

# THE ACADIAN.

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### LOCAL STAGNATION.

Although the exceptional natural resources of some locations make rapid growth and prosperity seem the natural sequence to settlement, none are so favored that public spirit and enterprise will not accelerate their development. Private enterprise may do much, but is often hampered by lack of facilities. The real advantage of communities is lost unless they unite in effort for the public good. Some localities by their peculiar resources, such as mines, superior water power or harbour, may be so elevated from the surrounding region as to preclude rivalry. These naturally attract capital and the channels of trade, so that a large measure of development may go on without particular public effort. Others, less fortunate, although not devoid of natural advantages, may have little to distinguish them from contiguous communities. It is in such cases that public enterprise may be peculiarly efficacious in promoting a community's interests, while apathy must result in its being distanced. Of the latter class is our village. It is the natural distributing centre of a considerable section of fertile country, but no facilities are provided for the cheapest means of exchanging with proper markets. It is true a railroad passes through our village, but a railroad conducted on the most liberal principles is not an equivalent for water communication. The great cost of transport by such making production barely remunerative. Such neglect of natural advantages is alone sufficient to account in a large measure for the languor which marks all our small industries and the chronic depression which afflicts our meagre trade. It might be pleaded that shortage in crops and dull markets subject us to temporary depression equally with other sections of the country. Were such alone the case we would accept the inevitable with resignation. But the truth is no effort has been made by the men of position and influence in Wolfville to aid in developing her natural resources. In the past while some have proved "wet blankets" and done their best to retard her progress others have been content to

pose as local dignitaries. Opportunities have been lost which would have enabled Wolfville to make great strides. Others now loom up and it behooves her residents to bestir themselves that they may not again be left in the rear of her rivals.

Wharf accommodation is the first thing needful to enable Wolfville to get above her present sleepy hollow condition. It is now mooted that there is a strong possibility of getting such, of superior kind. The site has been examined by engineers and favorably regarded. One of the most prominent firms in the region has signified its desire to put on steamers to connect us with Boston, St. John and Bay ports, provided a right of way and road to said wharf is furnished. Do the people realize the advantages that would accrue to Wolfville by making such possibilities a reality? Do they realize the impetus it would give to our agricultural efforts? Instead of being forced to depend solely upon the potato lottery cheap connection with those ports would stimulate the production of butter, eggs, mutton, small fruits and vegetables for which there is an unlimited demand in American markets.

Again, the attractions of our locality for tourists who seek a quiet resort are second to none in the region. But they have none but local repute. Put direct means of communication between us and the heated cities of the States, make known abroad the beauties of our home and more hotel accommodation will soon need to be provided. As it is now too many beautiful spots on an extended route snatch away tourists before reaching us. Apart from these considerations the expenditure of the large sum of money which these improvements would involve must confer a marked benefit, and the attraction of shipments here must largely increase our local trade. We understand the council has taken action so far as appointing a committee to report securing right of way from Main street to mouth of creek. We believe this report is to be made in January at next meeting. We hope it will be favorable. What can be done by the people to strengthen the hands of the council, should be done to further the scheme. Let not apathy or selfishness serve to defeat what if obtained will be an incalculable boon to Wolfville. There are other phases of this subject which claim our attention, but space will not permit at present: we shall however return to it again at an early date.

### CORRESPONDENCE.

[We do not hold ourselves responsible for the opinions of our correspondents.]

#### A peep into the future.

PERSONS REPRESENTED. A Graduate of Acadia College after twenty years absence in Japan. R. R. station master, Wolfville  
SCENE. Wolfville R. R. station  
TIME. The first Thursday in June 1893.  
G. A. Is not this the day on which

Acadia College holds its Anniversary? S. M. It used to be but there has been no Acadia College for eight years. G. A. Is that possible? Has my old *Alma Mater* the child of Providence been destroyed?

S. M. Yes Dr. Rand's *Didactics* killed it the first year. You see they were nearly bankrupt when he got himself in at \$1600 and a promise of \$400 more a year and then the Governors had to raise the salaries of all the other Professors to \$2000 to prevent a row and all the supporters of the College and most of the Professors did not want *Didactics* and thought it was mean in the Governors to allow one of themselves to make a place for himself at double salary against the understood wishes of the people who paid for it so they got disgusted and refused to pay any more money and burned their wills and the mortgage was foreclosed and it sold for \$5000 and some of the former friends of Acadia bought it and established a University of Agriculture and Mechanics and they are doing well. They have six hundred students this year and only two Professors at a salary of \$2000 each and they saved twenty per cent clear last year. They have all the land 120 acres, under cultivation and have 3000 apple trees planted which will soon be worth \$5000 a year to them and the students in the Engineer department get \$200 per month on the new Belt Line R. R. across the continent as soon as they pass their examinations here.

In the Machinery department they are completing a patent for a single track Electric Railway which they have sold the Chinese Government for a million dollars. If you would like to see them I will telephone for their coupons for you, as they are very kind to visitors.

G. A. Yes thank you, but what has become of my dear old teachers?

S. M. I think they are all alive except the President who died of a broken heart shortly after. He was a *victim* or *martyr* or *something to didactics* like Dr. Forrester. The *Didactics* man went to his Political Boss who got him teaching a training school for young politicians at Ottawa. The mathematician man lost his wife and married the Lady Principal. They are very tony now. The mines man is still selling mine stocks, he is good at that. The others are out west in colleges where there is no *Didactics*, at \$5000 salary.

G. A. Who are the Governors of this University?

S. M. They won't allow any Governors. It is managed by three commercial men one in New York, one in Winnipeg and one here. They have made this a right smart town of 12,000 inhabitants in eight years. They put up that big summer Hotel and cottages on the old play ground and tony people spend the summer here in preference to Saratoga. They got New York capitalists to put up six factories all doing well. When you go to the University don't forget to look into the room where they used to keep old bird's nests, hindoo Idols, old rocks &c. Now they have all the latest patents in machinery and telephone direct all over the world.

G. A. Much obliged. I see my coupon is waiting, will see you later.

## R. PRAT

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Wolfville, Oct. 12 1893