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# The Carleton Sentinel.

VOL 67. No 3

WOODSTOCK, N. B. FRIDAY, JANUARY 15, 1915

WHOLE No 3425

## Black Front Jewelry Store



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## THE COUNCIL OF 1914 HAS FINISHED ITS LABORS

**Big Crowd and Breezy Discussion of Town Affairs—Statement that Big Fisher Estate has not Paid Taxes Causes Some Pointed Remarks—Writs Issued for Collection in Other Cases—Town Manager Plan is Outlined—Claimed it will Curb Municipal Extravagance—Promise of Better Days to Come if Scheme is Adopted.**

The town meeting Monday night did not show in any way the decay of public spirit that we hear so much about in reference to town affairs. The council chamber was packed and the oratorical efforts were of a nature that kept the ratepayers in an almost frenzied state of excitement. While the discussion of the many subjects abounded in contradictions certain truths were exposed that should be considered seriously. If there is any decline of interest in public affairs it was revived at least long enough to hear sound remedies suggested that should work for better conditions.

That "variety is the spice of life" was aptly illustrated in the encounters that took place at all stages of the meeting. At times the sizzling rhetoric of some of the warriors was full of bright red spots that would qualify them for a position on the firing line in Alsace. The cross-firing indicated the deeply beloved and deeply respected feeling that existed in the good old town of Woodstock. All this was quite outside the members of the retiring council. The chairman of each committee presented his report and wore an air of deepest relief that the worries of the year were over. It would take gallons of ink, spread over reams of paper, to give a detailed account of all that transpired during the evening, but it seemed to be well understood that the passage of well considered legis-

lation was imperative.

Mr. H. D. Stevens was elected chairman and held the meeting well in hand in spite of the belligerent attitude of some of the speakers.

J. A. Lindsay, chairman of the finance committee, in presenting his report said he did not approve of this plan of doing business, but rather favored the councillors making an estimate of appropriations needed and then calling a meeting to consider them. Fixed charges the council had no control over. It was difficult to collect taxes, but the plan adopted this year had produced good results. He then read a statement which appears in another column. Referring to the fire department Councillor Lindsay said it was in good condition. \$3300 had been appropriated and had not all been spent. The department was one of the best in the Maritime provinces.

Coun. Gallagher presented the report of the street department, showing material enough on hand to offset the over expenditure of \$679.89.

Coun. Dibblee reported for sewer department and had kept within his appropriation. He announced that he would not again offer for the council. He was grateful for kindness extended him at all times and would continue to take an interest in all matters pertaining to the town's welfare.

Coun. Burden in the poor department had a surplus of about \$300.

The farm was in splendid condition with a large amount of produce on hand. To Mr. and Mrs. Adams a large share of the credit was due for existing satisfactory conditions. Coun. Burden said he had been unjustly criticised by persons who thought he was again aspiring to a seat at the Board. He could tell them that he would not seek reelection. One citizen was especially pointed in his remarks but the condition in his department was sufficient answer to this gentleman and others who have been so busy circulating false reports.

Coun. Flemming reported an over-expenditure in the Light and Police department of \$90.00 with a surplus of \$85.50 in the Scott Act fund.

Coun. A. E. Jones had \$1000 to the good in the water department in spite of extra expense in putting water to the Valley Railway with whom a contract of 10 years had been made. In regard to the water which has been reported bad, the council had taken action, although for business reasons, a great big spread had not been made. A well had been dug and a good flow secured. An expert would be here to look the situation over.

Mayor Jones congratulated the citizens on the interest manifested as shown by the large attendance. "It is," said his Worship, gratifying to the officials to see so much interest. I have served two years as councillor and two as Mayor and it is now time to retire. The meetings during the year were pleasant and whatever view the citizens may take I am satisfied that every man at the Board was actuated by a desire to do his full duty by the town. If the town owes apparently \$176,000 let it be understood that this is represented in property. The water works cost \$80,000 and about \$32,000 was incurred in the Broadway school. Bonds were issued in some cases to encourage industries which perhaps the town never got. The town's debt was not increased the past year and the new council should not do so owing to the hard times. We stopped work on the streets. All will agree that the streets are in good condition. Every citizen has a complaint about assessment, either their own or somebody else's. We know the rich man does not pay enough taxes—every man should be taxed according to his means.

