

POLITICS IN QUEENS CO.

THE CHANCES OF MESSRS WILMOT AND KING.

Sir Leonard Talks of the Days of His Youth at Gagetown and of His Early Teachers—When Deer Were Plentiful in the County of Queens.

(The Daily Record.) One of the pleasantest trips that can be taken is that to Gagetown on the Creek by river steamer. It may be considered late in the season to be drawing attention to this fact, but considered from the point of view of next summer it will be considered early advice.

When with the advancing years of the next century St. John has started upon a prosperous career, when trade has increased, industries have arisen and a strong current of summer travel has set in, then will the county seat of Queens be much sought. Then there will be fast and elegantly appointed steamers on the river, then the river valley road will set a traveller down in the midst of Prof. Roberts' Drowsytown in a couple of hours ride from St. John, then there will be a large hotel there to accommodate tourists. It will be the centre of attraction for pleasure seekers on the lower St. John. Even now if people could go there by train Saturday night and return Monday morning they would do so, but as it is now it takes the busy workers of the city two days from their business.

It is because of its natural advantages that these things are prophesied for Gagetown. It is the prettiest spot on the river, intervals, creek, lake and island are scattered about in profusion, affording lovely picnic spots, excellent bathing, fine yachting, canoeing and boating and plenty of duck shooting. The village itself is interesting on account of its fine farmsteads and the old residences of some of the ancient gentry of Queens. The foliage and vegetation is luxuriant and the drives about these afford beautiful views.

Just now Gagetown is very drowsy. There is very little business done, there are no industries, the affairs of the country that have to be settled there amount to little and there is not a great deal of farming. The only excitement in the summer is when the boats arrive and even then the excitement does not reach the height that it does on the Paris bourse.

On Saturday The Record's roving commissionaire paid a pleasant visit to Gagetown. Travel has nearly dropped off entirely and neither the David Weston or the May Queen carried many. There were a few civilians who went up to spend Sunday on the river and a number of farmers returning from a business trip to town.

On account of having a scribe on board the Weston provided a little excitement. It came nearly being serious though, and proved a narrow escape for a couple of men. Just above the mouth of the Kennebecasis a boat put out from a woodboat in the river to board the steamer. The man at the oar bore down rapidly, and it became evident to the officers that he was getting too close for his safety. They shouted to him to keep farther off, but he still came on, and the boat was nearly under the paddles of the steamer. Then the men realized the danger, but instead of slowing off with their oars they attempted to do so with their hands. They were unsuccessful and presently the row boat was drawn in under the guards of the steamboat and was lost to sight. The passengers thought they were gone for and they had good reason for the boat did not appear again for several minutes. But the men were in her and were all right. They had clung to the stringers and prevented the boat from being drawn into the paddles. All the passengers were on that side of the steamer, however, and pressed it down preventing them getting out. As soon as the steamer was trimmed they got out unharmed but swearing. Then one of the men got on board the steamer while the amateur boatman who had rowed the boat into its peril went back to the schooner. The steamer hands say that had the boat been smaller they would certainly have been upset and drowned.

There was not a great deal of stir on the river. The only things that were seen were a few schooners carrying kiln wood. The Aberdeen was on her way down with a load of hay and other produce. The river steamers have been having poor freights lately. Potatoes, the main commodity carried in the fall have proved a failure and in addition to that many of the farmers have been holding for better prices. A sign of the times is that the river steamers are willing to carry hay this fall. It used to be that they would not carry hay under any circumstances but this fall this rule in the code of etiquette of the river steamers has been rescinded and they will courteously accept of any of the farmers the fee for carrying hay.

But speaking of hay, a number of farmers at the table were talking about hay transportation. Some one had a lot of hay destroyed this fall by rain in bringing it down river in a schooner. They were talking about the advantages of having a cover which would hang over the cargo roof-shaped and would throw

off the rain. One of these costs from \$30 to \$40 and by farmers pulling together they can get one cheaply.

At the mouth of Gagetown creek the veteran ferryman, Albert Vail, was ready to receive fares. Since he was fifteen he has been ferrying at Gagetown; for a quarter of a century he has carried people to and fro on multitudinous missions. His big row boat is twenty years old and the seats are worn by the garments of thousands of people. Strong of limb and sturdy of frame is Albert and the muscles of his arms are like steel. His brother Harry Vail is a prominent oarsman and lives in Philadelphia. He is expected in Gagetown in a short time. He has retired from sporting ranks. Albert says that business has been dull this year and if there is no prospect of improvement he will retire next summer.

The scribe seemed to carry the atmosphere of news with him for there was another narrow escape that day. Two Gagetown boys, Lee Dingee and Dick Reid, of about twelve or fourteen, went out gunning. Dingee threw the gun down and it went off depositing some lead in Reid's limbs! He was not hurt badly, however, and will soon recover.

