

THE ACADIAN.

WOLFVILLE, N. S., JAN. 15, 1904.

RESTRICTING THE FRANCHISE.

This province is pretty well supplied with senseless legislation, but it is devoutly hoped that we have nothing more groundless or pernicious on our statute books than the provision which disfranchises electors in incorporated towns, who have not paid up their taxes for the previous year.

It is generally considered these days by students of civics that the great desideratum in politics is to increase and encourage the use of the franchise on the part of citizens. Thus we hear pleas for "universal manhood suffrage" and "compulsory voting," propositions which are evidently gaining in favor from year to year.

A law, therefore, which treats the franchise as a sort of bonus to be given to those who will be good and pay up, instead of a sort of sacred trust, upon the faithful discharge of which the well-being of the community depends, is legislation very much out of harmony with the spirit of the times.

One feature of the provision is that it is adapted conspicuously to increase the very evil which presumably it was drafted to correct. One great reason why taxes are not more promptly paid, is that the tax payer feels them heavier than he can meet.

This, then, is what the Legislature says, in effect, to the poor tax payer: "Your taxes are so heavy that it is impossible for you to pay them promptly; we, then, will take from you your franchise, by the exercise of which you might bring the taxation down to the compass of what you can afford, and shut you off from having any voice in deciding how great your burden of taxation shall be."

The great corrective to landiness in the payment of taxes, is to give the tax-payer an interest in the management of the affairs of the community, and a confidence that the taxes have been wisely and mercifully imposed. Convince the rate-payer that he has a proprietary interest in his community, and that the public funds are being judiciously expended in line with his own interests, and his tax ceases to be a burden, disfranchise him, and he loses his interest in public matters, and becomes skeptical of the necessity of such heavy tributes.

The restriction which this piece of legislation places upon the franchise, is exactly what is adapted to conduce to corruption and "clique rule" in municipal affairs. As has been the case in Wolfville in the past, it frequently brings about the ambitious candidate for civic honors becomes generous enough to pay up the delinquent's liabilities used by Physicians.

linguent taxes of the uncertain voter within the required time, and the uncertain voter finds that to vote for his benefactor is a very easy way of acquiring himself with the Town Clerk. Then, too, the poll tax-payer whose tax is very light and easily paid, gains an altogether disproportionate influence by reason of the disfranchisement of his neighbors upon whom the burden of the tax really falls.

These objections, strong though they be, might be overlooked were there any real necessity for the provision in question. But what need is there for this extraordinary method of compelling the citizens of towns to pay their taxes? The County Council has no such provision to aid in the collection of taxes, and yet the county taxes are more promptly paid than those of the towns.

Every town is provided with a paid officer whose duty it is to collect the own rates. He is armed with the most effective legal remedies to make his task easy. Our direct legislation dealing with the collection of taxes are very much more exhaustive in the provisions they contain than the law providing for the collection of private debts. What, then, is the necessity for this added measure. Not only is it altogether unneeded, but it is adapted in many instances to be a positive deterrent to the prompt collection of rates. The elector who finds a number of candidates in the field for election, towards all of whom he is friendly disposed, is frequently averse to exercising his franchise. He does not wish to refuse either of the candidates his support, and so he shields himself by leaving his taxes unpaid, and the town is obliged to wait for what otherwise would have been promptly collected. After having suffered disfranchisement on account of unpaid rates, the ratepayer, in nine cases out of ten, is less inclined than before to square his account. By the sacrifice of his right to vote he feels that in a measure he has paid the debt, or else he is in a temper to make the collection of it just as difficult as possible for the authorities.

The Clerk is inclined to depend too much upon the exercise of this power to aid him in making collections and neglects the wiser, more direct, and more sensible remedies which the law gives him. Thus it happens that while town ratepayers are, as a class, much better supplied with ready money than the county ratepayers, the towns throughout our province have much greater difficulty in making collections of taxes than the counties.

Henry Levy, London, cables his agent, T. L. Harvey, that he sold 28 S. Evangeline's apples as follows: Ben Davis, 104, to 143; Ribston, 254, to 221; Bullfinch, 151, to 181; Greenings, 164, to 181; Kings, 181, to 208; Russets, 188, to 208; Sundries, 143, to 164. Strong demand.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

Ma ERROR.—Permit me to reply to the letter of the Sewerage Committee. I do not know by what right the members of the Sewerage Committee in a public body and its actions certainly may be criticized by those whose business it is supposed to perform.