It is a difficult question and the assessors should not be blamed. You will always have the question with you. The officials of the town are not perfect but they are pretty good men. Man is only human after all. I will hold up both hands for a town manager if you get the right man. He will make mistakes unless a scientific expert and he will then make mistakes. I am willing to discuss the question and study it. We need help. Let me say in conclusion that I appreciate the honor done me by the citizens in electing me by acclamation as chief officer for past two years.

The chairman announced that there was an opportunity to ask questions.

J. S. Leighton—"We don't know what the bank deficit is. We don't know what the fixed charges are. The ratepayers would like to know these things. I don't feel like offering for the council unless this statement is furnished."

Coun. Lindsay—"The bank deficit Dec. 31st was \$8,204. The town's debt is \$15,300. One large estate has not yet paid their taxes."

J. S. Leighton—"Who is this estate? Don't beat around the bush—tell us who it is."

Coun. Lindsay—"It is the Fisher estate."

J. S. Leighton—"Why was not a writ issued same as on other people? Treat all alike."

Coun. Dibblee—"The Fisher estate is not trying to evade their taxes. They think they are entitled to a reduction."

J. S. Leighton—"Don't get away from the fact that this estate should pay their taxes."

Coun. Lindsay—"The Fisher estate were rated \$300,000 last year and paid at that valuation. Mr. Connell this year thought it too high and made an affidavit which the principal assessor would not accept. The town solicitor said it should be taken by the assessors. The committee were not satisfied with this and left the matter to Mr. Carvell who will give an opinion in a few days. Other arrears of taxes are in process of collection. The law moves slowly."

Thos. Noddin—"Naturally, why did you not collect all the taxes? I am 50 years old and never owed a man a dollar but what he could get at my office. And, so forth in here, I waited until five hundred names were published in the newspapers—it naturally took them all. I got a letter from the King, Chip Hartley and Judge Carleton and paid \$18.50 more, why not?"

If you lose democracy you got no town. "Now on here" we have to pay another year. Why not make others pay? 1913 is not sued.

Coun. Lindsay—"It's all very fine for Mr. Noddin to come here and make an ass of himself."

Mr. Noddin—"What are you talking about? I want you to understand I am a man of ability."

Coun. Lindsay—"No one thinks so but yourself."

Mr. Noddin—"On here," I defy you to say I was ever sued. You sued a few for taxes, and so forth in here, scratch your head—every one knows what's in it.

Chairman—"You must use gentlemanly language in your discussions."

Mr. Noddin—"I suppose I can use councillor language."

Coun. Flemming—"Why didn't Mr. Leighton sue taxes of 1912?"

Coun. Lindsay—"There are several writs now in the hands of the sheriff and it is impossible to get them executed. This doing town business is a serious matter and should not be fun."

At this stage of the proceedings the question of Town Management was taken up, but there seemed to be a strong desire to get away from the subject and this important matter was not discussed on its merits.

Mr. E. W. Mair briefly explained the system of town management and said the whole principle was to conduct the town affairs as a man would his own business. A town manager would have entire charge of all monies spent and the council would be an advisory board. The financial affairs would be handled by the council. The man engaged would have knowledge of civil engineering. There is only \$200,000 to spend and the balance is made up

of fixed charges. Councillors should not be criticised for what they don't do—they cannot afford the time. A town manager would devote his entire time and have absolute charge of every cent spent. "It is," said Mr. Mair, "a most business like proposition."

Mr. Leighton—"What will be the additional cost over what we are now paying?" No man can be hired to satisfy the different cliques in this town. Eliminate political differences and the business will be done properly.

Mr. Mair—"There is no fault with the officials. Taxes are increasing and we are not getting results. The appointment of a town manager is a case of decreasing and not increasing expenditure. We have not the time to devote to town affairs. No business could survive the way the town business is done."

Coun. Jones—"Mr. Mair says the council is wasting money. Mr. Leighton says the money is wasted. I challenge them to show where any money is wasted in the water department."

