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Policy Reserves	628,429	5,255,077
Assets	821,320	6,112,344
Income	296,468	1,656,107
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The St. John Presbytery Meets in Woodstock.

On Friday evening a number of the members of the St. John Presbytery met in conference with the elders and trustees of St. Paul's church. The Rev. Gordon Dickie, of St. Stephen gave an admirable address on "the Presbyterian Ideal."

Mr. Dickie said in part:—As a rule we can learn as much from looking at the negative as the positive of truth. The Apostle Paul for example in his classic definition of charity tell us it never fails, it boasteth not itself and is not easily provoked. That is to say he enlightens us rather by showing what charity is not than what it is. And so also in describing the Christian Ideal of the Colossian church, he goes upon the same principle. "Avoid philosophy and vain deceit the tradition of men and seek Christ, he tells them, and the advice is one that we do well to keep in mind to today if we would attain a true Christian ideal."

First, then, we must avoid learning. Today we hear a great deal about learning. People boast of the culture of their ministers and the intelligence of the pew. But these things in themselves are not sufficient. Very often the churches where they are most in evidence are dead. They do not truly satisfy the thirsting of the soul, and no one can say consistently that they are the true basis of worship.

Of course this does not mean that we should avoid learning—far from it. If it is of the proper type we cannot have too much of it. But we must always remember that first things come first. That which is secondary cannot take the place of the primary either here or hereafter. Just think for a moment what must be the logical outcome for religion based only upon the intellect. Take it for example in connection with denominational life. We have different sects and denominations and their ideas about religion all vary. The Baptists view is not the Presbyterian nor the Presbyterian the Episcopalian, yet we all profess to be working for the upbuilding of the kingdom of God. How is this? Can we be sincere if our ideas and ideals are different. We maintain we can; and the reason we do so is because our religion is based not upon learning but rather on grace. We can afford to suffer in our conceptions of religion if only we are persuaded we have the spirit of God within us. This is our common ground, our foundation for common work and worship. Therefore we maintain that Paul was right when he told his followers that if they would know the true ideal of religion they must avoid learning.

Again he says avoid tradition, and this you will see is harder for the natural inclination of the mind is toward tradition. If you wish to introduce something new it takes effect to convince people that you are right but if you are following tradition you need only appeal to the sentiment of your hearers and they will follow you. A new opinion is very much like new wine. When a man has had a trial of it, he only shakes his head and sorrowfully says "the old is better."

Tradition is a very good thing but some times it leads us too far. It is only fitting that we should follow tradition when it is right and let me tell you tradition is only right where it is helpful. A great many years ago there was a tradition to the effect that a man could own another body and soul but that was wrong. In the old feudal days the serfs on an estate were as much a part of the lord's personal property as the acres of land which they cultivated. They were at their lord's beck and call and dare not call their soul their own. But that tradition is gone and we thank God for it. We have dug its grave and raised its tombstone and let us hope it has been forever. But another has arisen to take its place and it is more dangerous still. That is to the effect that if a man cannot control the body far less can he control his mind. Politically speaking we see it when one man gives another money for his vote. Theologically speaking we see it when one man says to another "Believe as I do or be condemned. You may not have any independence of thought, or freedom of opinion in religion. You must make tradition of the fathers the final seat of religion." Our ideal lies then in avoiding these things. Let others take philosophy or tradition if they choose; but as for us we will with our whole soul, heart and strength serve the Lord."

At the close of the service the Rev. A. H. Foster conducted an important conference with the elders and trustees of the church in regard to the working of the church. Other members of Presbytery present were the Rev'ds. Mr. Anderson, moderator, who presided; J. J. McCaskill, of Fort Kent, Mr. Polley, McKenzie Corner, and Mr. Fowler, of Kirkland.

Masonic News.

At the annual meeting of Woodstock Lodge Free and Accepted Mason, last Thursday evening, the following officers were re-elected, George W. W. Gibson, Worshipful Master; Williamson Fisher, Treasurer and Emerson Hagerman Tyler.

At the annual meeting of Benjamin Lodge, Andover, held on Tuesday evening of last week, M. S. Sutton was elected worshipful master for his third consecutive term, George Bedell was elected treasurer.

