

THE DISPATCH.

Board of Works

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WOODSTOCK, N. B., FEBRUARY 20, 1895.

PRICE TWO CENTS

FROM \$400.00 TO \$1,000.00.

THE QUALIFICATION FOR COUNCILLORS RAISED OVER DOUBLE.

A Busy Meeting of the Council.—Report of the Board of Health. — Unsatisfactory Tenders. — Amendment to the Town Act. D. A. Grant and His Taxes.

There were present at the meeting of the town council on Monday evening, his worship the mayor, Couns. Leighton, Vanwart, Carr, Nicholson, Jones, Bailey, Gallagher, Payson.

W. Duppa Smith, the newly elected councillor for Wellington, was sworn in, and took his seat at the board.

With regard to the release of Capt. Duncan's lease of the steamboat wharf, the clerk was instructed to notify the steamboat company that the lease would be executed as soon as the company so desired it.

Tenders for 80 cords of river beach gravel were opened. They were as follows:—Wm. Bagley, \$3.90 per cord; Frank Tapley (not screened) \$2.00; G. A. Noble, \$2.87; Jerry Bragdon, (not screened) \$2.25; Chas. Trafton, (not screened) \$2.24, (screened) \$2.55; Owen Colten, (screened) \$2.45; Jas. Wolverson, (not screened) \$2.95; Andrew Colten, (screened) \$2.65; John Price, (screened) \$3.00.

Coun. Carr did not feel like accepting any of these tenders, and on motion of Coun. Vanwart, the tenders were referred back to the street committee.

John Price offered to build the wharf on Water street for \$135.00. It was moved that this be referred back to the street committee.

Coun. Bailey objected to the wharf, as the town would probably find that they had simply built up property which belonged to the Connell estate.

Coun. Nicholson said that he had formed the impression that the street was washing away. He found this was not so, and therefore thought the wharf was not necessary.

Coun. Smith had met with many citizens who strongly objected to the building of the wharf. Probably we would soon have a local improvement system under which property would have to pay for improvement made to it.

Coun. Carr said he would certainly find out whether any private parties had any claim against the town before the work was proceeded with. The motion that the tender be referred to the street committee to report, was carried.

Geo. Hovey and E. M. Campbell tendered for thirty cords of hardwood for the water department at \$2.50 a cord. They were authorized to supply fifteen cords each.

The water works superintendent was authorized to procure 100 feet of block tin pipe with reel for purpose of thawing out service pipes when they freeze.

On motion of Coun. Smith, D. A. Grant was heard with reference to his taxes for 1894. He claimed that his property, worth \$20,000, was completely destroyed. It was insured only for \$7,100, and \$2,000 of that was no good. He had owed money on some of the property destroyed, and had to pay it after the fire. The amount now which he thought he should be relieved was some \$40 or \$45. The matter was referred to the finance committee.

A somewhat startling report came from the Board of Health. It recommended the putting in of a sewerage system, without cesspools, in the town, which would cost something like \$10,000. According to the Provincial Board of Health report, this district of Woodstock headed the list in having 35 cases of typhoid fever in ten months, beating even Moncton which had only 33 cases, while St. John only showed eight cases. The communication from the Board of Health was referred to the sewerage committee.

Coun. Vanwart wanted to know the whereabouts of the report from the audit committee, showing amounts paid by this council, which were contracted by the old council.

Coun. Leighton—It was here last meeting.

Coun. Vanwart—Where is it now?

Coun. Leighton—I don't know. If you had been here you would have seen it.

Coun. Vanwart—There were other members of the finance committee present. If the report was submitted at last meeting, what has become of it.

This seemed a poser, for no one knew anything of the missing document.

Coun. Vanwart moved that a report be furnished the finance committee by the audit committee, showing what were old bills and what new bills. The business of the town should be done in a business-like manner, and there should be none of this shuffling. We were running up an overdraft at the bank, and any ratepayer could get an injunction preventing us from borrowing a cent of the money. It was high time to call a halt, and see where we are. He meant to see that the finances of the town were run on a business-like principle.