However, if this bill was passed with all the publicity that the law requires, this fact simply strengthens my contention that we may some time fall into the hands of unscrupulous councillors and may be made to suffer for it. In reference to the assessment for sewerage purposes, I fail to see why, in spite of all the difficulties alluded to by your correspondents, some approximate calculation could not have been made and the town assessed in accordance therewith. How such an assessment would have imperiled the interests of the town is not apparent. Supposing that, instead of reaching some satisfactory basis of settlement with the contractors, the public had become involved in litigation, as at one time seemed likely. What would the Council have done then? Would it have waited until the case had travelled through the courts before it assessed for the interest due on the bonds? At the time the regular assessment was made the Council knew, or should have known, what the amount of frontage tax was; it knew what amount had been borrowed on which interest had to be paid. The difference between the total frontage tax and the total amount borrowed for sewerage purposes ought to have given a fairly accurate idea of what should be charged to the assessment account of all taxpayers.

In regard to the use of the word "smuggled," I am willing to substitute for it the expression, "secured the enactment of." I am glad to learn on the authority of the Committee that everything was done in a perfectly open and legal manner. I may, however, in justification to myself, say that I did not use the word "smuggled" without due thought, and I used it because so far as I could learn, it was the correct word to use. I may say further that, were July 17, 1903, and, after billing me it not for the express declaration for frontage tax on "110 feet at 50 cents per foot," reads at the bottom done in an entirely legal and open as follows:

man, I should still stand by the word. A declaration, however, such as has been made by gentlemen who fill an office of responsibility should be final, and I accept it as such. I would suggest, however, that the Council have the amendment to the Sewerage Act printed with the town reports that the people may know just what was passed. So far as that publicity which a discussion in the town Council gives is concerned, such publicity is largely theoretical. The public does not know, and, as the law now stands, has no certain means of knowing, when the Council meets. As a consequence it rarely happens that any one except the councillors and town officials are present at the meetings of the Council. Possibly it would be wholesome if the citizens were found in more frequent attendance; but, surely, the presence of a vigilance committee at all the meetings of the Council is not required to ensure a proper management of the town affairs.

Chest Protectors

CHEST PROTECTORS are a form of LIFE INSURANCE FOR THOSE WHO ARE PRONE TO COLDS OR LUNG TROUBLES. They are equally valuable for those who are exposed to all sorts of weather. A rightly made Chest Protector keeps IN the vitality and keeps OUT the dampness and chill. We are showing a line of the most desirable protectors, including the best CHAMOIS vests for Men and Women.

Prices range from 75c to \$3.00. ALSO this is a good time of year to take RAND'S EMULSION.

RAND'S DRUG STORE. Established 1895. Telephone 10.

The above amount, in accordance with the By-Laws, is made payable in fifteen annual payments, commencing Dec. 31st, 1903, and until fully paid operates as a lien against your property. Interest at 4 per cent per annum is chargeable from Dec. 31st, 1902, on the balance remaining unpaid.

Now, if this notice does not mean that the first payment is due and payable Dec. 31, 1903, what in the name of plain English does it mean? What is to commence, if it be not the payments; and if they commence, Dec. 31, 1902, how can the first payment not be due until Dec. 31, 1903? In regard to the question of interest I am unable to understand the logic of the law by which interest that forms a lien on property in the same way as does the principal of the frontage tax, is not as much a tax as is the principal on which the interest is reckoned. This, however, is a question for the lawyers, and I gladly leave it to them.

If my point regarding the time when the payments on the frontage tax begin is well taken, I fail to see why two instalments are not now paid by those who have not made any payment on account of frontage tax. In regard to the statement of the committee concerning the right to vote, it would be well for the committee to tell the ratepayers where and how it secured the power to determine who shall and who shall not vote. Respectfully, EVERETT W. SAWYER.

FOR SALE. Grey Mare 3 years old, weight 1200 lbs. A fine worker. Bay Horse, 4 years old, bred in P. K. I. Weight 1000 lbs. Very fine driver. Bay Horse, 4 years old, bred in P. K. I. Weight 1000 lbs. "Bismarck," dam by "Alton Clay." Apply to C. E. HARRIS, Tipper Person, or C. S. STARR, Wolfville.

