

A Message From Home

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The Carleton Sentinel

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WOODSTOCK, N. B., FRIDAY, JANUARY 12, 1923

WHOLE No. 3837

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WALLACE REID in

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"WHITE EAGLE"

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RUDOLPH VALENTINO in

"The Young Rajah"



Wallace Reid in the
Paramount Picture
"The Dictator"

WOODSTOCK CLOSES YEAR WITH SURPLUS OF \$5,717.41

Largely Attended Meeting Listens to Manager Armstrong's Excellent Report---Bank of Nova Scotia Taxes Not Included---Refuse to Pay and Case Goes to Court---Town's Admirable Condition Convincing Proof of Manager Plan of Doing Business---Candidates for Mayor and Council in Brief Addresses---The New Manager

The public meeting on Monday night, was one of the largest held here for several years. The attendance would go to show the deep interest the citizens are taking in town affairs under the present plan of town government. To those who have not attended the meetings for some years it was a revelation when the concise and detailed report of the administration of town affairs was presented. It recalled, in sharp contrast, the days when haphazard, 'go as you please' conditions existed and when deficits were part of the regular routine and ranged from \$5,000 to \$12,500.

The town of Woodstock can take pardonable pride in the condition which the report of Manager Armstrong revealed. It can be summed up in a few words: ALL DEBTS PAID AND A SURPLUS OF \$5,717.41 IN CASH IN THE BANK.

Command or Criticize
Mr. George Balmann, was chosen chairman and briefly outlined the object of the meeting at which the members of the council would give an account of their stewardship, and, said the chairman--"Gentlemen, this is your meeting at which you can command or criticize."

Report Received
Manager R. F. Armstrong read his report and answered all questions asked him and on motion the report was unanimously received. (In our next issue, the report will be published in full.) If there were any objections to the manager plan they were not in sight.

Surplus vs Deficit
Mr. Thomas Nodden objected to a surplus and by a unique and mystifying process of calculation avowed that a "surplus was a deficit." The comedy features were somewhat amusing. Mr. George Flemming regretted that the town was going back being unable to produce men competent to be town managers. He asked a number of questions and was particularly concerned with the housing plan. Mr. Armstrong supplied all the information and Mr. Flemming was apparently satisfied. In dealing with the report Mr. A. G. Bailey asked if it had been audited. He also said that the permanent sidewalk in front of his store was an expensive job. He could not see the necessity of an engineer for town manager as there was no engineering work that required his services. Mr. Bailey was told that the report had been audited up to November and on Thursday Mr. Blanchet would complete the audit, when the report would be published.

Engineer Required
Mayor Mair referring to the requirements of a manager said it was absolutely necessary that an engineer be employed. He said the town had a \$100,000 filtration plant and it was imperative that a competent engineer look after it. In the matter of electric power he felt that it was through Mr. Armstrong, as an engineer, that the town was getting satisfactory results under a new contract that greatly increased rates over former contract.

Bank of Nova Scotia
Mayor Mair referred to the case of the Bank of Nova Scotia who refused to pay the taxes assessed. He said the council had done all in its power to reach a satisfactory settlement, but it was no use and the case was now before the courts and would be fought out to a finish. It would be an added expense, under any circumstances, but the attitude of the bank had forced the issue.

Candidate for Re-Election
Coun. Augherton, chairman of the finance committee, announced that he would again be a candidate for the council. The Bank of Nova Scotia case coming under his department he had used every effort to make a settlement without sacrific-

ing the interests of the town, but was unable to do so and said, "it will be fought out." He paid a warm tribute to Manager Armstrong for his services and said it was largely through the efforts of Mr. Armstrong that the town occupied the proud position it does today. Couns. Gallagher, Creighton, Page, Bell and Diblee spoke briefly. Couns. Page and Bell said they would offer for re-election.

Mr. J. Rankin Brown addressed the meeting briefly and announced that he was a candidate for Mayor. Mr. Thomas Nodden announced that he was in the field for the office of Mayor, giving as a reason that Mr. Brown must not be elected without a fight.

A Business Statement
Retiring Mayor Mair in a splendid address said:

The detailed statement just read by Mr. Manager showing receipts and expenditures and the financial condition for the year ending December 31st, 1922, should be sufficiently clear without any elaboration on my part.

As you are aware under our present system of Town Government, the Manager is responsible to the Council for the Administration of all departments with the exception of the School Board, The Board of Assessors and the Police Magistrate.

