

THE WOODSTOCK DISPATCH.

ISSUED WEDNESDAY

From the office, 46 Queen Street, Woodstock, N.B.

Subscription price \$1.00 per year.

Advertising rates made known on application.

P. O. Box E.

Telephone.

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Editors and Proprietors.

WOODSTOCK, N. B., AUG. 14, 1895.

ONE MAN, ONE VOTE.

The recent vote on the sewerage question has set people thinking on the subject of property and popular voting.

The DISPATCH thinks that the property vote is entirely out of keeping with our democratic form of government, and that it should be done away with and popular voting substituted.

The idea of a property vote is based on a wrong conception of what wealth implies. Great wealth does not necessarily mean great intelligence. Indeed, the pursuit of the dollar, to the exclusion of all other occupation generally means the dwarfing of intellect and the utter inability to exercise correct judgment. The miser becomes more miserly with his increasing millions. The saving of an extra dollar is more to him than the welfare of his fellows and the prosperity of his country.

Someone will say, it is not fair that a man with a great stake in the community should be made to pay taxes by the vote of those who have little stake.

What is stake, anyway? Is it money? According to that, the late Sir John Thompson had no right to make laws to affect Alex Gibson, for Sir John did not have the stake in the country that Mr. Gibson has. Was ever greater nonsense talked?

Is it not as just for the poor man to put taxes on the rich man, as for the rich man to put taxes on the poor man? Anyway it is the poor man's moneys. For many centuries the rich man has had it all his own way, and a pretty mess he has made of it.

If a property vote be the right thing in one case why not in another? If property is to decide on town taxation, why should property not decide on national taxation?

In all elections, dominion, provincial, municipal, property can and does wield a tremendous influence. Its influence should not be trebled by allowing it to vote down men. In a dominion election, fancy the manufacturer being allowed one hundred votes to the laborer's one, and this, besides the influence the manufacturer manipulates.

If it is thought that a bare majority of the popular vote is too small a thing to decide an important question, make it necessary to have a two-thirds vote, but keep in mind, at all hazards, the "one man one vote" idea. If property is to vote, why not extend the franchise to virtue and intelligence?

The property vote is an anomaly. It is opposed to the very essence of popular government, and should have no place among a democratic people. Such a thing is, no doubt, fitted for Russian modes, and might work well in China. We have no use for it here, and while it is here, we have the shadow of popular government, without the substance.

Scissors and Paste Pot.

The Manitoba school question is no doubt a great thorn in the side of the dominion government. Perhaps it would be easier settled if the provincial magnates were of the same political complexion as the dominion nabobs. As a matter of fact the provincial government wishes to embarrass the dominion government and the dominion government would like to confound the provincial government. It isn't the difficulty of the school question, it's the difficulty of Tory and Grit working together for the public good.

No doubt the mayor is right when he puts his foot down heavily on the practice of over-riding appropriations, but perhaps he might make a special case of Coun. Carr's tar asphalt. What a terrible amount of work will have to do on the sidewalks some day! And more than likely, they will be the use of an accident which will cost the town more than laying asphalt on both sides of the street.

Victon is having a time with its license. It seems that the deputy-sheriff is busy collecting licenses from foreigners who retail goods including insurance. He is the wholesale traveller alone. We should be likewise. It is absurd and unjust to both the representative of the wholesale firm and the retail peddler should ante up.

Why is not the dog tax collected? There is a very long by-law on page 29. By-laws of the town of Woodstock, "to impose a tax on owners or harborers of dogs, and otherwise restrain the keeping of dogs in the town of Woodstock, and to prevent their running at large, in certain cases." The tax is fixed at \$3, according to the sex of the dog. We could fix up our streets nicely if the dog tax were collected. Again, why is the law not enforced?

The council is to be congratulated on adopt-

ing standard time. Of course there is some opposition to this change, as there was opposition when the currency was changed, when asphalt sidewalks were adopted, when the water-works and stand-pipe were put in. The advantage of one time for eastern Canada and the eastern states will soon be appreciated.

At the town council meeting on Monday evening Coun. Leighton moved that the bill for changing the constitution of the council be printed in one of the local papers—which ever tendered the lowest. It would be better to make an arrangement whereby all the papers will print the bill, if the object is the information of the electors.

Sunday School Convention.

The Carleton County Sunday School Convention met in a preliminary meeting at Grafton on Monday evening with James Watts in the chair. The weather was very bad and the walking was nothing to brag on so that the audience was not large. The first half hour was devoted to religious service, led by Rev. A. Lucas, and participated in by several members of the audience. "The Sunday School" was the topic that absorbed the attention of the audience during the evening. Mr. Miles opened the discussion with an address on "its origin," Myles Trafton followed with an address on "its object," Rev. A. Lucas spoke of "its progress," and Rev. C. T. Phillips recounted "what it had accomplished." Rev. Mr. McDonald took up the question of its possibilities. The addresses were interspersed with music.

Clever Counterfeiters.

New York, Aug. 10.—The expert counterfeiters who for two years have been engraving and printing \$500 and \$100 United States gold certificates, and flooding Canada with notes of other denominations, have been discovered by Secret Service detectives, and four of the gang of five are now locked up in Jersey City. The fifth member, the backer of the plant, was arrested, but escaped from the officers. Brockway, the most expert forger and counterfeiter in this country, is, probably the principal of the gang. He is now 73 years old. When caught he had in his possession a \$500 gold certificate and \$390 in Canadian money, supposed to be counterfeit.

The man who supplied the funds for the plant was Dr. O. E. Bradford, a dentist, who heretofore has managed to escape suspicion. The other members of the gang are Libbie Smith, a cousin of Bradford's, and Sydney Smith, the engraver of the party, who is said to be Libbie Smith's husband, and William S. Wagner. Smith was arrested last night with counterfeit plates in his possession.

The plates and paper captured by the detectives show this to be the most skillful gang that has operated in this country for years.

Besides valuable plates for both United States and Canadian notes, \$200,000 in Canadian currency, with the reverse side all printed, was discovered. The plate for the front side was found last night in the possession of Smith when arrested at his home.

A sufficient amount of fibre paper to print \$400,000 more of Canadian money was also located in a secret closet. The paper, according to experts, is even superior to that prepared by the Hoyt gang in Connecticut. Uncompleted plates for \$500 and \$100 United States gold certificates were on the tables.

For ten days the detectives have had the place under surveillance in the hope of capturing the entire gang.

Brockway was known there as Col. Spencer but the detectives had no difficulty in recognizing him.

The detectives hoped by postponing the raid to get Bedford with the other four. Chief Hazen of the Secret Service, who in person was directing the proceedings, ordered the detectives to enter the house on Saturday night, Libbie Smith, a female confederate, and Wagner were the only members of the party there.

They were locked in jail and the reason for there arrest kept a secret from them while a search was made for the rest of the gang.

102 And 106.

John Christopher, of Stoneboro, Pa., having lived to be 102 years old, died the other day. He used tobacco moderately, but never tasted whiskey, and the Hamilton Templar points to his career as the evidence of what abstinence from alcohol does for a man. The Hamilton Spectator, however, has brought out the case of a Mr. Chambers, of Dresden, who recently was called hence at the age of 106. Mr. Chambers, to use the words of the account, "was addicted to the use of tobacco and spirits and was a Tory." It will never be known whether Mr. Chambers, had he slaked his thirst only in cold water, would have died at 102, or whether Mr. Christopher, had he indulged in beer, tobacco, and Toryism, would have attained the age of 106, but it does seem that prohibition or anti arguments based on individual longevity have very little in them.

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