

THE WOODSTOCK DISPATCH

JULY 28, 1897.

PIONEER LEGISLATION.

[98.]

Having in the last two contributions to THE DISPATCH spoken of our first representatives in the provincial parliament it may be of interest to mention some of the chief incidents in the early legislation of the province connected with the history and development of the St. John river region. As the newly established province of New Brunswick had in 1784 new laws of its own, it will readily be imagined that the first session of the House of Assembly was an arduous one. However there were no obstructionists in those days and the members set manfully to work and at the expiration of a ten weeks session, twenty-one acts were placed upon the statute book. Many of these were largely based upon similar acts of the province of Nova Scotia. At the second session of the House which opened Feb. 15, 1787, Governor Carleton in his opening speech made the important announcement of the arrival of commissioners to examine into the losses and services of the Loyalists:—this his Excellency said would prove of great benefit as they would now be enabled to establish their claims without leaving the province, and numbers to whom the national bounty could not otherwise have been extended would in consequence be enabled to carry on the work of improving their settlements with double ardor. All must admit that the British government displayed a very generous spirit in rewarding the services and compensating the losses incurred by the Loyalists during the war. The commissioners spent seven years in dealing with the claims submitted to them, a period not too long in view of the magnitude of the interests involved. They examined in all 4,118 claims and awarded £3,292,455 *stg* in the way of compensation for losses. In their report to the Imperial Parliament the commissioners stated that as a rule they had met with the utmost honor, veracity and candour on the part of those who presented the claims of the Loyalists. The sums awarded were of course in proportion to the losses sustained; men who in England had been respectable farmers usually receiving an award of £200 *stg*, or say \$1000, which though not a large sum, proved a great boon to hundreds of families in the province who were struggling with the difficulties of their situation. The commissioners who came out to New Brunswick supplied the Loyalists with a printed form of which the following is a copy:—

"To the Commissioners appointed by Act of Parliament for enquiring into the losses and services of the American Loyalists. The memorial of A. B. sheweth:

First—(Claimant should here state acts of loyalty and services.)

Secondly—(Losses sustained in consequence thereof, or of the claimant's attachment to the British government. A schedule whereof is desired to be subjoined giving very particularly and accurately the description and value of the property lost.)

Your memorialist therefore prays that his (or her) case may be taken into consideration in order that your memorialist may be enabled under your report to receive such aid or relief as his (or her) losses and services may be found to deserve."

A foot note attached to the above states the commissioners will require the best evidence of which the case will admit in support of the claim presented.

The compensation awarded the Loyalists at this time was all the more acceptable as the king's bounty of provisions ceased at the end of 1786. The compensation money with the half pay of the disbanded officers sufficed to put in circulation quite an amount of ready money and this was a great boon to the early settlers. The cash medium was chiefly Spanish silver dollars and the value of property was estimated in dollars after the custom of New England; pounds, shillings and pence came in later.

In July, 1788, the House of Assembly met for the first time at Fredericton, previous sessions having been held in St. John. Governor Carleton in his opening speech referred to the progress of the settlement and congratulated the house on the few criminal cases that had come before the courts. The next session was held in October 1789 in which bounties were offered to settlers who in each county should raise the greatest quantity of good clean merchantable wheat weighing not less than 58 pounds per bushel; the first competitor to receive £20, second £15, the quantity raised to exceed 200 bushels or more to be given. Prizes were similarly offered for the greatest quantity of barley and hops. The award was to be made in all cases by the county magistrates at the court of general sessions of the peace.

Feb. 20, 1792.—A bill was introduced fixing bounties to encourage the destroying of wolves, £1 for each full grown wolf and 10s. for a whelp wolf. People yet living remember when wolves were quite numerous; their melancholy howls round the little clearings of the first settlers were not conducive to sound slumbers.

Feb. 26, 1793.—Major Murray presented a petition from James Moore of St. Mary's, stating that he had invented a machine for threshing grain, and praying some compensation for the same. At the same session

the following revenue tariff was adopted, viz: Rum duty, 2d. per gallon; wine, 3d. per gal; brown sugar, 2s. per cwt.; coffee, 1d. per lb; wheat or rye flour from the United States, 2s. per bbl.; horses, cattle, hogs, poultry, and meat from the States, 10% on cost.