The report just read, I feel, fully justifies his appointment and is convincing proof of the wisdom of the town's adoption of this form of management.

The council, however, is responsible to the ratepayers for all of the business and policies enacted during the year and I would like to deal for just a few moments on some of these matters.

The Budget
As you are aware at the close of the year 1920, we had accumulated surplus of \$7756.51. \$6000.00 of this was returned to the ratepayers by reducing the 1921 assessment.

At the close of 1921 our surplus was \$8421.90--\$8000.00 of this was applied to the reduction of the 1922 assessment.

At the close of this year we have a surplus in cash of \$5717.41--the disposition of which will be in the hands of the New Council. Some criticism has been made as to the necessity of a budget so large as to warrant such surpluses--But I may tell you that last year when the Council was dealing with this matter, we felt at that time, that very rigid economy would have to be exercised to make our receipts balance expenditures.

Our warrant only called for \$3000.00 over requirements of 1921 but against this we had an increase in our County Assessment of \$3400.00, our schools of \$1500.00.

We retired \$2000.00 more in bonds and deposited \$1800.00 to sinking fund--making a total additional expenditure of \$8700.00. And in addition to this we had to anticipate a very marked increase in cost of electrical energy for pumping water and lighting streets; owing to the new contract with the Power Company which came into effect April 1st--and the fact that the year closed with a surplus of \$5249.81 over estimated expenditure--with every department expended, with the exception of "Poor" and that only by \$55.00.

With \$70,352.00 of taxes collected under a budget requirement of \$70,500.00 means but one thing--that the system of town government by man-ager must by this time, have been am-ply demonstrated to the satisfaction of any fair minded ratepayers and is also a distinct compliment to the bus-iness efficiency of our own manager, Mr. Armstrong. I have also heard some criticism as to the disposition of these surpluses; Fewer these critics claiming that this mon-ey should be applied to the reduction of

of the bonded indebtedness of the town--I do not agree with them.

Each assessment is made for specific purposes, the tax payer is assessed--so much for water--so much for streets, schools, etc. and so much to be deposited to sinking fund or for the payment of bonds--when at the end of the year it is found that more money was assessed for certain departments than was necessary--the tax payer has every right to expect credit for that surplus on his next tax bill, and following this policy you received credit on 1921 assessment with \$6000.00, on 1922 assessment with \$8000.00 and you have available for 1923 \$5717.41.

The Tannery Matter
As you are aware that the tannery buildings have been demolished, ostensibly to escape taxation.

Under a contract made with this company some years ago, they were granted exemption from taxes so long as the plant was in operation--when sales were made by the Armour Co. to the Canadian Leather Company the plant was immediately closed. And we believe was bought with this purpose in view to eliminate competition. Taxes were collected from the owners in London, Ont., on a valuation of about 1/2 of what was paid for the plant--they repeatedly objected to the amount of assessment, but refused to dispose of plant, although two offers were made them; unless under an agreement that it be not used as a tannery. In view of this fact we refused to reduce the taxes to the amount asked and they without warning dismantled the plant. I am quite satisfied that this was their original intention and that they never intended to operate it.

Town Manager
I regret to report the resignation of our present Manager, Mr. Armstrong to take effect about March 1st.

Mr. Armstrong is entering a bigger field in Municipal administration work for which he is well fitted and will carry with him the hearty good wishes of the people of Woodstock. Mr. Armstrong has demonstrated, in no mistakable manner, what can be done in civic affairs by the introduction of sound business principles, administered with undoubted ability.

I have also to report the appointment of his successor, Mr. M. J. Rutledge, of Montreal, who comes to us exceptionally well qualified. First as one of the leading engineers of Canada, and now chief engineer for Henry Holgate, of Montreal. He has also had wide experience in street construction, water filtration and general executive work. I feel the town is extremely fortunate in securing his services, which was possible only through his desire to enter the municipal field.

His appointment by council was made necessary owing to the fact that the new council do not take office until the second week in February--only three weeks previous to Mr. Armstrong's departure. A contract was entered into with Mr. Rutledge for a period of three years at a salary of \$3000.00 per year including the management of the Woodstock Exhibition for which services the town will be reimbursed by the Society. This will reduce the salary he receives from the town to \$2500.00 per year.

