

SETTLED AT LAST.

The Gaol Comes to Woodstock by a Narrow Majority.

A special meeting of the County Council was held in the Court House, Upper Woodstock, on Friday, to decide the question of the location of a gaol, to take the place of that destroyed by fire on the 2nd inst.

The warden pointed out that the only question to be discussed and decided was the gaol question.

Coun. Gilmore would like to know from the committee something of the expense put on the old gaol. His people wanted to know this.

The warden thought this was out of order. He had no objection to the question.

Coun. Gilmore said that he was shut off. \$2,500 had been spent on the repairs and only \$2,000 insurance could be secured.

The building committee, Couns. Carvell, Balmain, and Saunders, were named a committee to arrange for a temporary gaol, on the advice of the attorney general.

Coun. Cluff moved the following resolution:—Whereas, The Municipality of Carleton has lost the gaol at Upper Woodstock by fire; and Whereas, it is in the interests of justice, peace, and good order, that we should have a suitable place to incarcerate prisoners at once,

Resolved, That we proceed to build a suitable building on the lot owned by the county in the town of Woodstock at once, costing—dollars.

Further Resolved, That the warden appoint a committee—with power to obtain plans, specifications, etc. and issue tenders and begin the work with the least possible delay.

This was seconded by Coun. Gilmore.

Coun. Saunders opposed the ruling of the chair that the motion was out of order.

Coun. Carvell said we were to decide on building a new gaol to take the place of the old one.

The warden withdrew his ruling.

Coun. Caldwell moved an amendment that the gaol be erected on the site of the old gaol.

Coun. Gilmore moved that Mr. George W. White of Centreville be heard.

Coun. Caldwell expressed his surprise that an outsider should be heard so early in the discussion.

Coun. Phillips (Peel) agreed with Coun. Caldwell. The council should deal with the matter first. We could not build a gaol in town without legislation. He was in favor of a gaol on the old site.

Coun. Caldwell again urged that an outsider should not be brought into open discussion.

Coun. Carvell—While Mr. White is a friend of mine, I think this discussion should be opened by a member of the council. The councillors are here to do this business. (hear, hear.)

Coun. Saunders thought it did not matter at what time Mr. White was heard. It was well to get all necessary information.

Coun. Tompkins did not object to Mr. White being called at the early stage of the discussion.

The motion was allowed to be on the table for half an hour.

Coun. Caldwell supporting his amendment, said:—We have a good court house. If we build a gaol, the buildings will be too far separated. It would follow we must soon build a court house. As the law stands I question whether we have any authority, and that that was why the injunction was granted. We must get special legislation I am told.

Coun. Phillips (Brighton)—In town we will have water and sewer tax (over \$4 a year). We have water here.

Coun. Speer—You had not enough of it. (Laughter.)

Coun. Gilmore thought the burning of the building was a blessing in disguise. We spent \$3,800 on repairs and only get \$2,000 insurance. Every year money has been spent on this gaol. If we build in the town we can get insurance for one half or less. This little town just escaped. He understood the people here wanted no more wooden gaols. If there had been prisoners upstairs every one would have been burned. The great traffic of prisoners was between the police magistrate's office and the gaol, and money would be saved if the building was in town. Issue debentures for \$10,000 and the people will hardly feel the tax.

Coun. Cheney said they had the gaol in Woodstock some time ago. An injunction could be put on if we undertook to put it

there. Judge Tuck had said they were right to repair the old gaol and that the place for it was here.

Coun. Saunders—Did you hear Judge Tuck say this?

Coun. Cheney—Yes, he said we should not erect a gaol in Woodstock, when we had this good court house.

Coun. Kearney said that numerous reasons were set forth why move the buildings to Woodstock. First it was for the people's sake, for humanity's sake, for the lawyer's sake and now it was for fire's sake. Next it would be for God's sake. If this building had been in Woodstock 25 years ago, how many times would it have been destroyed. What was the good of moving the gaol if the court house was here. He believed in a good brick gaol at Upper Woodstock. Town buildings would cost the people of the county \$60,000 at 5 per cent. \$3,000 a year for the people to pay. \$6,000 would put up a proper brick building. The people who sent me here want the building erected on the old site.

