

# THE WOODSTOCK DISPATCH.

ISSUED WEDNESDAY.

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CHARLES APPLEBY & T. CARL L. KETCHUM.  
Editors and Proprietors.

WOODSTOCK, N. B., JUNE 3, 1896.

## THE DOG TAX.

In these days of political excitement people are apt to drop all questions which do not come within the range of Dominion affairs. There are some, however, who do not take such lively interest in politics, as to lead them to forget that there are other things worth living for. It may seem to be a small matter to dwell at great length on such a simple thing as a dog tax but really it is a matter of considerable importance. There are two sets of people to be considered, those who own dogs and want to keep them, and those who do not own dogs, but own sheep and want to keep them. This applies to the rural districts, and it is the rural districts with which we in this county have the most to do. Perhaps an explanation of the bill passed at the recent session of the legislature will not be out of place.

In the first place we will deal with the provisions of the act as it affects parishes, and of course so far does not bear on the cities and incorporated towns. The county or parish assessors in making up their rolls, are required to set down on their rolls, in a special column, opposite the ratepayer's name, the number of dogs owned or kept by such person. The money collected under the act in the municipality shall form a fund for the purpose of satisfying such damages as arise from dogs killing or injuring sheep or lambs in such municipality. There are a number of provisions which deal with a party who may keep a dog, which is known to be a sheep destroyer. Any person may kill any dog which he sees pursuing, or worrying any sheep or lamb, or any dog, found straying between sunset and sunrise on any farm whereon sheep are kept.

With regard to its enforcement the act provides that if a petition of ratepayers, being householders, to the number of 15, in each and every parish or municipality shall be presented to the county council, the council may, by by-law provide that the said tax or any portion thereof, shall not be levied in such municipality, upon the owner and possessor or harbinger of one dog. This clause and the act generally applies to incorporated towns as well as to rural parishes.

The town council of Woodstock has a by-law, practically obsolete, under which it is authorized to collect dog taxes. How this provincial act will affect that remains to be seen.

Everyone will agree that the sheep need protection a good deal more than the dogs.

## TORNADOS.

The tornado which swept over St. Louis has caused the most awful loss of life and property. On Saturday last it was reported that the total number of dead in the city, who have been identified was 162, and in East St. Louis, which is in reality, a part of the same city, the identified bodies are 127. It is plain that the loss of life is something like 400. The loss of property is estimated at some \$25,000,000. It is a terrible thing to think of. The tornado is something that no human art can combat. Floods may be anticipated, fire may be averted and fought, disease may be lessened, but the tornado is something before which we must own ourselves powerless, and which we can neither avert or repel.

Nor does it appear to be confined to any climate or any section. The stories had better not use it as a canvas, that the tornado is unknown to Canada, and the grills will be wise if they acknowledge their inability to contend with it, if they get the reins of power.

## Acquitted as Insane.

Another homicide has been acquitted on the ground of insanity. Some months ago a man named Lapointe ran amuck through the streets of Brockville, Ont., shooting in all directions with a revolver. He killed several men. The trial was last week. A contemporary writing of the trial says—To contradict the evidence of Drs. Clark, John Murphy and Chas. K. Clarke, who swore that Lapointe impressed them as being insane, the Crown called Drs. Harding, Moore and Arthur Johnston. The first two had attended Lapointe in the hospital, and saw nothing to lead them to believe he was irresponsible. At the same time, they would not swear that he was responsible.

Dr. A. J. Johnston said he did not think the prisoner was without the knowledge of his crime. This closed the evidence, and Mr. Hutchinson addressed the jury on behalf of Lapointe.

The Crown counsel spoke this morning, and Chief Justice Meredith delivered his charge. Then the jury went out and found a verdict of not guilty on the ground of insanity.

His Lordship's charge was quite in favor of the prisoner. Lapointe heard the verdict unconcernedly.

## A CYCLONE'S WORK.

Death and Destruction in the City of St. Louis.

