

**THE WOODSTOCK DISPATCH.**

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**BRITISH ELECTORS.**

**Anomalies in the Distribution of the Right of Suffrage.**

The asinine qualities of the law are nowhere more delightfully—because not tragically—demonstrated than in the Registration Courts, which sit for the revision of the electoral register. Except the weather, nothing in this country is more uncertain than a citizen's voting qualification.

In its infinite but variable wisdom the Legislature has created four kinds of electorates:—(1) Parliamentary, (2) county, (3) parochial, (4) School Board. For the last-named there is no official register, the ratebook being used as the list of voters; but for the other three electorates there is an official register in three divisions, which goes through the process of legal revision every September.

The various classes of electors are:—

- (a) Householders.
- (b) Tenement occupiers.
- (c) Lodgers.
- (d) Service voters (persons living in service, as shop assistants, coachmen, etc.)
- (e) Occupiers (other than dwelling-houses) of £10 value.

(f) Women with qualifications (a), (b), (e). For Parliament women may not vote; for County Council and parochial purposes women are included, but lodgers and service voters are disqualified. It should be added that the position of the elector is further carefully complicated by allowing him to vote in any number of boroughs for Parliament, for only one constituency for his County Council, and for every parish in which he has a qualification if he be a parochial elector. Thus, if a Parliamentary or parochial elector be upon the register of Paddington, Fulham, Westminster, and a dozen other Parliamentary boroughs or parishes, he may vote in each; while as a County Council elector he could only vote in one of the constituencies.

The most remarkable anomaly, so far, is the position of the lodger, whose name in London and the larger cities is legion. He is considered to be good enough to elect a member of Parliament, but not wise enough to select a vestryman or a County Councillor. The explanation offered of this absurd anomaly is that the lodger is not a ratepayer, and is too frequently a bird of passage. But both of these objections, if true, would apply to a much larger section of County Council and parochial electors—the tenement occupiers.

The difference between the tenement occupier and the lodger is that the former occupies part of a dwelling and pays rent to a landlord who does not reside on the premises, while the latter pays his rent to a resident landlord. The difference is one of tweedledum and tweedledee, so far as payment of rates and stability of occupation are concerned. The lodger pays rates in his rent just as the tenement occupier does. If, therefore, contributing to the local and municipal rates is the qualification for the parochial and municipal franchise, the lodger is entitled to it equally with the tenement holder.

We shall see presently that the lodger is the Cinderella of the registration pantomime, who is clothed with the rags of the franchise, while her elder sisters, the householder and the tenement occupier, are glorious with every garment of the suffrage.

So far we have dealt, by way of introduction, and for the better understanding of the vagaries of registration, with questions of the franchise rather than the technical work of registration.

It is when we come to the duties of the registration officers that the anomalies become ludicrous and the grievances of the elector both numerous and pathetic.

His first trouble is compliance with the necessary residential qualification. Nominally this is a year's residence, but as it must be a year's residence from July 15 in one year to July 15 in the next, the qualification is largely an illusive one. The average man will see no objection to taking possession of a house or tenement on July 16—the mere affliction of moving will, in ninety nine cases out of a hundred, absorb him in his present trouble, and leave him no thought of preserving his political privileges.

But how will this move work out for him politically? Suppose he move on July 16, 1898; he will not be able to begin his qualifying period until July 15th, 1900. And as the register made up in 1900 will not come into force until January 1st, 1901, a period of two years and five months will have elapsed from the date of occupation until the elector

becomes entitled to cast a vote. The present writer knows of many cases in which men of intelligence and position have not been able to cast a vote for many years, owing to frequent changes of residence. In one case, that of a responsible journalist, the victim has not been able to vote at any election during his life, never having succeeded in getting on to the Parliamentary register in a year during which an election has taken place.

During the current revision of the registers numerous instances of disqualification for being a few days short of the requisite residence have occurred, and hardly a better illustration of the working of the system could be found than the disqualification of General Sir Hugh Gough, Keeper of the Queen's Jewels.

To some extent the trouble of qualifying by residence is mitigated by permitting the qualification to be made up by the successive occupation of different residences; but this only applies to the successive occupation of residences within the same borough, and does not apply to lodgers at all.

Some extraordinary anomalies result from living on the east side of the Edgeware road, and paying £200 a year in rent, move! to the west side and lost his vote, because one side is in Paddington and the other in Marylebone; whereas a tenement holder paying three shillings a week, who removed from Great Tichfield street to St. John's Wood, and thence to High street, Marylebone within the year retained his vote by successive occupation, having never moved outside the Parliamentary borough.

