

## THE WOODSTOCK DISPATCH.

ISSUED WEDNESDAY

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Editors and Proprietors.

WOODSTOCK, N. B., MARCH 25, 1896.

## RAPID TRANSIT.

These are days when we need to move quickly, if we move at all. It is essentially the age of the hustler.

An electric railway for Woodstock, and to connect with adjoining towns and villages is talked of, and the project has got something beyond the talking stage, for a company have succeeded in getting an act through the legislature, incorporating themselves for the purpose of running electric cars, and also generating and selling electric light, etc.

Now when all this became noised abroad there was great disturbance among the elders of the city.

The council met in haste, passed a resolution, condemning the proposed bill and sent the Mayor to Fredericton to oppose its passage. However the bill was passed. If the company display as much rapid transit to their cars, as they have to the passage of the bill, we will have a system here, which will go at the rate of about a mile a minute. The trouble for the council is that they have failed to perceive the importance of rapid transit. They believe in going slowly, and very cautiously, and they are quite unnerved when any corporation is found to be possessed with the idea that to be sharp and quick means the winning of the game.

Objections come from two sources to the proposed scheme. One is from those who see in the proposition a menace to their own business. Another is from those who believe that the works of a town should be run and owned by the town. This is the latest municipal idea. It was this that made Chamberlain's reputation as a municipal reformer, and made Birmingham the best governed city in the world.

The first objection is natural, but does not concern the citizens at large, the latter is reasonable and is of great concern to every ratepayer.

But, why in the name of common sense does not the town council get on to the idea that this an age of progress, and that if they don't push the town along, private citizens will be found willing to do so?

An electric car system would be a grand thing for the place. Some people say it could not be made to pay. Well! then the company will be losers. That any privileges a company get should be carefully looked after by the town goes without saying. Montreal and Toronto have had no end of trouble with corporations which have received special inducements to run street cars, in days gone by.

In looking over the bill under discussion, it appears that the town of Woodstock has a control over the workings of the company, and that the consent of the town is necessary before the work may begin.

To the objection that the bill was hastily put through the legislature, it may be remarked that the three months notice was given of its introduction, and it received its first and second reading, and the town only rushed to the rescue, when the enemy had carried all but the last ditch. They could scarcely expect to do much effectual fighting, then. They were slower than Blucher at Waterloo, and far less effective.

We really think the people need not keep awake at night, if there is no more formidable boo-man than the electric company.

This town is bound to progress, and men who can work up good live schemes to aid its advance will always meet with the support of this journal. When a corporation tries to boss the town, THE DISPATCH will do its share to bring it to its knees.

## FRENCH AND ENGLISH.

This paper has a strong belief in the future of Canada. It thinks she will get there all right, and that in spite of internal rows, matters will turn out satisfactorily. And it notices that since it started in business, it has succeeded in inspiring the public men of the land to go more in for country and less for party.

There are some facts it is well to bear in mind, and one, in particular, is that we are a mixed community. We have a very large and a very wealthy province where the French language is essentially the tongue of the people. Now, then, what is the use of making light of this fact and talking as if English is the only language necessary to know in Canada. The French Canadian is going to stick to his French, and you may be sure of that. Then why should this fact not be recognized, and why should not French be a subject specially taught to our young? It is not a mongrel tongue. It is the language of Europe, and no one need consider himself less of a protestant because he fortunately knows a language which happens to be largely spoken by his catholic conferees.

A recent issue of the St. John Globe contained a report of a paper read before the

students of the University of New Brunswick on The Dual Languages in Canada, by Father Doucet who said: In many European nations two, three, and, in some cases, several languages were used and that, therefore, one language was not essential to national unity, although dual languages were regarded as a disadvantage by many persons from this standpoint. He argued upon the commercial, literary and social advantages to a country of having at its command a great commercial language like that of England, and a great diplomatic language like that of France, and he dwelt upon the power the use of these two languages gave those who possessed them. That the French of this country should be allowed the liberty of using their own tongue was, he held, a simple act of justice to a true and loyal people, and, of course, without restrictions of any kind time would settle all the difficulties of the situation through the survival of the fittest.