Do not miss seeing the Mother Goose Drill and Medley in which everyone represents a character of the Mother Goose Nursery Rhymes to be given in the concert at the opera House Tuesday evening Dec. 19th. Concert begins at sharp 8 o'clock. Admission 25 cts.

The C. P. R. vs. Connell.

THE DISPATCH feeling an interest in the matter of the Canadian Pacific Railway Company versus H. A. Connell, interviewed his counsel Mr. J. C. Hartley, with reference to the last application of the Canadian Pacific Railway in this connection, with the following result:—Mr. Hartley was asked as to what took place at the hearing at the last application for injunction, and in reply stated:

"We appeared before Chief Justice Tuck to oppose the granting of an Injunction. The Canadian Pacific Railway Company had filed a Bill praying for an injunction to restrain Henry A. Connell from excavating around the pier of Company's bridge at Woodstock and since notice of motion for said injunction was served Mr. Connell has not excavated upon the said land at all. I told the solicitors of the Plaintiff Company that I would do anything I could so that the suit could be brought to a hearing at as early a date in the summer as possible. The Notice of motion for Injunction in the first instance under the Bill in the suit was served on the tenth of June last, but the summons in the said suit was not served until the twenty sixth day of July last, and I duly appeared on the fourteenth day of August last, but the Bill and interrogatories were not served upon me until the thirty first day of August last, and the suit could have been heard long before the frost could in any way effects the Company's pier in Mr. Connell's Mill pond, but the solicitors of the Plaintiff Company did not see fit to bring the suit to a hearing, but delayed the matter and delayed in serving their bill and interrogatories until very late, and the suit has not been heard, nor has any attempt been made on the part of the Company to have the suit brought to a hearing although it might have been tried and determined long ago."

The notice for the second injunction which was not prayed for in the bill in the suit was served upon me on the twenty fourth day of November last and the matter came up for argument on the second day of December instant. I submitted to His Honor the Chief Justice that the Company's Engineer at Woodstock of the Plaintiff Company had in his affidavit set forth that the said pier was built under his direction and supervision, that a sufficient and proper foundation was obtained for the said pier, and that the said pier when and as completed was a proper and sufficient pier to protect the said bridge and in its then condition would not be affected or damaged by any natural causes; and the engineer also set forth, that where Mr. Connell had stated in his affidavit that the pier was improperly built and had not a proper foundation, he had stated what was untrue, for the pier was not resting wholly on slabs, refuse and other materials of that description, but that the foundation of the said pier (which the engineer had had erected under his supervision) rested on the original beach gravel. When I called His Honor's attention to these facts, his Honor stated "But, Mr. Hartley you know, and I know that such is not the case and I had an engineer inspect the said pier and the same is not resting upon the original beach gravel." I then called his Honor's attention to the fact that in an application of this kind the affidavits made by the Plaintiff Company should be taken as the facts so far as they were concerned, and their right to an injunction should be governed by the facts set up in the affidavits. His Honor, however, stated that it was only in the interest of the public that he interfered, as, that if a train should go through the bridge by reason of the improper erection of the said pier, he would feel that he was blamable for not granting the injunction.

I may say that the reason why an injunction was granted was I believe wholly due to the fact that the Canadian Pacific Railway had improperly erected and constructed the pier in Mr. Connell's mill pond, and the public were interested in the safety of the bridge. The Canadian Pacific Railway Company were granted an injunction to restrain Mr. Connell from interfering with the company when entering upon Mr. Connell's land for the purpose of occupying and using a portion of it so as to overcome and remedy the mistakes and errors made by their engineers in the construction of the pier which had been constructed upon slabs, edgings and refuse, and not upon a foundation sufficient to support the said pier and said bridge. The other piers of said bridge are resting upon the original beach gravel and have been there for a good many years, and have not and do not require any protection of any kind from the frost, or from ice or logs, as they have stood there for several years without any damage being done to them, and they are subject to conditions which are worse and more trying upon the said piers than any conditions that possibly could effect the pier in Mr. Connell's mill pond. I am of the opinion that if the company had built their pier properly in the first place the removal of the slabs, edgings and refuse, which had drifted into Mr. Connell's mill pond and had formed around the base of said pier, would not in any way have effected the said pier, as it seems to me, although I am not an engineer, to be absolute nonsense to say that masonry needs the protection of any such materials. It seems to me a most peculiar thing that a company such as the Canadian Pacific Railway Company, should erect under a bridge upon their main line, over which an enormous traffic is carried, a pier upon a foundation such as the foundation of this pier, and that their officials and engineers should be willing to make affidavits setting forth that this pier was built upon the original beach gravel, which would be a good foundation, and then that their counsel should have to come in Court and ask for an injunction to restrain Mr. Connell from protecting his land, and the

