stepped down, and unshouldered some of the responsibilities, at the call of the club he was ready to stay in harness. Thoroughly posted in sport, and a gentleman in the true sense of the word, of excellent business ability, conscientious and prompt in everything he undertakes, it is no wonder the club members keep him in the presidents chair as long as they possibly can.

Another name that is synonymous with good management in the Wanderers, is that of Frederick P. Bligh, who for many years has been the secretary. Competent and careful, frank and fearless, persistent, patient and painstaking, the club could not improve on Mr. Bligh as secretary and they know the fact. Mr. Bligh's fame as a lawyer is more than local, and his distinguished services as "announcer" at sporting meetings has made his name known to every athletic club member in the sea provinces, if not beyond. Just glance at the features of the genial Frederick as they appear in this issue of PROGRESS.

WARD FIVE OBJECTS.

The choice of Halifax Liberal Candidates for Ward Five.

HALIFAX, April 16.—There was a large gathering of the committee men of Ward 5, Monday night. It should be borne in mind that elections in this city and county are very likely to be settled by Ward 5, with its large class of independent voters.

Among those in attendance at the liberal meeting on Monday night was M. E. Keefe. Dr. McKay, the chairman of the ward presided.

Any one with half an eye could have seen that a storm was brewing when one of the young men rose and said that he noted the presence of Mr. Keefe, and he thought it would be best in the interest of all concerned if, under the circumstances, Mr. Keefe would retire for a few minutes at least and leave the committeemen to themselves.

The junior candidate rose and stated his objection to leaving the meeting, and he urged that as a citizen, as a liberal, and as a candidate, he should not be thus called upon to absent himself. Notwithstanding this reasonable view of the situation the temper of the meeting was decidedly in favor of a family talk without the presence of the candidate, and a friend of the party and of Mr. Keefe, appreciating this fact, quietly took him by the arm and led him out, the meeting was then free to talk.

Frederick P. B. Bligh.

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Then a resolution was moved expressing the opinion that the convention which had nominated Russell and Keefe had been irregular and illegal, and its nomination should be cancelled. The resolution went on to state that a new convention to nominate liberal candidates should be called without delay. This was debated far into the night, and strange to say, carried the vote in its favor being 40 compared with 11 against it. Affixed to the resolution was a rider asking the secretary of the meeting to acquaint the chairman of the liberal executive for the city and county with the views of ward 5. Before this resolution had been finally passed Mr. Keefe had returned to the meeting, so that after all, he received much of the warm discussion.

This incident confirms the statement made to PROGRESS two weeks ago that apathy had seized the liberals of ward 5 on account of the nomination of Russell and Keefe, and that it was no use for party managers to think that they could win on the "silent vote" or by catching wavering conservatives, when their candidates could not bring the regular party vote into line.

ANOTHER SIDE OF A STORY.

What is said on the Shatford's Behalf in the Customs Seizure Case.

HALIFAX, April 15.—As usual there is another side to the Shatford-Eckersley case, referred to in PROGRESS of last week.

Stated as briefly as possible the facts are these: John Eckersley, of the customs Department here, seized some 65 cases of oil in warehouse for alleged storage. Messrs Shatford Bros. at once demanded an investigation which was held and developed the fact that the cases of oil were not short. In the words of T. J. Watters the commissioners of Customs, report,—"The cases were seized for shortage in warehouse 61. We find no shortage therein." Accompanying this were instructions to release the goods forthwith.

On the strength of this report of Mr. Watters and the statement of the then controller of customs, N. Clarke Wallace, that the government had nothing and would have nothing to do with the matter of damages and loss. Messrs. Shatford took action against the seizing officers (as required by law) for malicious and wrongful seizure.

The case has not pushed against him for

some time pending his good behavior and when lapses of time rendered it necessary to take further action in the matter is transpired the government were defending Eckersley, standing between him and damages. This came as a surprise to the plaintiffs who immediately protested. It would have been no satisfaction to win in the case then, as Eckersley would not have been called upon to pay a cent. Messrs. Shatford instructed their attorneys to ask the government to retire from the case and leave the defendant to his own resources, or, failing this to get them to agree there would be an appeal from the decision of the first trial. It was only after this they (Messrs. Shatford) agreed to the case being withdrawn.

The plaintiffs did not care to engage in a suit with the government whose policy is to carry such cases from court to court, and who will assail there judgement for not insisting on such a contest.

Messrs Shatford considers they have been exceedingly patient with Eckersley from time to time. They were urged to continue the suit against him by prominent business men and customs officials who offered evidence of maliciousness and incapability. They have been asked to circulate a petition praying for his removal but objected on the ground it would be equal to depriving him of his livelihood.

Very Tough Apples.

They tell a story about Bill Nye's visit to Eli Perkins' country house up in Madison county, New York. Eli has one of those farms left by his grandfather on which are rocks, trout brooks, butternut trees, and apple trees where the ungrafted fruit is about the size of thorn apples. Nye said that Perkins' apples were so tough that, like a worm, they would turn when you stepped on them.

"After we had been Eli's guest about a week," said Nye, "some wicked boys one night stole all his early apples. This almost broke Eli's heart. The next day he went to see the father of the wicked boys. 'They should be punished,' said Eli. 'It was wicked to steal my choice fruit.' 'Too late now,' said the farmer, tears coming into his eyes. 'No, they should be soundly whipped now. It's never too late to whip those boys.' 'But it is too late now, Mr. Perkins—too late,' pleaded the farmer, tearfully. 'My poor boys were thoughtless; they ate the apples and they are dead.'"

Queer Case of Burglary.

A year or so since a man found a pocket book containing \$150 in cash on the sidewalk in Portland, Me. A card in the wallet showed that the money belonged to the bookkeeper of a business house in that town. The man returned the money to its owner, and as a reward a bill of \$3 which he owed the house was received. Last week the man broke into the bookkeeper's house and stole everything he could lay his hands on. He was caught and held for trial. It is not shown that he had any motive in committing the burglary other than the ordinary turgar would have, but persons thereabout are making obvious comments.

Herbert Spencer

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(Signed) S. E. STEVENS.

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