This brings us again upon the grievance of that nice "young man" the lodger. The tenement occupier, paying half a crown, or three shillings a week for his room, may move as he has seen anywhere and as often as he pleases within the borough without breaking his period of qualification. The lodger paying £50 or £100 a year may not move next door without having to begin his qualification over again. A curious but not by any means infrequent case came before a revising barrister in South London. A gentleman who had been on the register as a lodger became the householder. He was struck off the list as a lodger, on the ground that he had ceased to be a lodger, and his claim as a household-er was disallowed because he had not been long enough in occupation as a householder. Another very common case is that of the tenement occupier, whose landlord does him the honor of coming to live on the premises. By this move the landlord reduces all his tenants to the political status of lodgers and perhaps disqualifies them altogether since the lodger must pay a minimum rent of four shillings a week.

Some amusing cases are furnished by the attempts of eager politicians who have the misfortune to be lodgers to qualify for the franchise. It is no uncommon thing for such to voluntarily offer a higher rent so as to reach the minimum of four shillings. During the present revision some of the revising barristers have gone behind the rentbooks of the of the claimants and declared their lodgings not to be of the weekly value of four shillings. The most amusing instance is that of a curate whose lodging was held by his political opponents to be of less value than he declared. The barrister gave the reverend gentleman the benefit of the doubt, but made it a matter of conscience that the curate should not exercise the vote if, after "consideration and meditation," he felt that he was not morally entitled to it.—From the London Daily Mail.

**An Odd Number.**

The Golden Penny calls attention to the number 142,857, which is odd in more senses than one.

If we multiply it by any number, from one up to six, we arrive at products expressed by exactly the same figures as the original. Not only so, but with the exception that a different figure leads off each time, the order of the figures is the same.

142,857	multiplied by 1	is the same
142,857	" by 2	is 285,714
142,857	" by 3	is 428,571
142,857	" by 4	is 571,428
142,857	" by 5	is 714,285
142,857	" by 6	is 857,142

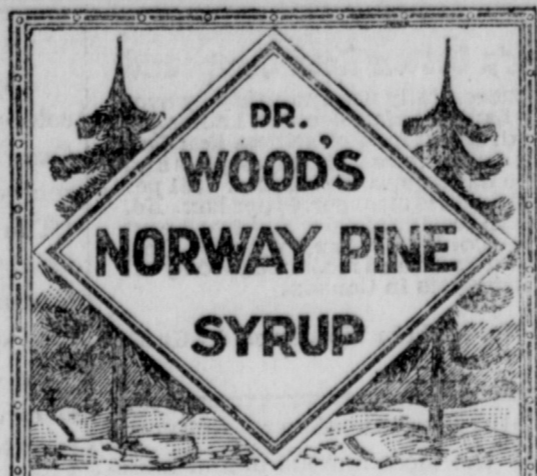
With this multiplying by six the strangeness stops, though the result of multiplying the number by seven leaves the rather odd number, 999,999

**For Pale and Emaciated Women.**

No known remedy has proved so efficient in building up the system, renewing the flow of pure blood toning up the appetite and giving strength and vigor where sickness and disease have gained a foot-hold, as Dr. Coe's New Blood Pills. The formula from which they are manufactured is by an eminent English physician. They cure. Price 50c per box and 50 doses in a box. Sold by all dealers.

**Even Savages Run.**

As is generally known, the Irish have their "poipes" as well as the Scots, but the "poipes" of Ireland are weak, squeaky things and the necessary wind is manufactured from bellows, instead of from the mouth as in the case of the grand Highland bagpipe. Though it may show bad taste the Irish patriotically consider their "poipes" the best, and the "last of the Irish pipers" Turlach M'Sweeney (whittoo) has just arrived in Scotland to show the natives what pipe music really is. Turlach is descended from the kings of Donegal, and speaks only "ta



Cures Coughs, Colds, Lung and Bronchial Affections that other remedies won't touch.

Mr. THOS. J. SMITH, Caledonia, Ont., writes: "A year ago I had a very severe cold which settled in my lungs and in my throat, so that I could scarcely speak louder than a whisper. I tried several medicines, but got no relief until I used one and a half bottles of Norway Pine Syrup, which completely cured me."  
25c. a bottle or five for \$1.00.

Gaelic." His opinions of Scottish bagpipes is not high—as emerged in a recent interview with him. "What do you think of the Highland pipes?" asked the interviewer, Foch!! said the ancient, superciliously, "only fit for a rush. Please nobody but Gordan Highlanders." "Been in evidence lately, nevertheless," suggested the interviewer. "Yes," admitted Mr. M'Sweeney; "but it's a bad thing to think that even savages run away from that noise?"