Mr. E. W. Jarvis—"This matter is of considerable importance to the town of Woodstock. Let me say no man has a right to slur your councillors, they assumed the work, did it as best they could. Our present system is not working properly. What opportunity have your councillors for studying different branches? Take the financial report which shows a surplus of \$600. How do you expect a man who has no financial experience to make a proper statement. It is your fault for asking a man who has no knowledge of finances to act. You have no idea of what you are paying. You are paying five cents out of every dollar collected this year for taxes uncollected. It is the duty of every man to see that the business is done properly. I am speaking now of the whole system. Take the matter of water—you have a hole dug in the golf links. It is absolutely impossible to find enough water there to supply the town of Woodstock and any engineer will tell you so. You need a town manager. Men are educated specially to do this work. If you have any interests in the town you will realize the situation. It is everything to the citizens. The scheme has been tried and found successful. If a man, engaged, is not satisfactory turn him out. You can get a good man and he will report to the Board every month just what is going on. The town is one to be proud of and you have been exceptionally fortunate in your town governments. Evils, such as this town suffers, have been corrected by a town manager."

Mr. Leighton—"We want to know what this town manager costs. It is not the manager that knows it all, it is his foreman of each department." Give us the cost of this new scheme. It's up to you people who propose to tell us the cost. If you send men to the council who haven't an axe to grind you will get your business done properly.

Mr. Jarvis—"The salary will be on a scale of \$1000 a year. It will be less what we can save the town."

Coun. Jones—"It is unfair to ask any council to collect taxes. If you get a town manager let him specialize in taxes. Mr. Jarvis criticised the well at the golf links—Mr. Jarvis knows the banking business but has little knowledge of wells. I will take the judgment of Mr. P. Gorey ('the country well digger') who has worked his whole life at the business."

Mr. A. D. Holyoke—"Mr. Mair worked diligently at the town management plan for three months and got a lot of valuable information. Why was Mr. Leighton not posted? It is a simple proposition to work out. You can get an efficient man for \$1800 a year. Every man sitting at the Board is subject to influences. All we ask is that the citizens give the matter fair consideration. If it doesn't promote the interests of the town we don't want it."

Mr. Jas. McManus suggested that each councillor be paid a salary and they would take more interest.

Coun. Dibblee—"We have too much politics in this town and we must get rid of it. The Board of Trade has been called a tory caucus—it is not and has done good work."

HON. JOHN MORRISSEY DEMANDS INVESTIGATION OF HIS DEPARTMENT

Row on and Interesting Disclosures are Expected.

Fredericton, Jan. 12th.—The demand of Hon. John Morrissey, minister of public works, for an investigation into the conduct of affairs in his department of the provincial administration has come as a surprise to many. Interesting letters by Hon. Mr. Morrissey and by H. M. Blairi secretary of public works, in connection with the demand for the investigation, were given to the Fredericton press for publication but did not appear today in the organ of the provincial government. This fact has caused much comment. The trouble within the provincial government party which has centered about the fact that Hon. Mr. Morrissey is a member of the executive is now expected to come to a head, the element opposed to him being compelled to come out in the open. Interesting disclosures are expected.

County Court met Tuesday, Judge Carleton presiding. J. R. Brown was elected foreman of the grand jury. There was one criminal case, that of a Hartland man, accused of theft. This will probably go over until next court owing to the illness of a witness. The grand jury brought in a true bill. The following cases were entered.

Bradley Fertilizer Co. vs. Roderick Neil; L. E. Young for plaintiff, and F. B. Carvell, K. C., for defendant.

Nelson P. Grant vs. James C. Doherty; Jones & Jones for plaintiff and J. C. Hartley for defendant.

Wooster B. Cronkhitte vs. James W. Turney; C. C. Hartley for plaintiff, Jones & Jones for defendant.

Benn & Turney vs. Chesley Estey; Jones & Jones for plaintiff, and J. C. Hartley for defendant.

In the case of Grant vs. Doherty the jury found a verdict for the plaintiff for full amount claimed.

The cases of Cronkhitte vs. Turney, and Benn & Turney vs. Estey will be postponed until next court.