And now Mr. Chairman and gentlemen, on retiring from office I wish to thank you for the honor conferred upon me. I will always look back with a great deal of pride to the fact that I have been Mayor Woodstock and I trust that you will accord my successor and the new manager the same amount of co-operation. It has been very rightly said that 'Among the motives which tend toward excellence, the desire for the approbation of others is probably not by any means the least compelling.' No man is impervious to criticism--and any man serving on this Board or in the employ of the Town, who is giving his best for the interest of the community, deserves the hearty support and co-operation of every ratepayer.

K. C. vs Bankers
An interesting game of hockey was played on Saturday evening between the Kof C's and Bankers, resulting in a score of 4 to 0 in favor of the K. C. Coulter, for the Bankers, was laid off in the first of the second period, weakening the team very much. K. of C. Position Bankers Goal Buck Point Colter C. Point Beaton Centre McDonald Jones and Jones for plaintiffs and Dr. F. R. Taylor, K. C. of St. John, Mayor for defendant.

G. W. V. A. SMOKER AND ELECTION

The local branch of the G. W. V. A. held a very successful meeting in their quarters at the armories, Tuesday night, when matters of great importance to the ex-service man were discussed, followed by the annual election of officers.

The standing of the branch for the year was most creditable, showing an increase of membership from 39 to nearly one hundred. Over twenty one hundred dollars was deposited, this amount having been raised thru the efforts of the branch, of which \$500 had been invested in securities, making a total of \$2000 already bearing interest. A great deal was used for relief work and the present bank balance shows approximately \$350. The officers were highly complimented on the above showing by Mr. Lockary, district organizer, who expressed himself as greatly pleased. In concluding his remarks, he said he thought that all the present officers should hold office for 1923.

In the election, which followed, J. D. Winslow was elected President; J. J. Bull, 1st Vice; M. W. Lenehan, 2nd Vice; F. L. Mooers, Treasurer; W. B. Manzer, Secretary, all being unanimously returned. F. N. McCormick was elected assistant secretary, and the following, the Executive committee: F. S. Hillman, (re-elected) S. C. Heckbert, R. L. Daniels, A. R. Currie, Rev. F. M. Lockary.

Pres. Winslow in his final remarks spoke of his appreciation of the work performed by all members in the past year--he thought it was very creditable and was sure that even better results would be obtained in 1923.

A very pleasant evening was then spent by those in attendance, after which a very enjoyable luncheon was served by the local branch's efficient caterer, Comrade Hockenbuhl.

HARTLAND BRANCH, G. W. V. A.

On Friday evening, Jan. 5th, a new staff of officers were elected for 1923 as follows:

President--E. A. Britton
1st Vice Pres.--W. B. Nixon
2nd Vice Pres.--James Hovey
Rec. Secretary--S. G. Barter
Fin. Secretary--W. B. Nixon
Treasurer--P. C. Barter
To complete Ex Committee:
A. R. Rigby, James Pratt, H. K. Golding, F. L. Dickinson, H. F. Baker

ST. BONIFACE FIRE WAS INCENDIARY

Winnipeg, Jan. 5.--Smoke blackened walls stand as rather substantial ruins of Provencher High School of St. Boniface, gutted by fire yesterday, and the loss will likely exceed \$100,000, covered by insurance to about \$70,000.

The origin is generally accepted as incendiary, as the last signs of life about the building were seen when the trustees left the caretaker in charge at about 11 o'clock at night, after a meeting, and when the caretaker left the building for his home nearby all was secure. One man, unknown, was seen near the building about 3 a. m. and two others, also unidentified, were seen crossing the St. Boniface College grounds, going in a direction away from the school at the same time by Mr. and Mrs. A. N. Labelle, who live near. The police are seeking traces of the men. There was an arrest made during the afternoon, the man being an innocent farmer from Saskatchewan, who established his alibi, having arrived from the west at 10 a. m.

CIRCUIT COURT

In the Circuit Court here before Mr. Justice Crockett and a jury, the case of C. E. Gallagher & Co., was tried last week. It was an action to recover the value of three carloads of potatoes shipped by the plaintiffs in 1919 to New York, which the plain-tiffs alleged had been destroyed by reason of the negligence of the New York Central Railway at destination. Upon the answers of the jury, the Smith judge ordered a verdict for the plain-tiffs to be entered in the sum of \$2745, the full amount claimed. Jones and Jones for plaintiffs and Dr. F. R. Taylor, K. C. of St. John, Mayor for defendant.