

# THE DISPATCH.

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## NEWS FROM THE CAPITAL.

### PRINCIPLE QUESTIONS IN PARLIAMENT OF A WEEK.

Dr. Colter Asks a Question—Charlton on the Franchise.—O'Brien and Costigan.—The Cheese Industry.—Prince Edward Island.

Since the passing of the address in the House of Commons, nothing very startling has occurred at Ottawa. Among the notices of motion given is one by Dr. Colter, as follows:—(1) Whether the government intends to change the fishery regulations on the St. John river; (2) has the government or a member thereof given any pledge to have the fishing regulations changed on that river? (3) at what point on the St. John river is the tidal boundary fixed by such regulations?

Mr. Charlton introduced a bill to repeal the franchise act, and providing for the use of provincial lists in Dominion elections. In the absence of Mr. McCarthy, his bosom friend, Col. O'Brien introduced a bill making it a corrupt practice for any railway to carry electors free of charge, also a bill providing for the abolition of French as the official language in the North West. With an eye on Mr. Costigan, who made a personal attack on Mr. McCarthy, Col. O'Brien said that men hardly fit for the position of a civil clerkship had in recent years been made cabinet ministers, not because they are able for the position, but because they represent certain race or religious prejudices. "Mr. Costigan," added Col. O'Brien, "is a case in point. Sir John Macdonald made no mistake as to Mr. Costigan. It was impossible for Sir John to make a statesman of him; but he did come to the conclusion that he would make a most admirable placeman, and a placeman he remains."

An important question was opened by Mr. McLennan, of Glengarry, who proposed that each package of cheese exported be stamped by the government with the date on which such cheese was manufactured. This is designed to meet the complaint of the English dealers, who contend that unripe cheese is put on the market and sold as ready for use. Where this is done the reputation of the Canadian article must be subjected to injury. Mr. McLennan's efforts to provide a remedy for the evil by the stamping of each package commend themselves to so severe a critic of Conservative measures as Sir Richard Cartwright. They were also supported by Mr. McMillan, of Huron, who in agricultural matters is regarded by the Opposition as an oracle. It was pointed out by Mr. Taylor that to make the measure effective it will be necessary to stamp the cheese as well as the package. The reply of the government was given by Mr. Montague, who is acting in the House of Commons for the Minister of Agriculture. Mr. Montague stated that the government is fully alive to the importance of the point that had been raised, and was considering it with a view to doing everything that could possibly be done to promote the dairying interests. When the bill which Mr. McLennan had placed on the order paper came up for a second reading, he hoped to be able to state what the policy of the government would be.

There appears to be a rumor that Clarke Wallace, controller of customs, has resigned, but nothing definite has been given out.

In reply to Dr. Colter's question, on Saturday, Mr. Costigan said the government intended to change the fishing regulations for the St. John river, and that for salmon fishing purposes the tidal boundary had been fixed at Crock's Point, above Fredericton.

Mr. Perry one of the members from Prince Edward Island is a most indefatigable advocate of the rights of the island, and his voice is heard early and often on behalf of his native province. Says the Ottawa correspondent to the Mail and Empire: Prince Edward Island with its population of 110,000, is of much more importance on the floor of Parliament than it is numerically in the Dominion of Canada. This was one of the days it asserted its importance. Mr. Perry's tale of woe touching the misconduct of the government steamer Sanley has grown painfully familiar. The fact that the ice in the Northumberland straits occasionally interferes with the mail service has been so long emphasized that most of the Liberal contingent from the island have come to look upon the construction of a tunnel as an absolute necessity. But there is no guarantee that a tunnel would silence them for any length of time. Premier Peters is asking for an increased provincial subsidy of at least \$50,000 a year. This phase of the Liberal policy was not, however, touched upon today, inasmuch as it is intended for

service on the island alone. But it has been figured that the payment of \$50,000 to Prince Edward Island in addition to its present subsidy would necessitate the increase of the provincial subsidies all round to the tune of \$2,416,619. This capitalized at four per cent would represent a fund of \$60,415,475, about as much as Canada has spent in its entire canal system. So that the demands of the tight little island beyond the tunnel, which are receiving Liberal support, are almost fabulous. It was comforting today to hear the assurance of Mr. Perry that the people of the island are not going to rise in rebellion, but when he added that the government must take care, for the Prince Edward Islanders are a strong, determined people, his voice must have struck terror into the hearts of his listeners.

### Circuit Court.

Not a great deal of interest was taken last week in the session of the circuit court. The two boys Nason and Taylor pleaded guilty of breaking into and stealing from the Bazaar.

