

**THE WOODSTOCK DISPATCH.**

ISSUED WEDNESDAY

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Editors and Proprietors

WOODSTOCK, N. B., SEPT. 7, 1898.

**NEEDED—A MARKET.**

The farmer is rejoicing over large crops. In spite of the trying haying season, the weevil, the rust and so forth, the barns are full, and as a general thing the crops are harvested, or are being harvested in fair condition. There is lots to be sold, and the only puzzle is how and when to sell it. We have not yet lost all desire for the American market, and are hoping, against hope, that a measure of reciprocity may be arranged at Quebec, that will fill the heart of the farmer with joy.

Then again, we have the English market. A line of steamers run from St. John to Liverpool. A great quantity that the American farmers raise crosses the ocean and finds a market in the old land. The Ontario farmer, too, finds a market for his produce there, and why should not we, in this county? There are signs that our farmers are awakening to the fact that our own efforts depends the success of this business in the future.

It is said that of the great amount of produce that comes into Woodstock for sale or for shipment abroad, more than one half is in poor shape, that oats are poorly cleaned, that butter is away below the standard, while it is a notorious fact that first-class beef is not procurable, excepting in the most limited quantity. This kind of thing must cease, if we are going to court the English stomach.

This journal is of the opinion that any farmer who takes pains with his produce can find a ready sale for all that he has to dispose of. If his oats are good, and, farther, if they are thoroughly cleaned, if the same may be said of his beans, of his potatoes, of his hay, of his butter, and of his cattle and sheep, there is a market for him. Let the individual farmer make a name for his products, and the sale at a fair price is assured.

It would be surprising if among the thousands of agriculturists in this county, some were not poor farmers. We have tried to believe that any old thing can farm, but what a mistake we have made. There is no calling, today, that so much requires a good head, as well as strong arms. In fact, we think the farmer with the canny head is a good deal more likely to thrive than the farmer with the muscular arms, provided the combination is not available.

The county council will meet in January. Would it not be well for this representative body of men to further consider the question of aiding the enterprising farmers in securing access to the best markets? If our farmers flourish, too; if they run behind, we must all soon qualify for cells in the new gaol.

**A BOLT FROM THE BLUE.**

One never knows in which direction to look for a bolt of lightning. Thus a great surprise is likened to a bolt from a clear blue sky.

This year has been one of wars and rumors of wars. Prophets said that the United States and Spain would never really fight, but they did fight, and the loss of life if comparatively small, will be found to be large enough when it is all summed up.

This war being over, the excitement hunter casts his eyes in the direction of Russia. What a glorious thing it would be for the "Yaller Journal" if England and Russia were to lock horns. Lord Salisbury was accused of backing down, England was giving way. Russia was going to dominate Europe, and, generally, fearful things would follow. The mob at least was aroused. At a theatrical performance in this town, during the parading of the flags of all nations, the Russian flag was hissed beyond others. Probably those who hissed loudest could scarcely give a reason for their dislike, excepting that they had formed the impression that Russia and the Devil were about one and the same thing.

Just as the war heroes, who like to see others fight, while they stay at home and talk battle, had made up their minds that war between England and Russia was imminent, comes a bolt from the blue, in the czar's proposal for a conference of the powers to consider the question of disarmament.

Many say this is a deep plot on the part of Russia, but what right have we to say that the czar's intentions are wrong until experience teaches us. He cannot imagine that other nations will disarm and Russia increase its strength of war footing. He must know that any reduction would be on the proportionate plan. The fact is that a proposal in accordance with the dictates of Christianity and civilization alike, comes first from Russia, and to Russia and Russia's emperor belongs the credit.

"Blessed are the peace makers."

**What the War Will Have Cost the United States.**

The maintenance of garrisons in the indefinite future, after the conditions of peace have been permanently fixed, may not be chargeable directly as a part of the cost of the war, but will be one of its necessary consequences. It will be necessary to consider the probable amount of both actual war expenses and garrison expenses up to the close of the present fiscal year on June 30, 1890. It will then have been determined whether the Philippine Islands are to remain in the permanent possession of the United States and it will be time to charge garrison service in our new dependencies and the increase of the navy to the permanent cost of the new foreign policy which may then have been adapted. If the direct war expenditures were \$91,000,000 at the close of July and will be \$25,000,000 more at the close of August, it is probable that they will have increased by \$45,000,000 more during the two months of September and October. This will make the direct cost of the war—lasting for less than four months, but involving heavy expenditures for more than six months.—\$61,000,000.