Coun. Carr agreed with Coun. Vanwart.

The motion was carried. Coun. Gallagher called the attention of the council to the condition in which the lock-up was found after the recent big storm. They had to get the engine to thaw the door out, and found about two inches of ice on the floor. He wanted to know who was the person who had the care of the lock-up.

The clerk said the police magistrate had charge of the lock-up. Coun. Gallagher suggested that the police magistrate go up every day or two and see that the lock-up was in a good state of repair.

An animated discussion arose of the qualification for councillors. Coun. Nicholson moved that in the new bill to go before the legislature, to qualify for a councillor a man would need to be assessed on \$1000 real or personal property or both.

Coun. Vanwart seconded the motion. Couns. Leighton, Bailey and Gallagher spoke against the motion which was carried by a vote of six to three.

A motion that no one should be allowed to vote at town elections who had not paid his taxes before nomination day, which under the new law will be a week before election day, was made by Coun. Carr and after a discussion lost by a majority of one against it.

Coun. Nicholson's motion that only one voter be allowed at a time in the room with the returning officer at town elections was adopted.

Mock Parliament.

The Mock Parliament on Friday evening last dealt with a resolution favoring the admission of Newfoundland into the confederation. Mr. T. C. Ketchum opened the debate arguing in favor of the admission of the island. He held that the "French shore rights" difficulty was the most serious objection which could be urged against taking Newfoundland. He contended, however, that this objection had not been so serious as to prevent the promoters of confederation from making a provision to take in the island, and that, if the French rights would be a continual menace, when the island was in the union, it would be more or less of a menace with Newfoundland, a colony apart, as Canada could never be indifferent to matters affecting Newfoundland. Mr. J. A. Lindsay, in seconding the resolution quoted figures to show that it would be advantageous to Canada to have Newfoundland come into the confederation.

"Mr. Speaker" Vince took part in the discussion, and considered the advantages which would accrue from Newfoundland coming in would off set any disadvantages which might be the result. He pointed out that Newfoundland was right at the mouth of the St. Lawrence and was the key of that great waterway.

Mr. Wm. Dibblee made a very sharp speech opposing the resolution. He could see no advantage which would result from bringing Newfoundland into the confederation. At any rate, the French rights and the financial condition of the country should be set right before we were handicapped with the island. Let Britain put the island in a respectable position and then Canada might talk of union. For the dominion to make any further overtures was nothing short of folly, and was certainly not "business."

Mr. H. P. Baird supported the resolution, and made a strong plea in favor of Newfoundland, urging that she would be a distinct acquisition to the dominion. He pointed out that the people, as a general rule, are not so poverty-stricken as represented. He dwelt on the point that the building of a railway across Newfoundland, and the probable construction of a line to a point on the Labrador side of the straits of Belle Isle, indicated the probability of a short ocean route to England. Mr. W. W. Hay adjourned the debate, which will probably be continued on Friday next.

Just Caught in Time.

He came pretty near taking in Will Glidden, but not quite. The circumstances are as follows. A slick looking young fellow came into the Queen hotel the other day with a dandy horse and sleigh, and shortly afterwards interviewed Mr. Will Glidden on the matter of horse selling. Mr. Glidden said he was always game on a good horse trade and wouldn't mind seeing the stranger. So the horse was produced. Among those around the stable was a veteran horse judge who said that he had seen that horse before, and knew something of him. The stranger was exceedingly indignant at this interruption and insisted that he had reared the six year old from a yearling up. The way things worked did not altogether suit Mr. Glidden, and when the young man said he would sell the horse for \$50.00 he was told that he was unknown and had better bring somebody who knew him as evidence that he was really the owner of the horse. After wandering in search of a surety the young adventurer finally offered to produce "Dicky Diamond" as a gentleman of property who would go security for his bona fides. This did not satisfy Mr. Glidden. Shortly afterwards into the stable came Manzer Thornton of Hartland who asked Mr. Glidden if he had seen anything of a team resembling his which a stranger had got, presumably to drive to Windsor. The horse was shown to Thornton and after a while he and the young man were brought face to face. A bluff was tried but did not work, and finally Thornton promised to refrain from prosecuting if the stranger gave him his coon coat. This the horse trader consented to, and disappeared, none of the parties to the deal having seen him since.