This was a very modest revenue tariff, certainly. The legislature now began to take measures to encourage emigration to New Brunswick. The roads also received increasing attention. Grants were expended under the supervision of the county members who submitted annual reports to the House of Assembly. The road from Fredericton to the Meduxnakik received special consideration as joining an important link in the route communication with Quebec the completion which was felt to be of great importance in consequence of the war with France. The governor made special mention of the war in his speech at the opening of the legislature, Feb 4, 1794, and in consequence of his recommendation a militia bill was speedily introduced and passed. The militia was reorganized, fortifications improved etc. Fears of invasion were entertained, but these were soon after dispelled by the magnificent victories gained by Lord Howe and other British Admirals over the French fleet. Meanwhile the King's New Brunswick regiment was organized for the defence of the province under the command of Lt. Col. Beverley Robinson with Daniel Murray as Major. The officers and most of the rank and files were veterans of the Revolutionary war. The roll of the officers include such familiar names as Captain Dugald Campbell, James French, and Gerhardus Clowes; Lieutenants John Murray Upton, John Simonson, Adam Allan, Xenophon Joutet, Obadiah Clements, Garret Clopper, John Jenkins, Malcolm Wilmot and William Turner; Ensign Wm. Barry Phair; Chaplain John Beardsley; Surgeon Charles Earle M. D.

The progress of the country was seriously retarded by the war. Many of the able bodied yeomanry of the province were enrolled in the King's New Brunswick Regiment and in consequence there was a scarcity of labor. Considerable losses were experienced through the capture of trading vessels by French privateers.

The danger from external sources however did not prevent the occurrence in the year 1796 of a fierce wrangle between the House of Assembly and the Executive Council as regards the payment of members. The House of Assembly included in the various appropriations of the session a certain amount for salaries of the members. The council refused to sanction this expenditure contending that as the government of the province was modelled on that of England the members of the Assembly should imitate the English House of Commons and serve without pay. The House of Assembly replies that the circumstances of many persons qualified most worthily to represent their constituencies rendered it impossible for them to serve gratuitously and that the action of the executive council declined to pass the bill unless the objectionable clause was struck out and this the House of Assembly refused to do. The council then threw out the entire bill. For four years the dead lock continued, the Assembly at each session insisting on the insertion of the clause providing for the payment of ten shillings a day to each member during the session and the council thereupon throwing out the bill. The situation at length became intolerable. There was a general outcry. The construction of roads and bridges was at a stand, even the ordinary expenses of government could not be met. Yielding to strong representations of the secretary of state for the colonies and to the urgent need of the province the Council at length gave way and on the 8th of February 1799 supplies were voted for the years 1796, 1797, 1798 and 1799 and the members of the House of Assembly thenceforth were allowed their modest salaries of ten shillings a day. During all this time the only legislation in behalf of the farmers was the introduction in 1796 of "a bill to prevent the growth of thistles" (which got the three months hoist), and a bill introduced the following session "to encourage the killing of Bears and Loup-cerviers"

W. O. RAYMOND.

Search The Wardrobes and Closets.

In almost every home half-worn garments and goods are stowed away in wardrobes and closets that can be made as good as new and fitted for months of wear.

The operation of recreating and beautifying is simple, the cost is trifling, and the general results beyond the comprehension of those who are acquainted with the work of home dyeing.

Dresses, jackets, capes, vests, pants, ribbons, silks, feathers, and a score of other things worn and faded can be transformed into things of beauty and fashion at a cost of from ten to twenty cents.

Thousands of Canadian families use Diamond dyes every year and save a great deal of money. All users of Diamond Dyes say it is so easy to use them. The directions are so explicit and simple that a child can do good work.

As there are many imitations and worthless dyes sold, see that your dealer gives you the Diamond Dyes when you ask for them. Common dyes ruin your goods; Diamond Dyes bring success in color and beauty.

AN EFFICIENT OFFICER

Was Mr. David Merritt Who Now Retires.

The announcement is made that Mr. David Merritt has retired from the position of Collector of Customs at Woodstock, and that he is succeeded by Mr. W. T. Drysdale. Mr. Merritt's retirement is due to ill health. Some time ago he met with a most serious accident, from which he has never recovered, and his physician has advised rest and quiet. During the period from 1875 until ill health



prevented him, Mr. Merritt discharged the duties of his important office with diligence and ability, proving himself a most efficient official.

Mr. Merritt was born in Queens county. In 1867 he came to Woodstock and was for some time in business with G. W. VanWart. He married in 1868 Miss Margaret McCoy, daughter of the late James McCoy, master of the Carleton Co. grammar school. He is a prominent Mason and Orangeman, and a member of the Free Baptist denomination. Mr. Merritt's numerous friends trust that he will have many years of quiet and peace yet left to him, and that with the removal of the cares of office may come a restoration, to a considerable extent anyway, of his former good health.