Statement of receipts and expenditures of the Town of Woodstock, for twelve months ending Dec. 31, 1914:

To paid Assessors .....	\$250 00
" County Assessment .....	2838 16
" Fire Dept. ....	2094 64
" Poor Dept. ....	1888 60
" Interest (coupon) .....	5778 56
" Sewers Dept. ....	739 08
" Police Dept. ....	1591 41
" Town Team .....	1115 34
" Miscellaneous .....	2159 32
" Town Hall .....	357 43
" Water Dept. ....	6823 77
" Electric Light .....	2197 35
" Printing .....	93 50
" Public Health .....	213 23
" Schools .....	8000 00
" Sinking Fund .....	475 00
" Salaries .....	662 50
" Can. Tem. Act .....	577 50
" Insurance .....	15 00
" Street Dept. ....	5679 69
" Wood .....	482 84
" Library .....	400 00
.....	\$44492 86

By Cash Poor Dept. ....

" Sewer Rates .....

" Water Rates .....

" Scales .....

" Can. Tem. Act .....

" Licenses .....

" Rent .....

" Taxes '14 .....

" Taxes '13 .....

" Taxes '12 .....

" Sale Wood .....

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" Miscellaneous .....	2159 32
" Town Hall .....	357 43
" Water Dept. ....	6823 77
" Electric Light .....	2197 35
" Printing .....	93 50
" Public Health .....	213 23
" Schools .....	8000 00
" Sinking Fund .....	475 00
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" Taxes '12 .....

" Sale Wood .....

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CARD

To the Electors of Carleton Co. Gentlemen:

I thank you for the support you gave me on Jan. 7th., although I was unsuccessful. Not a dollar was improperly spent and I was able to carry several polls and made substantial gains in others. It is most gratifying that in my native parish the former majority of the government party was reduced more than one-half and in Simonds the other parish in which I have resided, reversed the majority in my favor.

The circumstances of the campaign are known to you, I need not refer again to the unfair canvasses made against me, and the resources that were called up to aid my opponent. I congratulate Mr. Smith in his reelection and hope that he may be true to his trust and that the country at large may be benefited.

I am not the least sorry that I opposed the state of affairs in public matters in the county and province, and shall continue the fight whether at the front or in the ranks until wrong is worsted and right triumphs.

Yours Sincerely,  
ROBERT L. SIMMS.

There is a fair promise in the recent meeting of the citizens of the town who are anxious to see the affairs of Woodstock conducted in a business-like way; fair promise of better days to come which are bound to result from the adoption of pure business principals for the haphazard methods that are sure to come out of political influences in the shaping of public policies. But up to this stage there is nothing but the promise.

The Dominion Government is confronted with a serious financial problem. The revenue of Canada has fallen off during 1914 nearly Forty-five Million Dollars, while the expenditure during the same period has been increased by over Fifteen Millions, and over Seventy-three Millions have been added to the national debt which now stands at \$376,744,164.

Governor Wood met the executive of the Patriotic Fund Thursday morning at the court house and several matters in connection with the fund were discussed.

His Honor informed the executive that the provincial association was no longer in existence. It was suggested that the different centres control the disposition of the fund in the several counties.

St. Stephen to cover Charlotte Moncton Westmorland York and Sunbury Bathurst Gloucester Restigouche St. John City, County and Queens Woodstock Carleton, Victoria and Madawaska

The matter will be discussed further at the evening session.

A Sacred Concert in aid of the Patriotic Fund will be given Sunday evening in the Methodist church by the Woodstock Choral Society.

THE PATRIOTIC FUND

THE NEW COUNCIL

The following nominations were received by the town clerk yesterday: Mayor—W. S. SUTTON.

Councillors—J. S. LEIGHTON, Jr. THOMAS NODDIN JOSEPH FEWER WALLACE SMITH LOUIS YOUNG HERBERT FLEMMING

No others being nominated they were elected by acclamation. Flemming is the only member of last year's board.

Stand pipe debt., 4 p.c. 9,000 Sewerage Debtenture 4 p.c. 22,200 Woodstock Bonus debt. (sinking Fund) 4 p.c. 5,000 Permanent Improvement debt. 4 p.c. 5,000 Per. Street Debt., 4 p.c. 10,000 School debt., 4 p.c. 32,000

\$176,900