A summary of the cases was given in last week's DISPATCH. The first tried was Smith vs. Montgomery, the plaintiff, Mary E. Smith, and the defendant, Robt. A. Montgomery, each claiming the title to property originally owned by the father of the defendant. It embraces some thirty acres in the rear of Glassville village.

Some amusement was caused in court by persistence of the old man, Montgomery, in informing the judge and jury as to the question of fact, at inconvenient time. While Mr. A. B. Connell was giving his reasons to the judge why the plaintiff should be nonsuited, old Mr. Montgomery, entirely regardless of court etiquette, exclaimed in a loud voice, "I got my title of the land from the government, and have held and occupied it ever since." An interesting legal point arose as to whether a trespass was committed, when one tenant in common broke a lock placed on a barn by another tenant. The jury rendered a verdict in favor of the defendant.

True vs True terminated on Saturday. The judge directed a verdict for plaintiff for \$197.20 with leave reserved to plaintiff to move to increase the verdict by the sum of \$229.65, also with leave reserved to defendant to move to have verdict entered for her. The case will be argued before the Supreme Court at Fredericton next term.

The case of McBride vs McCormac, an action in trespass, in which a disputed boundary comes into question, was taken up on Monday afternoon.

Hartley & Carvell had finished the case for the plaintiff when we went to press, and Mr. Appleby had opened the case for the defence.

The case of Glidden vs town of Woodstock will probably be opened this afternoon or tomorrow morning.

### And He Yet Lives.

A Parkhurst correspondent to the Fort Fairfield Beacon, writes the following amusing paragraph. Your humble pencil-pusher has been laid away for more than a week with quinsy. His numerous friends (?) who have called to see him each suggested simple remedies. Just to accommodate them he has tried the following: onions raw, baked, boiled, stewed and fried; sulphur, salt, kerosene, turpentine, whiskey and sugar, gin and molasses, brandy and water, camphor and alcohol, cloths wrung in hot water, cloths wrung in cold water, crushed ice, red pepper, black pepper, vinegar, saltpetre, baked potatoes and hot oats; he has tried having his head steamed over cedar, old burned boots, mullein and burdock leaves, tansy worm-wood, horehound, catnip, a pork rind and a dirty sock. Yet he is able to sit up and smoke while writing this.

### Illusion and Delusion.

To think that lawyers cannot tell the truth, nor editors tell a lie.

To think that bank clerks are as wealthy, and wise as they look.

That clergymen can afford to practice what they preach—on their salaries.

That a woman is any richer because her husband says at his marriage, "with all my worldly goods I thee endow."

That a merchant ever sells below cost.

That governments are as corrupt as their opponents represent.

### Liquor Commission.

Vols. 1 and 2 of the reports of the Royal commission on the liquor traffic have come to this office. They are exceedingly bulky documents, containing nearly 2,000 pages. The first volume has the minutes of evidence taken in the maritime provinces. No. 2 has the Quebec evidence. There are evidently more volumes to come.

### Anglin's New Office.

Hon T. W. Anglin has been appointed by Sir Oliver Mowat to the position of clerk of the surrogate Court, in succession to late Sir James L. Robinson, Bart., who died last August. The salary is \$2,000.

## THE MUSINGS OF THE IMP.

### CHANCE OF OUR DESCENDANTS REACHING METHUSELAH'S AGE.

Warning from the Wandering Jew.—Advantage a Town Has Over a City.—The Drawbacks and Beauties of Spring.—Our Brothers' and Sisters' Keepers.



I see that some American doctor has made a great discovery in medical science. It means no more or less than the indefinite prolongation of life, except in cases of violent accident. There are a few people, no doubt, who would revel in the thought that they might live through centuries, but if we take the experience of the wandering Jew, or of a character very similar, the Prince of India, in Lew Wallace's famous book, we must confess that eternal life, under the conditions in which they experienced it, is not the most desirable of things. But, if the American doctor's theory is correct, our posterity will have a distinct advantage over the Jew and the Prince of India, for all people will live on and on, and thus the great drawback to these ancient gentlemen's happiness, in the absence of contemporaries, will be removed. The cross to the Prince of India was that he would enjoy life with his fellows, only to reach old age, and have a desire to depart, when he would find himself transformed into a new creature, and had to begin all over again and make new acquaintances, something which was decidedly repulsive to his aristocratic sensibilities. I wouldn't mind living 700 years if the religious editor and the sporting editor would be my companions through this waste of years, but to have to tackle a new religious editor and a new sporting editor would be too much for my weak nerves.