POLITICAL SPECULATION.

A HASTY SKETCH OF THE COMING BATTLE FIELD.

Some Points of Strength which the Conservatives Display.—Where their Armour is Weak.—The Liberals and their Ammunition.—Quebec an Unknown Quantity.

The comparatively cool-minded individual who can sit himself on an eminence and survey the political battle field of the future with some measure of complacency, is something of a *rara avis*, but he is a useful individual nevertheless, when he is found, and is one of a select few who will poll the casting vote before another twelve months. With all exceedingly active party politicians the wish almost always so dominates the thought that they become quite blind to the weakness and dangers of their respective parties.

As the Conservatives now hold the reins, it will be well, in summing up the chances of the two parties, to first look at their strong and weak points. In the first place, they are in power. That is no small advantage. They possess the fort, and are on the defensive. Their organization is probably somewhat more complete than the organization of the Liberals. They have a definite policy. It may not be a wise policy, but it, at least, has the advantage of being definite. If they are sustained the people will know just what to expect. This is not to be underrated. Supporters of the government may point to the fact that while Canada is suffering from depression, she has not passed through, and is not likely to pass through the severe depression which the United States experienced, and they may claim that this is due to remaining by a fixed policy. Even tariff reformers in the Conservative ranks may pause, contending that the time is unopportune for changes likely to seriously affect commercial concerns.

Just here, it may not be amiss to point out that while governments are short lived in England, one great reason for that is because England's fiscal policy is settled. No factory in England would dream of having to close down because a certain party was elected to power. Under our "American" system it is different. The tariff is the great bone of contention. Tariffs cannot be pulled down, nay, cannot be amended without someone suffering. Therefore, all industries which are benefitted by the fiscal system, will be disposed to throw in their influence with the party in power.

On the other hand, the Conservatives are weakened by the loss of Sir John A. Macdonald. That astute leader had his finger on a button which set in motion every wire throughout Canada, when it was pressed. It is all very well to say that the party is stronger than any individual in it, but when the dominating force of the party for half a century is removed, the party must be weakened. Nor is the death of Sir John Thompson to be regarded as a strength to the party, even at an election. The forces which may rally to the support of the party, under his successor and which would not have supported him, are not the forces which tell most in the conflict. If there be a real desire in the country for tariff reform it must operate against the government, for disappointment was the result of last session's revision of the customs laws. Besides this the Liberals are united on their leader much more solidly than they have been for many years past. His declaration at Montreal that he would not be a revolutionist but would gradually introduce his new fiscal policy, may have the effect of bringing into line some wavering manufacturers, who are not satisfied with the present tariff. For the Liberals there is also the point, that their present policy is ahead of policies they have advocated in general elections since 1878, and no doubt they will gain some votes on the ground that they should have a turn at the helm, since the other fellows have been in power such a long time. In Ontario they are likely to be strongly assisted by Sir Oliver Mowat, who is a mighty man during elections, though too much reliance cannot be placed on his support, even, for many voters are Mowat men in local affairs, and Conservatives in Dominion politics.

As far as Quebec is concerned, Carleton county political speculators may as well give up any attempt at prophecy. Quebec votes on matters which do not figure in the other provinces. The question of all, will be the Manitoba school question. If Quebec has reason to think that the Conservatives will re-establish separate schools in Manitoba Quebec will send a contingent to support the party now in power. If Quebec thinks Mr. Laurier is more likely to give in to them, it will be for Mr. Laurier she will give the

majority. In all general elections Quebec is an uncertain element. The habitants are, naturally enough jealous of their privilege.

