

THE ACADIAN.

WOLFVILLE, N. S., FEB. 22, 1889

EDITORIAL NOTES.

We tender our thanks to our contemporaries both in this country and the United States who have written such kind words concerning our late brother. In life he ever held in high esteem the members of the fraternity, and if, as some believe, those who have "gone before" are allowed to witness what transpires on earth he must view with pleasure the manifestations of regard and sorrow on the part of the "brothers of the craft."

We saw no mention made in the estimates of an appropriation being made for King's county. For a long time Wolfville has been trying for an allowance for a wharf and breakwater. This is surely as much needed as some of the items now included in the estimates. Besides, what about the post office which we have been waiting for so long, and we are waiting till our neighbors in the shiretown are fitted out to put forward our claim.

The third session of the present Provincial Parliament was opened yesterday afternoon by the honorable the Chief Justice Administrator of the Government. He appeared in plain clothes, which is the first time this has been done, we believe, since the Province had a Parliament. The speech contained reference to the general prosperous condition of the Province, the steps taken by the Government to establish mining schools, the inauguration of the model farm, progress by railway matters, &c.

The feeling that incorporation is necessary to the best interests of this village is becoming more and more popular, although there are those who oppose it as they do every move in the direction of progress. Those of the latter class believe in plodding along as their fathers and grandfathers did before them, believing that what was good enough for their fathers forty years ago is good enough for them today. In order to test the true feeling of those interested in the matter it would be well to call a public meeting, and discuss the reasons for and against it, and if thought advisable to have a vote taken and the matter finally settled.

Perhaps there has not been so mild a winter in this valley, in the remembrance of man, as has been the present, yet in some parts of Canada the severity of the winter has been keenly felt. The worst storm of the season so far is reported from Montreal which commenced on the night of the 12th with snow accompanied by a gale of wind which whirled the light snow into immense drifts, making travel exceedingly difficult in the city and totally impossible in the outlying districts. Chimneys were blown down, sign boards swung off their hinges, while to add to the discomforts the temperature took a sudden drop and registered 12° below zero.

We comment the article on fire protection in another column to the careful attention of the people of this town. While we agree perfectly with our correspondent on many points, we cannot endorse his opinion that the time is far away when Wolfville will have an efficient water system. We need it not only for fire purposes, but many others. We see no reason why it is not as possible for Wolfville to procure a good water supply, as it is for Kentville, Bridgetown, Annapolis, and other towns of no greater importance. Possibly it may not come till the town is incorporated, but it will come just the same. However, we are glad that the matter of fire protection has been taken hold of by correspondents, and hope to see it receive a thorough ventilation.

The practice of the old Court of Sessions, continued by the Municipal Council, of allowing certain individuals to perform the whole or a portion of their statute labor on their own private roads, appears to be about as just and reasonable as it would be to allow them a portion of their county rates to be expended in laying out new roads to their back fields or a portion of their poor rates to support their children. Almost every farm has about so much road to keep in repair and it matters but little whether the dwelling is situated in the front or rear of the farm. If the dwelling is placed in the rear, it is necessary in order to reach it that there be a road leading from the highway to it; and if placed in the front it is equally necessary to have a road to get to the rear. Thus in either case, on no farm, roads have to be maintained and should be at the expense of the occupier. The road tax like all other taxes is placed for the good of the public and should be as equally enforced. The practice of allowing any deviation from the written law is a dangerous one and may lead to perplexing complications.

Fire Protection.

A CORRESPONDENT SPEAKS HIS MIND ON AN IMPORTANT SUBJECT.

DEAR ACADIAN,—I have noticed with a great deal of interest the developments of the subject of fire protection in Wolfville since the late disastrous fire near your own offices.