Some people, whose tastes it seems to me are rather depraved, continually harp on the desirability of living in a large city and rather deprecate life in a small town like Woodstock. The chief beauty of life in a country town is the sociability of the people, and their unabated interest in the private affairs of their neighbors. The ladies are always so kind and thoughtful in the way of noticing one's peculiarities. They discuss the aberrations in a poor fellow mortal's orbit with a religious fervor that would do credit to a debating club. Verily, I give you a tip, dear public, the females in a small town are their brothers' keepers and their sisters' keepers. They congregate in their front windows on a bright afternoon, and instead of wasting precious time over "some quaint and curious volume of forgotten lore," or unsexing themselves in the degrading discussion of political questions, with hearts swelling with love toward their fellow beings, they bend their minds to learn what Mr. T. has just gone up the street for, why Mrs. Blank can't spend at least a portion of her time at home, and they think "it's just a pity Mr. S. should have married such a confirmed dowdy as his wife is." Now this keen personal interest in the private affairs of everyone, which some people are unkind enough to call gossip and scandal, but which is really only the healthy normal condition of a properly constituted woman who knows she doesn't want to vote, is what makes life in a big city so dreary.

There is something depressing and at the same time enervating about this season of the year. It is depressing because it is a season when the grim reaper finds much harvest. Persons with infirm constitutions and chronic diseases are very apt to succumb on the border-land between winter and summer. I once heard a man exclaim if he could live through March and April he was not afraid of the rest of the year. Changing from double windows to single windows, from roaring fires to mill-edging fires, from heavy flannels to light clothing is very trying, and these changes are often fraught with most serious consequence, as we all know. But, on the other hand, it is a beautiful season. Nature has been dormant for many months. She is on the point of a certain and glorious revival. We are standing, breathless and in suspense over the prostrate form, and we watch her gradual awakening, as we watch the return to consciousness of a friend, who for some all-sufficient reason has been temporarily under the influence of chloroform.

I have heard people laugh over the peculiar genius of a woman for gathering together

into one pocket in a dress, a weird, wild-eyed and terrible collection of goods and chattels. But women evidently haven't a monopoly of this peculiarity. I saw a young fellow dump the contents of his coat pocket on a table a couple of evenings ago, and these are the things that presented themselves to my startled gaze: A cake of soap, a bunch of keys, a pipe, a tobacco pouch, a syren whistle, a cork screw, an oil can, a bicycle wrench, two drop letters, a fountain pen, and a punched five cent piece. Let us say nothing more of the contents of a woman's pocket.

Vanity of vanities says the preacher—all is vanity. I mused on these words of the wise man, while paying a visit to some of my impetuous relatives over the hill to the poor house. I found that in that quiet retreat, where one would suppose all worldly faith and vanities could find no entrance, that social lines were as well defined as they are among any city's "four hundred." Ward Allister, in his palmist days, could not better classify the social status of New York, than it is defined in our alms house. Social status does not turn on the difference between a millionaire and a multi-millionaire for wealth has no representatives in the poor house. But talk of blood that is blue! All the Plantagenets and Le Coureys have representatives here. What I was and what I might have been are topics that tire only the hearers of the story, never the narrator. Age is one of the pegs upon which vanity can be placed and sickness another. I am five or ten years older than he or she is told with as much gratification as one would say I am worth fifty thousand more than you. No pain like my pain, no suffering so prolonged as mine, is something to boast of, and come to think of it, alms houses do not have a monopoly of such kind of society. I wonder if when men are vain until they reach the graveyard—if there are not distinctions below the daisies, and that there are not sneers on the patrician's face when the plebeian's bones are by chance laid beside his. I should not wonder since in these degenerate days evangelical evangelists boast of their blue blooded converts.

### THE IMP.

#### Gathering Clouds.

The settlement made between Japan and China seems to meet with the approval of England, and the disapprobation of Russia, France and Germany. It seems that England has quite outdone the other powers in diplomacy, and now stands thoroughly in with victorious Japan. A Yokohama dispatch says:—The demand made by Russia, France and Germany that Japan refrain from annexing the Liaotung peninsula is expected to try the self-restraint of the Japanese nation severely. The government will find it difficult, if not impossible, to comply without great risks of international troubles. The present situation is viewed with much apprehension. At the same time, it is believed that the government will be compelled to do its utmost to meet the European views. The warning thrown out by the Moscow Gazette, that if England at this juncture lends substantial support to Japan she may expect Russia to make reprisals in India, serves to illustrate the importance, from the British point of view, of the recent agreement between the two powers in reference to the Pamir difficulty. The final documents embodying their international pact were signed recently, and so far as paper can achieve such a result, Russia is absolutely excluded from all territory under British control; that is, her dominions under the new agreement are separated from the entrances to the passes over the Hindu Kush, leading into Hunza-Nagar on the east and into Chitral on the west.