DOAN'S KIDNEY PILLS.

Doan's Kidney Pills act on the kidneys, bladder and urinary organs only. They cure backaches, weak back, rheumatism, diabetes, congestion, inflammation, gravel, Bright's disease and all other diseases arising from wrong action of the kidneys and bladder.

It is necessary in acting to conform to rules, and in judging to take exceptions into account.

EFFECTUAL—Charles J. Booth, Olivewood, Cal., says: "I have used Ayer's Pills in my family for several years, and have always found them most effectual in the relief of ailments arising from a disordered stomach, torpid liver, and constipated bowels."

The goal is not always placed to be attained, but to serve as a point to be aimed at. Such is the precept of "Love your enemies."

An Advertisement

This is an advertisement which tells the truth about Milburn's Heart and Nerve Pills.

PEOPLE WHO SUFFER

from sleeplessness, dizziness, shortness of breath, smothering feeling, palpitation of the heart, pains through the breast and heart, anxious, morbid condition of the mind, groundless fears of coming danger, anemia or impoverished blood, after effects of la grippe, general debility, etc., should

TRY THESE PILLS

as they cure these complaints. Every box is guaranteed to give satisfaction or money refunded through the party from whom the pills were purchased, and we authorize them to do so on the strength of the above statement. This offer is limited to the first box used by any one person. T. MILBURN & Co., Toronto.

WOOL!

SEASON OF 1897.

We want

50 TONS WOOL

Will pay one half cash and bal. Goods at Cash Price. Must be clean and free from tag locks, etc.

We also buy Sheep Skins, for which we pay cash or goods, as desired.

Woodstock Woollen Mills Co., Limited.

The Same Old Sarsaparilla.

That's Ayer's. The same old sarsaparilla as it was made and sold 50 years ago. In the laboratory it is different. There modern appliances lend speed to skill and experience. But the sarsaparilla is the same old sarsaparilla that made the record—50 years of cures. Why don't we better it? Well, we're much in the condition of the Bishop and the raspberry: "Doubtless," he said, "God might have made a better berry. But doubtless, also, He never did." Why don't we better the sarsaparilla? We can't. We are using the same old plant that cured the Indians and the Spaniards. It has not been bettered. And since we make sarsaparilla compound out of sarsaparilla plant, we see no way of improvement. Of course, if we were making some secret chemical compound, we might... But we're not. We're making the same old sarsaparilla to cure the same old diseases. You can tell it's the same old sarsaparilla because it works the same old cures. It's the sovereign blood purifier, and —it's Ayer's.

THE YEAR OF JUBILEE!

A Nice Carriage is needed, and as Preferential Trade has been inaugurated, we desire your preference in buying a

CARRIAGE.

Our Wheel Stock was bought last fall, and has been in the dry house all winter. The Wheels are all boiled in oil before the tires are placed. We have all the Sensible Designs in stock, and as personal supervision is given to all departments, which are under skilled workmen, we guarantee the character of our work. One of the proprietors will always be found at the factory to take orders, give advice and quote prices, and will have great pleasure in showing goods. REPAIRING and PAINTING done promptly by skilled mechanics.

CHESTNUT & HIPWELL,

Opposite Small & Fisher Co.,

WOODSTOCK, N. B.

THE SADNESS

Of losing a friend might in some 'slight' measure be alleviated by knowing that he was placed in a Good Casket instead of a rough box. Death is generally the last thing one looks for, and consequently it is difficult to get people to read the advertisement of an undertaker. However, you are reading this, and when you want the services of an undertaker I hope you will give me a call. All my stock is the best.

See my stock of FURNITURE.

MARCY,

CONNELL STREET, WOODSTOCK.

"Beacon" Alarm Clock

Will awaken the Soundest Sleeper. No better clock on the market for the price. \$1.30.

Others as low as 75c. but not so good.

H. V. DALLING,

Blue Front Jewelry Store.

Agent N. B. Telephone Co., C. P. R. Telegraph Co.

Official inspector of time pieces on the C. P. R.

BETTER THAN A BANK

After July 1st, '97, the Government Saving Banks of the Dominion will reduce the rate of Interest on deposits to 3 per c.—You can get an Endowment Policy in the

Confederation Life Association,

which will net you more than 3 per c. besides carrying Life Insurance with it and the non-forfeiture provisions of the Policy admit of paid-up and extended Insurance after two years and a Cash Value or a loan after 5 years.

D. F. MERRITT, Agent. G. W. PARKER, Gen. Agent

G. A. TAYLOR, Merchants' Bank, Special Agent.