only ground upon which they could obtain an injunction at all was that these engineers had not stated the truth in their affidavits. If this had been a matter between private individuals, no injunction would have been granted in my judgment, but, because the public were interested in the matter, and might possibly suffer, His Honor, the Chief Justice, granted the said injunction. It almost seems like the plaintiff company, taking advantage of their wrong, because the public happen to have an interest in the running of their trains. Of course His Honor would not grant the injunction except the company would undertake to remove the obstructions from the said mill pond, in the event of their not succeeding in the said suit. These obstructions are very serious to Mr. Connell, whose mill pond is only about fifty feet wide, and they occupy a space thirty feet square, leaving only about twenty-six feet between the obstructions and the slip of his mill and about twenty feet on the north side between the said obstructions and the north side of his mill pond.

The Suburban Train.

Last Friday afternoon a delegation from the board of trade composed of Mr. Sheasgreen, President, and Messrs J. T. Allen Dibblee and William Balmain waited on Mr. D. W. Newcombe, Superintendent of this division of the C. P. Ry., and asked him to run a local train from some station well up the line to reach Woodstock about 9 a. m., and leave about 3 p. m. touching at all stations along the line. Customers, who have been in the habit of doing business in Woodstock and many commercial travellers who had been in the habit of patronizing the Plaster Rock train are lost without it, and the business interests of Woodstock have suffered greatly since it was discontinued. In the interest of all concerned the delegation strongly urged the running of such a local train.

Mr. Newcombe promised to bring the matter to the attention of the other officials of the road.

Mr. Sheasgreen received a letter from Supt. Newcombe stating that from Monday, December 18th, to Saturday, December 23rd, inclusive, a mixed train will be run from Perth to Woodstock each day. The train will leave Perth at 7.20 a. m. and arrive at Woodstock at 10.40. Returning will leave Woodstock at 3.05 p. m. and arrive in Perth at 6.00 p. m., touching at all stations between these two points.

Educational Matters.

At a meeting of the provincial board of education held in Fredericton last week the following teachers were granted certificates of qualification for school garden work, on recommendation of Prof. John Britton:—Isaac Draper, R. E. Estabrooks, Woodstock; H. F. Perkins, Hartland; G. J. McAdam, Andover; G. J. Trueman, Riverside.

A letter was read from Dr. D. W. Ross of Florenceville, stating that of twenty-five students from Carleton county in attendance at the Normal School, five had already been attacked with typhoid fever. He called upon the Board of Education to either provide better sanitary conditions or remove the Normal School from Fredericton. Dr. Inch was authorized to inform Dr. Ross that the city council had taken action in regard to providing sewerage.

Christopher Manzer.

The death occurred at Nashwaak village Wednesday of Christopher Manzer, a respected resident of that place. Deceased, who was 72 years old, had been ill for three months with heart trouble.

The late Mr. Manzer is survived by a sorrowing widow and two sons, Leith of Maple Creek, Alberta, and Charles, of Somerville, Mass. B. B. Manzer, dry goods merchant of Woodstock, is a brother of the deceased.

The funeral took place on Friday at one o'clock with services at the Baptist church, of which the deceased was a deacon, conducted by Rev. C. W. Sable.

A Citizen's Ticket.

We have had too many town councils composed of men whose chief qualifications for office was a desire to run. We should have in this election a citizens' ticket composed of men spontaneously nominated by a large number of manufacturers, merchants and other business men. A ticket nominated by the board of trade might be well received. It does no good to wait until the annual town meeting to nominate such a ticket, for by that time the field is in the possession of self nominated men. It is rather that way already, even at this early day. However it may not be too late yet for us to have a citizens' ticket.

Frederick Thomas was fined at Caerphilly, near Cardiff, for endangering the lives of his fellow-workmen by going to sleep in the pit of the Windsor colliery with a lighted lamp in his possession.

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