This was a very sensible view to take of the matter.

The English language will never die out, no fear of that.

But since we have a couple of million French Canadians in our five million of a population would it not be well that we should know French at least as well as they know English.

A Houlton paper says:—"An accident of some kind to the engine, which runs the dynamo for the electric lights at the pumping station, caused a shut down last night, and in consequence our streets, and such business houses and residences as are supplied with electricity from that station, were left in darkness." Surely they are not so extravagant in Houlton as to light the streets in winter. No wonder Houlton is behind Woodstock. A special meeting of the council should be held, to appoint a delegation to go to Houlton and represent, in a sisterly way, the reckless waste of lighting the streets in winter. Woodstock is a model of economy. It is the only town on the continent probably that has the electric light, and can't afford to use it during half the year. Seriously, when will we fall in line with the rest of the world.

We are informed that our Edmundston correspondent was mistaken when he said in his last week's letter that in the case of Sirois vs Parent, the Judge expressed his surprise that such frivolous cases should be brought in the Supreme Court, and stated that they should be brought in the courts where they belonged. The case, it appears, is one over which the circuit court alone has jurisdiction, and for the Judge to have made such a remark would have been more absurd.

In circulating Mr. Laurier's excellent speech on the Manitoba school question, THE DISPATCH simply wishes to give everyone an opportunity to read the best presentation of one side of the case. In a future issue we will probably give our readers as full a report of the best conservative speech on the same question.

The Remedial bill doesn't figure with the town council, alongside of the Electric Railway bill.

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Hartland, March 23rd, 1896.



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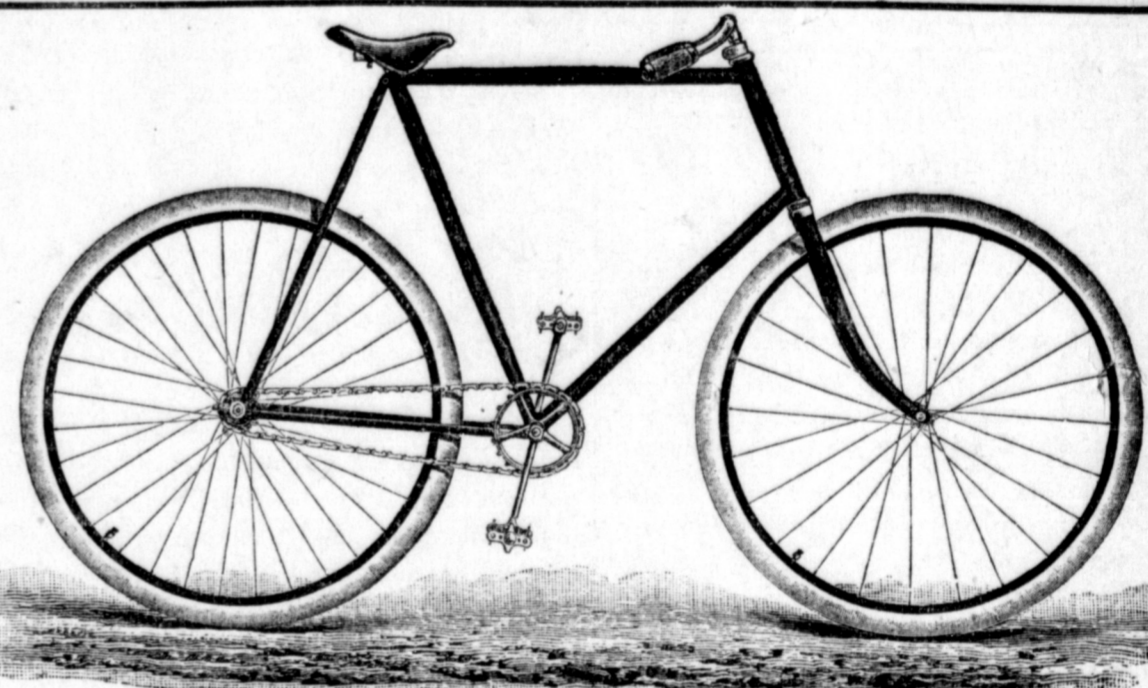
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