In May, 1883, the second number of the ACADIAN, or rather, the YOUNG ACADIAN, was issued, and in it, under the head of "Needed Reforms," I find it advocating just such a scheme as you are attempting to work out in Wolfville. At that time your paper was young and its utterances were looked upon as those of a learner in the art of journalism. Had these same suggestions been carried out, what would have been the result? Well, I will not go over the long list of fires which have occurred during the last six years, but look simply at the last one. I was told by several who were earliest on the spot that they had an axe, a ram, a grappling hook, or any thing of any sort that could have been used for the purpose, the addition in which the fire started could have been torn down and the two buildings saved. I was told by several who were men conversant with the building, a large proportion of Mrs. Butler's household effects could have been saved.

Grant this in a less degree. Suppose that the fire had been delayed. Even then hundreds of dollars would have been saved from the building. Now Mr. Bishop must have lost nearly or quite a thousand dollars over and above the amount of his insurance. Mr. Higgins cannot replace his building for the amount of the insurance by three of four hundred dollars at least, and Dr. Barnes the same way probably.

There is \$1,600, or say \$1,000, gone to blaze and nothing to show for it, all because in 1883 the people of the village hadn't enough foresight to invest that amount in some means of fire protection. And if you add the losses which have accumulated in the whole six years through fire, which could have been stopped, taking care to place in the account household articles that could never be replaced and the time lost to a man's business by being burnt out as also the trade lost during his perhaps temporary suspension before opening elsewhere, you will find in the total a sum which would fit up a fire department which would be able to combat almost any fire with success.

But it seems at the public meeting held a few nights ago that there was a good deal of feeling displayed over the matter. The old adage of "Old men for counsel and young men for war," didn't exactly work, inasmuch that the old men wanted it "all counsel" and the young men wanted it "all war." Now see here, gentlemen, I want you to just shake up your memories a minute while I take you back to several meetings of a similar nature in Wolfville.

Do you remember, one time when the boys got drunk and I raised a big row, how that a public meeting was held in Witter's Hall and a committee appointed after due deliberation to see how much it would cost for a lock-up. That committee was a standing committee. It has not reported to this day. When the colored man, Johnson, was brutally beaten on Main street there was another meeting and, I think, another standing committee. It still stands. There was a meeting once to consider the advisability of decorating the streets with trees and whitewash. That meeting appointed a committee, and so far as I was able to learn the committee planted some trees themselves, paid for them themselves and let them die themselves. There are more meetings and more committees, but they have sunk long since into oblivion, perchance to all rise up at the last day and report.

How Wolfville would boom if these committees had all got their work in. Why, for instance, where is the S. P. C. A. committee? But I forget. I dropped illustrations. Now, what I am getting at, is this. While it is, in my opinion, deeply to be regretted that any misunderstanding should have arisen, yet all must admit that the boys in view of the past record of the place, were justified in protesting against the *everlasting* (I use the word advisedly) committee and in going to work man fashion to form an organization through which the committee's work could be done and more effectively because the men composing it mean business and have youth and vigor enough to carry it through. Granted that the same end was in contemplation by the other side of the meeting, and yet I say the people of the place, knowing by bitter experience the danger of standing committees, should have acceded cheerfully to the new order of things.

Now, men and property holders of Wolfville, those of you who are not just in sympathy with the dear little fire company, don't for anything let the little play of voting in the minority lead you to refuse now the money which in the event of your own place catching fire you would not begrudge to save it. Don't be as shortsighted now as you have been in the past. Go to Rand's and buy a pair of No. 5 glasses and look the matter up thoroughly. If the places magnify the thing to such a degree as to pain your eyes, never mind. Grin and bear it and hunt out the old stocking in the chimney and put a quarter in the funds for a bucket.

But, ACADIAN, old boy, you're away off in your water ideas. Devision Lake, Black River, Kentville! Why, it cannot be done. Wolfville is not a collection of millionaires and such a scheme

would need such a collection. No, sir. For fire, you want, say, five or six public tanks in the village and in convenient places to be filled by either boring or surface drainage, the first preferred; but lake water is, at present anyway, simply out of the question. When you get far enough along for that you want a pumping engine on Gaspereau river and a reservoir up on the ridge, but I am afraid you and I will not live that long.