**A Pointer.**

Advertising is no longer an experiment, no longer an undeveloped theory, a notion in the abstract, a vague inviting land of promise. There is no danger of it turning out a will-o'-the-wisp venture to advertise; like electricity and many other powers and forces of which men forced to risk the danger of handling, advertising has become the mighty lever of successful trade and commerce.

Write to DR. ROBERTZ, he is

**THE DOCTOR WHO CURES**

weakness of men. Expert scientific treatment. Instructive book free. Address G. H. ROBERTZ, M. D., 252 Woodward Ave., Detroit, Mich.

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Order them now from the

**BRISTOL WOODWORKING FACTORY,**

MANUFACTURERS OF  
**DOORS, SASH MOULDINGS, HOUSE FINISH, SHEATHING ETC., STAIR WORK.**

Prices to suit the times.

Estimates given. Orders promptly executed.

Write or call.

**JOHN J. HAYWARD,**  
BRISTOL, N. B.

**FOR THE LADIES.**

We make to order all kinds of Ladies' Coats, Capes, Ulsters, Mackintoshes and Outside Wraps, in the Latest Styles, and Perfect Fit guaranteed.

We make to order Ladies' Gaiters of all kinds to match costume. Ladies can furnish own cloth if they wish. Give us a call and get prices

**Hanson & Grady**

Merchant Tailors,

HOULTON, MAINE.

**WE OFFER**

**Sled Shoe Steel, Bar Iron, Coal, Horse Shoes, Horse Nails, Etc.**

For the Blacksmith's Trade.

**Also, Thresher Teeth, Belting and other Repairs,**

For the Farmers' Trade.

**STOVES and a good stock of GENERAL HARDWARE for Everybody.**

Call in and see us.

**SHAW & DIBBLEE,**

HARTLAND.

**We Manufacture And Have For Sale**

**Threshing and Sawing Machines, Rotary Mills, Shingle Machines, And General Mill Work.**

**Also, Furnaces, Farmers' Boilers, Stoves of All Descriptions.**

**One and Two Horse Seeders, Turnip Drills, Pulpers,**

**Mowing and Reaping Machines, Spring Tooth Harrows,**

**And the Finest Kind of STEEL PLOWS**

in the market, consisting in part of the CELEBRATED No. 21, 30, 8 and 6. They are guaranteed not to be Chilled Plows, but Genuine Portable Steel Mouldboards, Hard Outside with Soft Centres.

Repairs for Frost & Wood's Machinery kept in stock.

**SMALL & FISHER CO. L'td.**

Woodstock, N. B.

**FALL OF 1898.**

**CHESTNUT & HIPWELL**

Again to the front with over 60 Pungs, well advanced, of the best stock, and up to date trimmings. Ask for comparison with any other builders in the province. Intending buyers are cordially invited to call and inspect.

Have on hand several second hand Carriages in good shape, for a small figure. Will sell at cost to make room. Bring in your Sleighs and Pungs and have them Repaired and Painted ready for the first snow.

**Cause Of Headaches.**

Too little blood in the brain is a frequent cause of headache, and may be recognized by the ache being on the top of the head, by constant dizziness or noises in the ears. The best cure is a slight stimulant, such as strong tea or coffee or hot soup—anything that will increase the circulation. People who suffer from these headaches should always sleep with their heads low.

**Telescoping The Meals.**

An old miser owning his farm found it impossible to do his work without assistance, and offered any man food for performing the labor. A half-starved man, hearing of the terms, readily accepted them.

Before going to the field in the morning he invited his servant to breakfast; after finishing the morning meal, the old skinflint thought it would be a saving of time if they should place the dinner upon the table after breakfast. This was readily agreed to by the unsatisfied stranger, and the dinner was soon dispatched.

Suppose now, said the frugal farmer, we take supper, it will save time and trouble you know.

Just as you like, said the eager eater, and at it they went.

Now we will go to work said the delighted employer.

Thank you, said the laborer politely, I never work after supper.

**Before. After Wood's Phosphodine.**  
The Great English Remedy Sold and recommended by all druggists in Canada. Only reliable medicine discovered. Six packages guaranteed to cure all forms of Sexual Weakness, all effects of abuse or excess, Mental Worry, Excessive use of Tobacco, Opium or Stimulants. Mailed on receipt of price, one package \$1, six, \$5. One will please, six will cure. Pamphlets free to any address. The Wood Company, Windsor Ont.

Es. Woods Phosphodine is sold in Woodstock by Garden Bros. Druggists.