There was a court case on during the day. Before justice Du Vernet a charge of selling Louisiana lottery tickets was tried. The charge was prepared against one Clark of Jenseg by Dewitt of the same place. It appears that Clark was some time ago assaulted by Dewitt and in revenge of the latter he took to get his revenge. Mr. John R. Dunn, of this city, appeared for Clark and the plea was raised of ignorance of the law. The justice, however, decided to send him up to stand trial at the circuit court.

The county of Queens is not exercised much over election prospects. There is little exchange of sentiment respecting the questions that are at issue except among most pronounced politicians.

There will be a new feature in connection with the contest here. The county of Queens and Sunbury has been united and will form one constituency. There will be about five thousand votes in the constituency and about three quarters of these will be polled.

The Record, with a wholesale desire to give the public the truth of matters gave an ear each to a prominent liberal and a prominent conservative of Gagetown and he came away convinced that he did not know any better than before whether grit or tory would win. One thing he did find out, however, and that was the names of those who would run. Both argued in this particular and both said that they voiced the opinion of their side in the constituency.

Mr. Wilmot, the present representative from Sunbury, will support the conservative banner, and Mr. King will be the liberal champion. The tory with whom The Record talked thought that Mr. Wilmot's strength in Sunbury would carry him to Ottawa. The grit thought that Mr. King had sufficient friends in Queens to give him a plurality all told. With these diverse opinions confronting him the scribe concluded that election talk was nothing more than very vague conjecture.

A former Gagetown man was elected to the North West local legislature in their recent elections. This was Mr. George Belyea who is now a merchant in Qu'Appelle. This is not his first public appearance. He ran previously on the cause of reform and was defeated. He is president of a big reform association in the North-west and is a leading figure in Canada's wheat lands. Mrs. Belyea is a daughter of Mr. R. T. Babbitt, register of deeds for Queens, and is a leader in church and philanthropic work.

Last week the old Tilley house on the front street of Gagetown changed hands. Mrs. Simpson sold it to Mr. Wm. Dingee and he is now in charge. The husband of the late proprietress died recently and she concluded that she could not run it alone. Mr. Dingee is a good host and the hotel is in good hands.

It was in this house that Sir Leonard Tilley saw the light of day and it was about the streets and homesteads of Gagetown that he spent his boyhood days. Yesterday Sir Leonard was told of the purchase and he expressed his pleasure that his old home was in such good care as Mr. Dingee and his family would give.

Sir Leonard spoke of his early recollections of Gagetown and of his boyhood days which he spent there. His school life he referred to in particular. He went first to the Madras school which was then taught by Mr. Samuel Babbitt, father of B. S. Babbitt at present of Gagetown and he was under his instruction for four years. Mr. Babbitt was sometimes assisted by his nephew, also Samuel Babbitt, who was afterwards cashier of the Peoples' Bank at Fredericton.

Then he went to the grammar school, which was probably the best school in the province. It was taught by a Dublin university man and had attained such a degree of good re-

pute that pupils came there from St. John and Fredericton and other places. Like nearly every other place about the province deer are plentiful about Gagetown and are frequently seen and shot there. They even leave the woods and feed in the fields about farm houses. This fall duck and partridge have not supplied as much sport for the hunter as usual. And now that the topic of sport is up it would be interesting to tell of a couple of strange pets that one of the most enthusiastic hunters and best shots in Gagetown has. Mr. C. S. Babbitt is the man who got these and they are a tame fox and a tame coon. Their interesting ways are a source of diversion to the neighbours and they have become pretty well domesticated.

To change the subject Rev. Mr. Hanson held an interesting Sunday school service at the Episcopal church Sunday night. A large number of children attended and the service was prepared to interest them. Mr. Hanson is popular with the children and they appreciated the service.

TEMPERING DAMASCUS BLADES.

Shaves Were Used to Try the Temper of the Blades Upon.

Advices received from Prof. von Eulen spiegel and party state that in delving among the ruins of ancient Tyre there has been unearthed what seems to have been the workshop of an ancient armorer, or "waffenschmidt," with a quantity of sword blades in different stages of manufacture, though badly corroded. A copper cylinder with a close fitting top was found among a pile of dry rotted wood, evidently the remains of an arm chest, the brass nails and copper bands of which had retained their original form. This cylinder contained a parchment inscribed in ancient Syriac characters and in a fair state of preservation. The professor, after months of close study, has pronounced it an extraordinary discovery—one calculated to cast much light upon the heretofore mysteries of ancient craft of weapon-making, given in detail the methods followed in making the perfect Damascus blades.

The manner of tempering these blades when intended for a ruler or an officer of high rank was as follows: "Let the high dignitary furnish an Ehip of fair fame and let him be bound down, shoulders upwards, upon the block of the god Bal-hal, his arms fastened underneath with thongs; a strap of goatskin over his back and wound twice around the block; his feet close together lashed to a dowel of wood, and his head and neck projecting over and beyond the neck of the block."