With respect to boodling transactions, charges of that kind of petty sin will not figure very extensively in the campaign. The electorate is pretty well convinced that it is a question between "the pot and the kettle." Neither party can afford to call the other "black." It is generally agreed that Sir McKenzie Bowell and Mr. Laurier, the leaders in the strife, are two pretty, respectable, honest men. Perhaps a critical survey of some of their immediate followers would not reflect any too much credit on either side.

The Patrons of Industry, who have elected a large representation to the Ontario legislature, are said to have something like fifty candidates in the field in Ontario, and several in Manitoba and the west. Undoubtedly they will have a fair quota in the coming dominion parliament, and perhaps both of the old parties will feel like praying that whatever may be their fate, let them not be at the mercy of the Patrons.

A peculiar feature in the election is the difficulty which some prominent men on both sides have in securing constituencies. Mr. Foster's health is so delicate that he cannot face the trying climate of Kings county, but has retired to the Californian atmosphere of York. Behold! a study. In his unknown and obscure days Mr. Foster defeats Col. Domville. As finance minister, in direct succession to the premiership, Col. Domville scares him out of the riding.

In South Oxford, Sir Richard Cartwright only got the nomination of his party by a small majority. He lives in Kingston and South Oxford is over 300 miles away. So the good liberals or some of them in that riding, wanted a resident to represent them, and a Mr. Janes was put forward at the convention, and came quite near getting the nomination from the Corbett of the liberal party. Yet, Sir Richard is safe, for nomination in South Oxford, to him, means election.

All hands were expecting a definite announcement from the government, after last Saturday's meeting, as to dissolution or session. Of late the opinion was more general that an election would be held immediately, but the fact that no date was set on Saturday for dissolving the house and that the governor-in-council will hear the appeal of the Roman Catholic minority in Manitoba, on separate schools, strengthens much the prospect of a session before an election. The appeal will be heard next Tuesday the 26th inst. A correspondent to the St. John Sun thinks something in the shape of remedial legislation will be granted, in view of the decision of the judicial committee of the privy council.

A Romantic Affair.

A wedding is on the tapis to take place in St. Gertrudes church this morning, about which there is quite a romance. Several years ago three families, the McGraths, the Sharkeys, and the Webbers lived in Wakefield. Young Henry Webber was much taken with the charms of Miss Sharkey, and in the homely words of the time "they kept company." But the affair never got beyond that for some reason or other. It may have been that one being a Roman Catholic and the other a Protestant their parents did not approve of the affair. Or there may have been other reasons. However Miss Sharkey became the wife of Mr. Daniel McGrath and Henry Webber girded up his loins and started for the far and woolly west. He went to Idaho, then to Montana, and after 16 years of toil became a successful and rich ranchman. In the meantime, the years fled. It occurred to him that he would like to hear something of his old love. A short while ago Mr. McGrath died, so when Mr. Webber heard the latest news of the love of his youth, it was to the effect that she was free. Correspondence was carried on between the two, with the result that Mr. Webber came home the other day and after the ceremony at St. Gertrudes he and his old flame, as man and wife will go to his new domicile in the west and re-commence life.

Woodstock Markets.

It is a deplorable fact that Carleton county farmers are having their St. John market badly cut by large importations of produce from the upper provinces. Butter, eggs, oats and hay are being poured into St. John from Quebec and Ontario and in a market which our farmers formerly had pretty much to themselves they are compelled to compete with produce raised under fully as good conditions, and prices are consequently down in the mouth. They have not come up as it was hoped they would at this time of year. Hay, loose \$6.00; Oats, 32c., to 33c.; Butter, 16c., to 17c.; Eggs, 15c., to 16c.; Beans, \$1.50, to \$1.75.

THE MUSINGS OF THE IMP.

HE SUGGESTS THAT THE MAYOR CONGRATULATE LI HUNG CHANG.

A Book by the Author of "Donovan," which is Full of Interest.—A Borrowed Meditation on the Man who Saw the First Joke. True Story of Li.