#### Between Town and the Corner.

To the Editor of The Dispatch: SIR,—As your paper has advocated "good roads," I will call your attention to that part of the road from Mr. Jenner's to the Upper Corner. Repairs are needed very much on a crossing in front of Mr. Jenner's residence. Yours, RICHARD ROE.

#### Newfoundland.

The Newfoundland parliament was opened on Thursday of last week, and adjourned for two weeks. By that time, it is thought, the Canadian cabinet will have a reply to the terms proposed by Newfoundland, as the basis of union, and the delegates from the island to the recent conference will report.

#### Elections in Classic Greece.

ATHENS, April 28.—The elections today for members of the Boule, the Greek parliament, resulted in a decisive victory for the government party. It is reported that ex-Prime Minister Tricoup has failed of re-election. Prime Minister Nicholas Delyannis is the head of the government party.

## OUT AT THE POOR FARM.

### "THE DISPATCH" FINDS EVERYTHING CLEAN AND IN GOOD ORDER.

Simon Adams Farming it Well.—Should Have Horses.—The Inmates and Their Names.—Pathetic Story of the Blind Man.—Comfortable Quarters in the Ell.

It is said to be one of the striking differences between the old civilization of Rome, Greece, and other lands of departed glories, and the civilization of latter days, that these ancient peoples did not make any provision for the care of the infirm and poor, while modern nations through the influence of christianity recognize this care as a most binding duty.

For many years the town and Parish of Woodstock, owned "jointly" as Capt. Cutler would put it, the poor house and farm a couple of miles out on the Connell road. Some years ago the town took over both the farm and buildings, and has been conducting them ever since as a charge on the rate payers of the town.

It is of the utmost importance that the poor farm should be run on a good, sound and if possible paying basis. The first consideration, of course, is the comfort of the inmates. They should be comfortably housed, well fed, and their apartments and themselves kept as clean as possible.

THE DISPATCH visited the poor house recently, and had a good look into everything in connection with the institution. It will please the public to hear that, as far as one can judge, matters are in good shape. Simon Adams who is in charge, is a first rate workman, and withal a good farmer and he is farming the land well. There are about 175 acres in all and between 70 and 80 acres are in a good state of cultivation and fit for any crop. The remainder is in woodland, and is covered with a fine growth. It is estimated that there are easily 100 cords of hemlock bark ready to be peeled, besides some good cedar, basswood and other varieties. This winter, Mr. Adams got out enough cedar to shingle one of the barns, and paid for the work at the mill in basswood which he cut on the farm.

The live stock consists of eight head of cattle, two hogs, twenty-five hens and a pair of oxen. It is doubtful economy keeping these oxen. They are good enough on a farm where there are also horses; but oxen are slow moving 'critters,' and much time must be wasted in "Gee-hawing" them. When horses are dirt cheap as they are now, it would be found profitable to use them on the poor farm. This is a hint which the poor committee may take into its consideration. Last year 100 barrels of carrots, 100 barrels of turnips and other crops in proportion, were taken off the farm, which is now almost self-supporting, and will undoubtedly become quite so in time.

Ex-mayor Hanson has always taken much pride in his work on the poor farm, and he certainly brought about a most healthy change. While he was in charge of the poor department a roomy ell was added to the building—a change absolutely necessary. It cost about a thousand dollars. The building of this ell enables a separation of the paupers from the caretaker and his family. There are six or seven small bedrooms neatly sealed and as cleanly and comfortable looking as possible, while on the lower flat is a general room for the inmates, and the kitchen. It would be possible to take care of twenty paupers, although now there are but eight in the institution. Those at present being taken care of are Patrick Hanlon, a blind and aged man, who has been there twenty-six years; Anna Brine, a feeble old woman; Mary Greeves, Henry Brown, Wm. Mulligan, Maria Adams, Harry Adams and Patrick Dagan.

It is a pathetic story about Hanlon, the blind man. Over a quarter of a century ago when the railway was being built into Woodstock, he was a healthy navy. While assisting at the blasting in the cut near Tapley's mills, an explosion occurred and the poor fellow lost his eyesight, and has been totally blind ever since. He is old and weak. His room mate for several years, Geo. Oakey, died about three weeks ago.

The inmates are well taken care of and made as comfortable as possible. Simon Adams and his wife are excellent managers, and the farm shows marked improvement since they took it in hand.

It is a fine bit of property, and may be easily made to produce as much again as it does now, extending as it does from the Connell road to the Meduxnakik.

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