Then let the master workman, having cold hammered the blade to a smooth and thin edge, thrust it into the fire of cedar wood coals, in and out, while reciting the prayer to the god Bal-hal, until the steel be of the color of the red of the rising sun when he comes up over the desert toward the east; and then with a quick motion pass the same from the heel thereof to the point, six times through the most fleshy portion of the slave's back and thighs, when it shall have become the color of the purple of the King. Then, if with one swing and one stroke of the right arm of the master workman it sever the heap of the slave from his body and display not neck nor crack along the edge, and the blade may be bent round about the body of a man and break not, it shall be accepted as a perfect weapon, sacred to the service of the god Bal-hal, and the owner thereof may thrust it into a scabbard of asses' skin, brim with brass and hang to a girdle of camels' wool, dyed in the royal purple.

INDIAN NAMES OF LAKES.

The New York "Sun" says Massachusetts Beats Nova Scotia on Them.

The following amusing article on Indian nomenclature is from the New York Sun:

Appropos of elongated Indian names of lakes and rivers in Maine, the Sun, while admitting that "only a native can pronounce the names of her lakes trippingly," affirms that "the names of Maine are easy besides these and others from the Province of Ontario: Lake Misquabensish, Lake Kashagawigamog, and Kahwambejewagomog, and Lake Kahwambejewagomog."

"An eastern Connecticut sportsman who recently ran up against 'Keejinkoopie' and a lot more of Nova Scotian names that are coined like barbed wire about lakes and rivers 'down east' there, is ready to allow that the Sun is correct on general principles; at the same time he wants it known that southern New England is not what might be called dead easy on Indian nomenclature.

For instance, the Natick State is garlanded and festooned with Indian titles that easily reach across the state—in the names—and some are so extended that the natives rarely undertake to pronounce more than a part of one at a time. Each citizen naturally has his preference; some use one section of it, half a dozen joints, say—others work another section, just an easy mouthful of it, and let it go at that. The practice resembles the usual way of pulling a telescope open.

But the champion Indian name of this region is trailed across a couple of counties in southern Massachusetts, just across the Connecticut border, twenty miles north of Putnam. It is the name of a beautiful lake at Webster, five miles long and studded with islands, which is the best bass lake in the old Bay State. According to the latest researches it is spelled in this style, and the sportsman would like to know how a Kahwambejewagomog Nova Scotian would tackle it with his tongue:

Chagoggagoggmanchagogggagunganang.

"There is a grand name for the thing, which is used as a rule, on all but state occasions."

Chinese Street-Paving.

The street-paving in Canton was of loose granite slabs laid crosswise, about nine inches broad and six inches through, and as long as the street was wide. Although

presenting a somewhat irregular surface, the face of each slab was generally worn smooth by the treading of unshod feet. A drain ran down the centre of each street, under the granite slabs, into which, between the joints, percolated rain-water, fluid refuse, and house slops. These liquids ran out into the main tidal canals which intersected the city, and when they did not run, as was not infrequent, the slabs were raised, and the drains cleaned out.

The new Tower Bridge of London is paved with the wood of the eucalyptus tree from Australia. The blocks are about the size of building bricks and have beveled edges.

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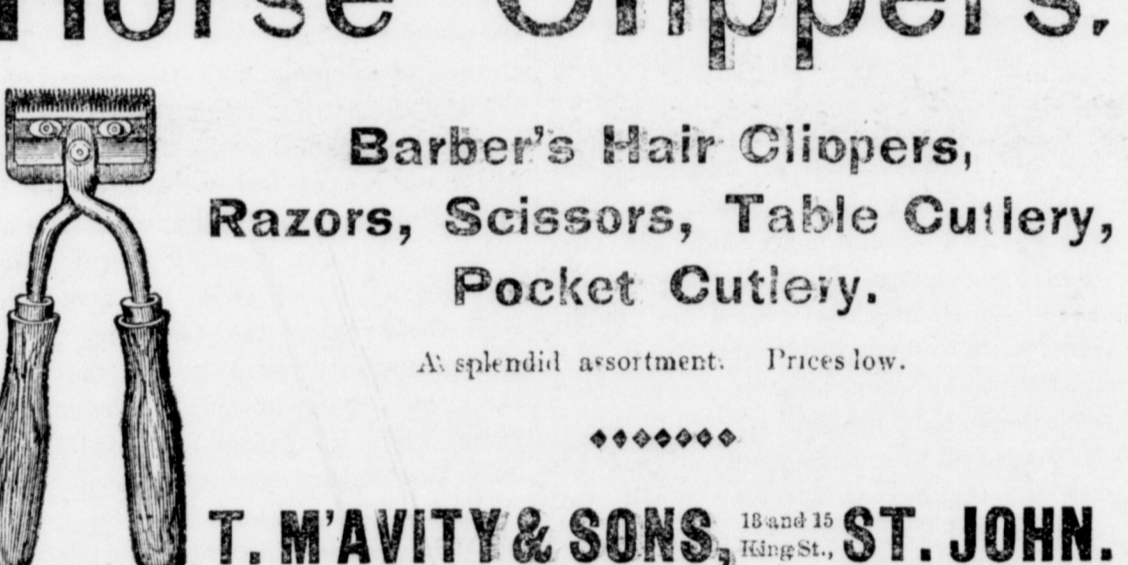
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