The City of St. Louis, in the State of Missouri was visited by a cyclone of terrible fury on Thursday last. Over two hundred lives were lost, and the destruction of property is said to be almost inestimable. The following description of the cyclone is given by an eye-witness:—

The history of the storm's movement last night is quickly told. The day was an oppressive one in the city. There was no wind and the people suffered from the heat. About four o'clock in the afternoon the entire western horizon was banked with clouds. These were piled one upon the other with curling edges, yellow in tinge. A light wind sprang up and sudden darkness came upon the city. This darkness increased until the storm broke. It gave the first alarm to thousands of people in the streets, at pleasure parks, in light crafts on the Mississippi or at work in the great mercantile establishments. There seemed to be three separate cyclones. They came from the northwest, and southwest and west. When they reached the Mississippi river they had become one. It was a quarter to five when the storm broke. Its descent was so sudden that women and children were caught in the streets and hurled to destruction or buried under falling walls. Before the mass of clouds in the west, hanging over the villages of Clayton, Ferneridge, Eden and Central, gave vent to their frightful contents, the funnels shot out from them. Some of them seemed to be projected into the air, others leaped to earth, twisting and turning. Lightning played about them and there was a marvellous electrical display. Then came the outburst. Three of the funnels approached St. Louis travelling at the rate of eighty miles an hour. From the clouds above strange crackling sounds came. This filled the air and at times was stronger than the incessant peals of thunder. Funnels enveloped the western side of the city and in thirty minutes were wrecking destruction. So destructive was the cyclone and so irresistible and so much greater in magnitude than any other the country has previously known of that some of the staunchest business blocks went down before it. Iron beams were torn from their fastenings and carried blocks away as if they were feathers.

## The Retired Burglar.

"I once had a very singular experience in a fine house in a small city in the West," said the retired burglar. "They had their silver locked up, but I found on a table in the parlor a lot of bric-a-brac, mostly silver things, that were well worth carrying off. There was a curious looking thermometer that caught my eye in particular, and contrary to my usual custom I stopped to take a look at it before putting it in my bag, and then it occurred to me that I'd like to see how warm it was—it was very close in the room with the windows all shut—and I took a look at the mercury, holding it down in the light of my lamp on the table, standing up myself; but I couldn't see it very plain standing up, so I sat down on a chair that was right there close by the table to get a closer look.

"The minute I sat down the chair began to play a tune. It had a music box arrangement attached to it; just like many other articles of furniture are made. Some of 'em when you pull out a drawer a music box begins to play, and all that sort of thing, and this was a musical chair. I got right up, but the chair kept right on playing. These things are apt to have a key, you know, or a stopper of some sort about 'em I felt for that key, but I couldn't find it, and I got my lamp and looked for it, the music keeping right on playing all the time, but I couldn't find it, and the first thing I knew it broke out louder than ever; it had come to some sort of a bell attachment that it had, and was making twice as much noise as it did at first, and the only thing I got in my bag was the thermometer, which I wished I'd never seen at all, and which I'd dropped in the bag when the first surprise struck me.

"I took another quick look over the chair with the lamp, but I couldn't find the key, and, of course, there wasn't anything for me to do but go away, which I did. The last I heard of the chair as I went through the cellar window, it had busted out in some new direction and was booming away like a brass band."

## The Unification of Time.

OTTAWA, May 28.—The Governor-General's office has sent to the Home Government the memorial of the Canadian Institute and of the Astronomical and Physical Society of Toronto urging the carrying into effect of the recommendation contained in sixth resolution of the Washington International Conference of 1884, in favor of the unification of time as applied to the civil, nautical and astronomical days. The civil day commences at mean midnight, the nautical and astronomical at mid-day and the proposition is that all shall commence at mean midnight, with a view to minimizing the chances of navigators making mistakes in regard to the nautical time, as applied to longitude. Mr. W. H. Greenwood of Lancaster, England, who takes great interest in the subject of reform in time reckoning at sea, sent out a number of queries to British and foreign shipmasters, asking for their views on the proposed unification of time reckoning. The information which he collected has been forwarded to Canada, and demonstrates that shipmasters are practically a unit in its favor. The Imperial Government is asked to take this matter in hand promptly in order that a change may go into effect on the first of January 1901. An early decision is asked, and the nautical almanac, which is the mariner's guide in all parts of the world, is usually four or five years in advance. The Marine Department has been advised of the decision of the Home government regarding sound signals at sea, a question which has been considerably debated and discussed on both sides of the Atlantic during the past two or three years.

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Yarns.

Yarns.

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Information cheerfully given.

When writing mention this paper.

Woodstock Woollen Mills Co.

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The County Council will meet at the Court House on TUESDAY, the 16th JUNE inst., at 10 o'clock a. m. R. K. JONES, Sec'y-Treas.

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\$12.00

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