Coun. Saunders said we have no gaol. The county owns lots of land in town and here, and the question is where is the better place to build. We want an economical building, not one for \$60,000. You could hear anything. He heard that it was to be \$100,000. Now the contract price for the gaol in town was \$10,000. We might build a barn here and it would answer the purpose, but would it reflect credit on the county. The public buildings of a county are a good index of the people of the county. He believed here was not a proper place. You could not get insurance or fire protection and it did not accommodate the majority of the people of the county. He was backed up by good legal opinion that it was necessary to get legislation to put up the gaol at Upper Woodstock. He would favor Hartland before the old site. He had heard many people say if there were no gaol a new one should be built in town. As for the opinion of judges they differed. There were many reasons for building the gaol in town now, that did not before exist. You are not moving a gaol. You are going to build one, and you have sites in town and in Upper Woodstock. The county would have been in some \$8000 if the council had not rescinded the motion to build in Woodstock town.

Coun. Cheney—Does it not cost as much to take a prisoner from lock-up in the town Woodstock, as from the gaol?

Coun. Saunders—It does not.

Coun. Cheney—Perhaps you know it.

Coun. Atkinson—My people want to keep the gaol here.

A voice—There is no gaol here.

Coun. Bell (Richmond)—There is no gaol to fix up. Why cost any more to build a gaol down town than here? Councillors here talked as if it would cost more.

Coun. Phillips (Peel)—What are the taxes in Woodstock?

Coun. Saunders—I am in a position to say there would be no town tax.

The Clerk—I think you are exempted by law.

Coun. Phillips—That would make a difference. Would we have free electric light.

Coun. Bailey—You can use paraffine if you like as you would up here.

Coun. Phillips thought the people were against a gaol in town.

Coun. Caldwell wanted to know if there was any authority to build in town till we got legislation? The reason he asked was that it was said we might be met with an injunction.

A councillor—That is a bluff.

The secretary treasurer said that when the injunction was put on the town was restrained from building then on several different grounds. No decision was given except on few points, and the injunction was dissolved. He thought a gaol could be built anywhere in the parish of Woodstock under the legislation at present existing. It would be necessary simply to get the site approved of by the lieutenant governor in council meeting every month.

Coun. Carvell was opposed to building a new gaol in the town while the old one stood, but that if it were burned, he would go for a new one in town. Mr. Cheney, his colleague, the first few days after the gaol was burned, favored building it at the creek. He had talked to a good many people, and he only found one in his parish who was emphatically in favor of the old site. All the business men in Wilmot favored the town as a site.

There is a difference of opinion as to the kind of building, if erected here. Some want it of wood, some of brick. He never saw an old foundation of a burned building which would do for a new building.

Coun. Cheney—When I found how the building was burned, I said we might as well put it in town as the Woodstock fellows would have it anyway.

Mr. Samuel Jones was heard. To questioners he said the fire caught from a defective flue in the ell part. It was ten minutes before he got to the gaol and if there had been any prisoners up stairs they would then have been burned to death. He believed the flue burst, and was well advanced before it burst through the roof.

Mr. G. W. White was then heard. Since being in the county he had always believed that the buildings should be in town. Three gaols have been burned on this site. The question is, where shall we locate the gaol? When he was at the council he held it would have been more economical if we had built in town. The building we proposed to build two years ago was not to exceed \$10,000. As to the Houlton gaol, the population of Maine is three times that of New Brunswick, nevertheless the gaol only cost \$30,000. Now, for one third of that amount we should erect a suitable gaol. We had arranged to get the money at three per cent., that would mean \$300 a year. If it were 4 per cent. it would only mean \$400. The late Mr. Jones said he could get insurance in Woodstock for one per cent. while it would be four per cent. here. We cannot get fire protection for our building here. Why build, subject to the fiery element again. He had stated his case before electors of Wilmot, and he was nearly sustained last election that a new gaol should be built in town. Since then all had said, build in town of Woodstock. In Queens county the gaol and court house are a mile apart and there is no inconvenience. If an injunction had not been started in the

county, we would have had a new gaol in town. And we would have saved \$5,000. We have spent \$3,633.00. and we have a bonded debt of \$10,000. We might save the expense of carrying a prisoner from the police magistrate's office to the gaol.

A question—How much repairs has been put on the Houlton gaol?

Mr. White—Not a cent I am positively informed. In Houlton all the offices are in the same building, and I may say we are bound to have an office for our county officials. When we did work we should do it to last. I have to pay my share of taxes, but I believe in a building which will be a credit to the county. We all have business in town, and everyone who comes to court or council meetings has to pay a quarter every trip up and down, to the court house. Coun. Speer was in favor of building gaol in town before and he was more than ever in favor of it now.