When the late Czar of Russia died, Mayor Kennedy, of Toronto, who appears to be a consequential old gentleman, sent the bereaved family a cable message of condolence. Whether the Russian Imperial family have yet discovered the location of Toronto has never been made public; nor have we heard anything of a message of thanks having returned to the Toronto mayor from his Imperial Nibbs, the present Czar of all the Russias. Now, I see, (and I am sure every reader of this column will rejoice with me in hearing the good news) that Li Hung Chang, generalissimo generalissimus of the Chinese Imperial guard of Pig Tails, has been restored to the favor of His Mongolian Highness. Near the beginning of the war with Japan the Emperor got mad with Li, and finding him chopping kindling one day with his coat off, calmly walked away with his "yellow jacket," a garment, apparently something like the jumper the lumberman on the Tobique wear. He went further and stole the peacock's feather that Li used to fan himself with. Of course this made Li angry and he said he'd be Hung if he would fire a shot to save all China; unless his working clothes were restored to him. The Emperor, however, still kept the outfit, and Li sat over the stove, in naked simplicity, awaiting results.

Now, the Emperor has caved in and Li, it is said, may be seen around any day with his bilious looking jumper, his peacock's feather and his sky blue pants. As soon as the Emperor got him fixed up again he sent him by the Flying Chinaman, a fast express train, to Japan where he will treat for peace—that is set up the champagne to the Mikado, flatter him a bit and come back to Pekin with dishonor, leaving a big piece (of China) with Japan. Now, I have wandered from the point a little. I wish to suggest that Mayor Saunders send a cable message to Li Hung Chang, congratulating him on having again got into his yellow jumper and blue overalls, and charge the expense to the finance committee. There is nothing like advertising ourselves.

* * *

The following from an English paper struck me as odd:—

M. Olivier Beaugregard, an eminent Egyptologist, has dug up some funny jokes, and is about to publish them in a book dealing with Egyptian satires. I await the publication with interest. There are, it is said, only seven jokes in the world. All the rest are variants on these parent quips. And just as Professor Tyndall traced back all sentient beings to a lump of protoplasmic mud, so, I suspect, could a careful student of humour trace back the world's fun to a single primeval joke. I wonder what it was. Certainly this mummy humour should bring us appreciably nearer to it. There must have been a time when the first man saw the first joke. It was a wonderful moment, whenever it was, pregnant with the laughter of the human race. It was the birth of a new sense. One can only imagine the scene. Adam lying under a tree—doubtless a fig-tree, possibly the very one on which his trousers grew—thinking vaguely that the world was full of many things. And presently he caught a view of those things upside down—its queer side. A strange charm caught him, and he laughed as he lay on the grass. And Eve came up to find him rolling about and holding his sides, and, wondering what strange disease this was, projected a plaster. What did she say when Adam told her the joke? Did she lie down and roll about too? Or did she simply say, "stupid!" Of course, all this is the merest conjecture. Only I should like to know what was that elementary joke from which all other jokes flowed. Although it was probably a bad one.

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One would not expect that the author of "Donovan," and "We Two" could write anything uninteresting, and certainly in "Doreen," Edna Lyall has given to the public a most charming story. The book is "dedicated in gratitude and reverence to The Right Hon. W. E. Gladstone." It is a political tale of the Irish Home Rule movement, the heroine, Doreen, being the daughter of a nationalist imprisoned for five years in Kilmalham gaol. Her life is devoted to Ireland, and for Ireland she uses the gift of a marvellous songstress. There is nothing in the book to offend even the most rigid of all anti-home rulers, and the pathos in the story is touching to a degree. Donal Moore is a nationalist friend of the heroine, whom she describes as "a sort of primitive Christian, born by mistake in the nineteenth century, and awfully puzzled to find that orthodox people don't understand his notion of sharing." Incident, and a certain amount of tragedy, is woven into the tale, completely rivetting the reader's attention. It is a wholesome story, beautifully written, and if one can persuade oneself that all that is said of Ireland's side of the case, be true, the sooner Home Rule comes, the better.

THE IMP.