The charges for garrison service for the eight months from the close of October to the close of June cannot yet be stated with precision, because the President has not yet determined how large a garrison will be required in any of the former Spanish colonies. It is a reasonable estimate, however, that 15,000 men at least will be required in each of the three leading colonies—perhaps a few less in the peaceful island of Porto Rico and a few more in Cuba or the Philippines. Nearly all of these forces will be in excess of the former strength of the regular army, which will be returned to its frontier and coast stations. A part of the service will be performed by the regular army because of the increase of its membership from 25,000 to 61,000 men, but the net increase of force above the old peace establishment will probably be 75,000 men and may be greater. The navy will also be considerably increased over the peace footing of over a year ago and will call for larger expenditures for officers, men, coal and incidental equipment. It is hardly probable that these expenses, including those for the civil government of the colonies, can be kept much within \$15,000,000 per month. For eight months this would add \$120,000,000 to the amount already charged to the direct cost of the war, and would make its incidental cost up to June 30, 1899, \$181,000,000. It may be cut a little below this, but in any case will hardly fall below \$250,000,000—From "Cost and Finances of the Spanish war," by Charles A. Conant, in the American Reviews of Reviews for September.

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**Daring Boy Voyagers of the Atlantic.**

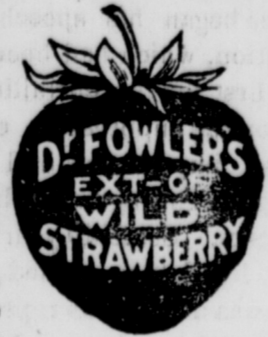
A two-thousand-mile journey, unaccompanied by a single friend or relative. That is what a boy only eight years old had to accomplish (says a writer in "Chums"). He was in New York and his mother was in Liverpool, and he had to cross the Atlantic alone that he might join her. Placed under the care of the matron and the stewards of the Campania, he set off on his long voyage, and quickly made so many friends that he must have enjoyed himself hugely. When he left the steamer—he was then dressed, by the way, in the attire of a Klondike miner—his pockets were overflowing with gifts from fellow-passengers who sympathized with him in his loneliness. And as he rejoined his mother, who was waiting for him, he probably wished that he was about to go through a similar experience again. This youthful voyager is by no means the only boy who has been taken charge of by the officials of American liners, as railway guards not infrequently take charge of children. Only a short time previously one or two very young passengers had made the journey across the Western Ocean in this way. A boy of ten, also, travelled from Canada to Liverpool some years ago absolutely unattended except by some stewards of the vessel which brought him to our shores. And a terrible time of it, in one sense, he had—a time such as happily falls to the lot of comparatively few trans-Atlantic voyagers. For three whole days heavy seas broke over the boat, and consequently he and the other passengers were cooped up below, doing nothing but eating and reading and sleeping. And if several boys have come to England from America without a companion, young or old, so have a few travelled in the contrary direction. A young Scandinavian was once missing from a party of emigrants who were sojourning in Liverpool for a few days, waiting for a boat to New York. High and low was he sought; but he could not be found, nor could any tidings of him be gleaned. In the end the nearly heart-broken parents had to sail for the New World without their son.

**Travellers**

Should always carry with them a bottle of Dr. Fowler's Extract of Wild Strawberry.

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Late on the following day the missing lad turned up. He had been found by the police somewhere beyond Ornskirk, having wandered thither in an inexplicable manner. So he was put in a party of his own countrymen and sent to America, where he once more became tied, let us hope, to his mother's apron strings. More recently a smart-looking lad of about fifteen presented himself at an office of one of the leading Trans-Atlantic steamship companies, and wished to book a passage to Boston. For a moment the clerk was decidedly taken aback. "Does your father know your are going to America?" he asked, eventually. "Certainly," replied the boy. In spite of this answer the official felt confident he had to deal with a runaway. The result was that before the lad left Liverpool a telegram was sent to his parents, and, much to the surprise of the police and others, a reply was received, to the effect that they knew of his whereabouts and approved of his intentions. The lad consequently set sail in due course.

"My grandfather," said the shoe clerk boarder, "once knew an old man who insisted that the ghosts came and milked his cows every night." "Sort of milkin' spectres, eh?" commented the Cheerful Idiot.

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