Warden Cronkrite said that we have the offices for the officers to which Mr. White referred. As for the buildings in Houlton, the ground and buildings cost \$100,000.

Coun. Bailey—Did you count the ground in?

Coun. Cronkrite—the ground did not cost anything like the buildings. The cost of repairs each year was \$150. He said he felt much grieved over this question of the gaol. He had not seen a man but what had said "Put it where it was on the old foundation." The bonuses to woolen mills caused indebtedness.

Saunders—Did you not vote for bonus to Woolen Mills?

Cronkrite—I did not; I was not present. If both buildings were gone, he would vote for building in town. He would not advocate a brick building. The time would come when it would be below.

Coun. Saunders—I said Coun. Cronkrite voted for the bonus to the woolen mill.

Coun. Tompkins—Now we have no gaol, and I think the vote should be changed. I have never been sorry for the vote I cast that the gaol should be in town. Recent events have borne out the view I took. The information from the sec-treas. sets my mind at rest, and I think we can build at any place in the parish of Woodstock. This talk of the gaol costing from 50 to \$100,000 is only a joke.

Coun. Balmain thought if an unprejudiced view were taken of this matter, anyone must arrive at the conclusion that under all circumstances the town of Woodstock was the place for the gaol. In the town there would be almost absolute security for the gaol. It was true the town was a sufferer in the past, but since the waterworks system was put in, none better existing, only two buildings had been burned down. Supposing the county borrowed \$10,000 to put a proper gaol. There would be a tax of \$400 a year, that would be 20 cents a piece. It was said the town wanted everything. He did not think the town was so very anxious for the gaol, except that they wanted a building that would endure. It would be as convenient for the people from the county as the people from the town.

Coun. Gideon Phillips—For fifty years the old gaol stood. That before burned was set fire to by one of the prisoners, and it might be set fire to, in town.

Coun. Caldwell—This is a matter of importance, and I move that Mr. Vince who is present be heard in the matter.

Coun. Forrest seconded the motion.

Coun. Saunders moved in amendment that we have no legal advice.

Coun. Cluff seconded the amendment.

Coun. Forrest said they heard Mr. White.

Why not hear Mr. Vince?

Coun. Bailey—He did not give legal advice.

Coun. Saunders said they had no right to hear Col. Vince. We asked the opinion of the sec. treas. and got his advice. Col. Vince was one of the lawyers. He was not appointed by the committee of the council. It is not fair to hear one side and not the other. Mr. White came as a citizen, but lawyers differ, each one will be just as honest, and when they are paid for it, they make the most of their case.

Coun. Atkinson wanted to hear Mr. Vince.

Coun. Caldwell—This is the first time any man was objected to, and it comes with ill grace from those who supported Geo. White of Centreville. He would like to hear Mr. Vince and also the other lawyers.

Coun. Saunders—Who pays Mr. Vince for his advice?

Coun. Caldwell—He came here by my invitation.

Coun. Saunders—Will you include the name of Mr. A. B. Connell?

Coun. Caldwell—I do not object to Mr. Connell, but I will not change my resolution.

Coun. Bailey—In regard to hearing Col. Vince I am opposed to it. I was opposed to hearing Mr. White. He came not in an official capacity. I don't see why we want any advice from Mr. Vince. If he is heard we will have to hear the other side, and we can get along without it. Any lawyer will give you the advice you pay for. Did you ever realize that?

Coun. Gilmore—Maj. Vince told me Mr. Connell was the best authoritative lawyer in this county.

Coun. Forrest said Coun. Saunders kicks against hearing Mr. Vince, and he was sure that the advice would not agree with what Coun. Saunders wanted.

Coun. Saunders had asked if it was an official act of the council to send for Mr. Vince and he had a right to ask that Col. Vince was employed on our side, he thought it was unfair to ask for his legal opinion, in face of all advice given by the secretary-treasurer. He did not import Mr. White and did not know he was here. There were always two sides to a legal question.

AFTER DINNER.

The question of Coun. Saunders' amendment to the motion that Mr. Vince be heard was taken up.

Coun. Carvell said we had the advice of the legal advisor of the council. If Mr. Vince was heard, the other side by Mr. Connell, would have to be heard. He believed every member had his mind made up.

Coun. Gilmore said he remembered that Mr. Connell had said the court could issue

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