Well, I must stop, for I've already imposed on your space. Some advice to the fire company another day.

—MCA.

Ottawa Doings.

NOTES FROM THE DOMINION PARLIAMENT.

Mr. Charlton, Ferguson of Welland, and Hon. Peter Mitchell condemned the system of seizures practised by customs officers to their personal benefit.

A. E. Curran has interviewed the Minister of Customs and asked to be allowed to import corn free of duty, out of which to manufacture cornmeal.

A bill to amend the weights and measures act by Hon. John Costigan. This provides for branding barrels on the head in place of on the side as at present. It is not at present the intention of the Government to reduce the rate of postage on letters to 2 cents.

Mr. Costigan proposes to reduce the number of inspectors of weights and measures, making the districts continuous with the inland revenue districts.

Deputations waited on the Minister of Customs asking for further protection on manufacturers of India rubber, cotton and woolen plushes for shoe linings, haircloth, Smyrna rugs, shawls, whips, &c.

A large number of the members from Ontario and Nova Scotia interviewed the Ministers of Customs and Finance to urge the advisability of the Government re-imposing the duty on small fruits, shrubs and nursery stock.

A measure has been submitted into the Senate affecting bills of lading, applying the principles of the Ontario and Nova Scotia acts to the whole of the Dominion, allowing consigners and endorser of bills of lading to sue upon the contract.

Replying to Mr. Turot, Hon. John Haggart stated it was the intention of the Government to make the maximum weight of single rate letters one ounce instead of half an ounce. It was not the intention to lessen the charge of parcels by mail.

The total number of supernumeraries last year was 52. 19 were post office officials; 19, customs; 7, marine department; 5, inland revenue; 2, privy council; 3, railways and canals; 2, agriculture; 1, Indian department; 1, mounted police; 1, public works. Total, \$29,903.

Sir John Thompson introduced a bill to make further provision respecting the speedy trial of certain indictable offences and explained that the changes proposed are only such as are necessary to bring the speedy trials act into operation in Nova Scotia, the only province to which it does not now extend.

Hon. McKenzie Bowell, in answer to a question stated that the total expense incurred in the revision of the electoral lists had been as follows: Before the Government assumed the work of printing, \$414,574; since, \$215,002, besides \$63,849, the cost of plant acquired by the Government for the work.

A select committee consisting of Sir Adams Archibald, Messrs Barnes, Charlton, Davis, Ellis, Jones, Jones, Kenney, Landry, Langelier, Perley, Skinner, Weldon, and Wood, has been asked to inquire into and report upon the amount of tonnage and kind of freight during the year 1887 going to and from Canada and passing through the United States in bond.

Dr. Landerkin's resolution regarding the rebate duty on corn was voted down by 112 against to 70 for. The resolution was as follows: Whereas distillers are allowed a rebate of duty upon corn imported for use in the manufacture of spirits for export, it is, in the opinion of this House, but right that just farmers and stock-raisers who import corn to feed cattle or other stock for export should also receive a similar rebate.

The estimates have been tabled. The total amount to be voted is \$28,489,593; the amount authorized by statute, \$16,746,293; making a total of \$14,655,887. Canal expenditures, \$4,589,740; Harbors and rivers, \$2,500; Subsidies and conventions increased accommodation for the Intercolonial at Halifax, 150,000; Ditto at Montreal, 67,000; Ditto at St. John, 25,000; The net debt of Canada on January 31st was \$235,670,564, and the expenditure on capital account up to the same date was \$3,340,876.

Revenues and expenditures for January: Customs, \$1,775,700; Excise, \$34,090; Post office, 205,002; Public works, 182,351; Miscellaneous, 273,438.

Total, 2,071,190; Revenue to 31st December, 18,859,064; Expenditure to 31st Jan., 5,343,436; Expenditure to 31st Jan., 18,858,152; \$20,931,593.

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THOS. S. WHITMAN, Annapolis Royal, N. S. February 20th, 1889. 3 ins



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