Wm. Regan, HARNESS MAKER. Edwin E. Dickey, M.D., Wolfville, N. S. Office: Two doors east of Manual Training Hall. Telephone No. 5. "In the Good Old Summer Time" everyone drinks Morse's Empire Extra Because it is the BEST TEA on the Canadian market to-day. For sale only by E. J. BOWLES, MAIN STREET.

SPECIAL NOTICE.

I take this opportunity of thanking my many friends and customers for their large patronage during my six years of business here and announce that as I now intend to go out of business my

ENTIRE STOCK OF BOOTS, SHOES, SLIPPERS, RUBBERS, OVERSHOES, FELT GOODS, LARRIGANS, Etc., Etc.

WILL BE SOLD OFF AT VERY LARGE REDUCTIONS ON ALL LINES. Sale to commence on SATURDAY, 16th JANUARY, and to continue until the stock is disposed of.

People's Shoe Store, N. M. SINCLAIR. P. S. Goods sold for cash only, and exchanged, or money refunded where goods don't suit, provided they are returned in good order within a reasonable time.

50 PIECES 50 CENTS. SHEETS... 25 of these in each lot, all over 2c each. TABLE CLOTHS. PILLOW SLIPS. Towels, Napkins, Doylies, and Bed Spreads. Two Spreads allowed in each 50. Rough dry including all classes of family washing 25c per doz. Sheets, Slips, Table Cloths, Quilts etc. returned ready for use. 30 to 50 WHITE Pieces Rough Dry 50c. WOLFVILLE LAUNDRY CO., Limited.

NOTICE! XMAS POULTRY! We have a good supply of Geese, Turkeys, Ducks and Chickens, also extra quality Beef, Pork, Lamb, Veal, Ham, Bacon and Sausages. SIMON BROS., Telephone No. 100 C. GRAND PREM.

WAIT WAIT WAIT ... FOR THE ... GREAT BANKRUPT SALE! Of a Wholesale Clothing Firm of Montreal THE STOCK COMPRISES MEN'S, YOUTHS' AND BOYS' FALL AND WINTER CLOTHING! To be Sacrificed at Prices heretofore unheard of. \$15,000 worth of Fall and Winter Clothing 50 CENTS ON THE DOLLAR, to be Slaughtered at. THIS fall in prices is as great as the Falls of Niagara, and the people of Wolfville and vicinity will remember us by our GREAT BARGAINS. Remember, everything in our store must be sold within FIFTEEN DAYS. This is a rare chance to obtain Fine Clothing at a mere trifle of its real value, and should be taken advantage of by everybody. Everything will be sold without reserve. OUR DOORS WILL BE THROWN OPEN TO THE PUBLIC AT 8 a.m. SHARP ON THE MORNING OF SATURDAY, JANUARY 16TH. AND THE SALE WILL CONTINUE FOR FIFTEEN DAYS. READ AND TAKE NOTE OF A FEW OF OUR PRICES: Men's Strong Working Pants, worth \$1.50, sold for 75c. Men's Heavy All-Wool Pants, worth \$1.75, sold for 90c. Men's Fancy Stripe Pants, worth \$2.25, sold for \$1.25. Men's All-Wool Hair-Lined Pants, worth \$3.00, sold for \$1.50. Men's Black and Grey Striped Worsted Pants, worth \$4.00, sold for \$2.25. Men's Blue Cheviot Suits, well-trimmed, worth \$6.00, sold for \$3.90. Men's Business Suits in all the leading shades, worth \$10.00, sold for \$5.00. Men's Scotch Tweed Suits in Brown and Grey Checked Suits, worth \$13.50, sold for \$7.00. 267 Men's Assorted Suits, tailor-made in every respect, worth \$16.00, as 18.00 and 20.00, sold for \$8.00, 9.00 and 10.00. 100 Men's Overcoats, all colors, very latest make-up, regularly sold at \$10.00, during sale we will sell at \$5.00. 150 Men's Overcoats, variety of patterns, very stylish garments, made to sell at \$15.00, we are asking \$7.50. Men's Beaver Overcoats, worth \$8.00, sold for \$4.00. Men's Beaver Overcoats, former satin lining, silk velvet collar, worth \$12.00, sold for \$6.00. Men's Overcoats, extra quality, Moscow Beaver, lined with best English Satin. We have only 30 of these in stock, while they last, only \$10.00, worth \$20.00. 176 Men's Raglanette Coats, well-trimmed, equal to custom-made, former price \$18.00, sold at \$9.00. Men's Reefers in Frieze, Nap and Beaver, with storm collars, made to sell at \$6.00, 7.00, 8.50 and 10.00, we are asking \$2.99, 3.50, 4.25 and 5.00. Men's Ulsters, made of imported Frieze with long storm collar, full length, loose back made to sell at \$8.00, 10.00 and 12.00, we are asking \$3.90, 5.00 and 6.00. Boys' Reefers, made in Beaver, Frieze and Nap, with storm collars, age from 4 to 18 years, worth \$3.00, 4.00 and 5.00, sold for \$1.50, 2.00 and 2.50. Boys' Ulsters and Overcoats, worth \$6.00, 8.00 and 10.00, sold for \$2.99, 4.00 and 5.00. 135 Boys' School Suits, former price \$3.00, sold at \$1.50. 173 Boys' School Suits, former price \$4.50, sold at \$2.10. Middie Suits, former price \$4.00, now sold at \$2.00. Men's Spring and Fall Overcoats, from \$3.00 up, worth double.

THE ACADIAN. WOLFVILLE, N. S., J. Cleanings by Acadian N. The Provincial Leg... Embled on Thursday... The report of the... County Council will be next week. Our next Exhibition Halifax, Sept. 7th, 1904 Sept. 14th. The work at the vari... al institutions is now r... on, with a good attend... Skates sharpened at... riage Shop. First-class... teed. Hockey skates... At the meeting... Council this week Co... bell was elected as De... A quantity of intere... type has been unavail... this week on account o... Rev. L. D. Morse, of... of the Baptist church... his family this week... copying the Paragon... gin his ministry here... The Normal Class... will be organized and... Saturday morning, a... "The... directed to Mr. M... Please hear in mi... Maxine this Friday... Baptist church, at 8 o... enjoyable musical eve... Admission free. The annual meeting... ville Board of Trade... Temperance Hall on... ing of next week. E... for the ensuing year... portant business, will... The County Council... week to hold a fruit... show at Wolfville. J... Couns. Campbell, Re... were appointed to act... for the town in carry... libition. The Memorial Win... Mr and Mrs Fred Bro... which is being plac... church by Sir F. Bor... from England. It w... position when the... adult, probably in M... The Municipal Cou... dinner to Warden J... American House on V... ing, which is report... very enjoyable affai... owing to another eng... evening we were un... BOARD.—A few... with board, on Mai... central. Apply at... N. S. apples ex... landed at London on... ten days voyage. N... cabled Tuesday eve... \$200,000 value, than d... for Greenings; 166... wins; and 178, to 21... sets. Scott Act Inspect... has been reappointed... and his salary increa... \$300. The County... commended for the... taining the services... feer and for providi... payment. The card of Dr. L... pens in another col... ders has leased room... of the residence of D... having them remov... for dental parlors... gin operations on... will be in Wolfville... day and Saturday of... We would call... notices in our adv... of Mr Sinclair, a... Shoe Store, who... business and is... entire stock at... prices. This is a... offered to get... Footwear. The D. A. R. h... its rolling-stock t... coaches, the "Ma... "Josephine." The... the Amherst car... worthy in every re... for which they are... "Flying Hussar"... are cherry colored... holstered in old go... the modern imp... lighted with Pist... For SALE OR To... cottage on West... modern improve... As the appropriate... tunate townsman... now sufficiently be... of measurements l... taching an artific... scribers to the fu... requested to pay th... donations to Mr... People's Base... required. So far... lected. The whol... to be collected bel... sent to the manuf... artificial hands is a... ate man will be... living. The peculiar... camp is usually we... ers of crosby child... be lost in the trans... this purpose, no a... more universal app... ain's Cough Remedy... V. Band. TAYLOR.—Horton... to Mr and M... daughter. Gond. Long Isl... to Mr and Mrs... 900.