

THE CAMPBELLTON GRAPHIC

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TOWN COUNCIL

(Continued from page 7)

(B) Any County, City or Town in the Province, upon a majority vote of its qualified ratepayers, voting at a regular municipal election or at a special time set apart for such voting, to reduce or abolish within its jurisdiction, Income and Property Qualifications, or either of them, for voters and for candidates for the offices of County Councillor or Mayor and Alderman.

2.—That this town council request the co-operation of the union of N. B. municipalities and of the councils of all the municipalities of the province in pressing the beforementioned legislation upon the local government and legislature.

ALD. KETHRO

Ald. Kethro thought that the motion was absurd. If people wanted respectable men to devote their attention to the town, they wanted men with some stake in the country, not men that might put the town in debt and then fly away.

ALD. BUTLER

Ald. Butler said he would like to know what acre in town was worth as much as one citizen. We were making men. One man with manhood in him was worth more than a hundred lots of land with money in the bank. The question was, shall men speak or shall ground speak? Let men speak! Let boys that work, study and think, speak! If one gives his energy to the public he is no good in the town just because he has no land? When men speak they would have a country—not till then.

ALD. STABLES

Ald. Stables said it would be a nice country without property qualifications. People with property—not Tom, Dick or Harry—should run the town.

ALD. BUTLER

Ald. Butler asked Ald. Stables of what value his (Stables') property would be if it were not for men. If there were no men property could not be accumulated—nothing could be done.

MAYOR PEDOLIN

The Mayor thought that property should be represented by property owners. Would people in their private business entrust their affairs to men without means? Ald. Butler—Yes, you have to do it.

ALD. CLARK

Ald. Clark thought that while he might be valuable without property he would be much more valuable with it. The men with property were the men who should transact the business of the country.

MAYOR PEDOLIN

His Worship cited a case long ago in Fredericton when the vote of the propertyless men prevented the city taxing itself for Health purposes, until a special Act was passed by the Legislature to remedy the evil.

ALD. STUART

When Ald. Stuart began to speak in closing the debate, Ald. Clark claimed he was not sticking to the question and raised a point of order. The speaker, supported by Ald. Butler, claimed he was in order, and the Mayor so decided.

Ald. Stuart spoke as follows:—

We are, as a people, much inclined to boast of the freedom of our representative institutions, but, when we take the trouble to look beneath the surface of things, we see that our system of representation is very far from being perfect—that it is, in many cases, grossly unfair and partial and evidently intended to keep the common people quiet under injustice by making them believe that they have an equality of opportunity which they have not.

When, in 1264, under the dictatorship of Earl Simon the Righteous, representatives of the Commons were admitted to membership in the English parliament, until then exclusively composed of the great landed proprietors, that far-seeing statesman decreed that all members of the parliament should sit and vote in the same house on equal terms. But as soon as the reactionary element again triumphed they, afraid to abolish the representation of the Commons, did the next worst thing they could, that is, separate the Lords and Commons, reserving to the so-called upper house the right to veto any Act of the representatives of the mass of the people. Thus, till 1911, for over 600 years, the British Commons were subject to the supremacy of an hereditary aristocracy owing its authority in the first place to the mere brute force of the sword that accomplished the Norman Conquest.

And, to keep membership in the Commons itself as exclusive as possible, there was no salary for members of that house until last year. In 1867 by the British North America Act, there was saddled upon Canada at the time when the incubus of the old legislative council should have been relegated to oblivion an appointed and irresponsible Senate which possesses the veto in all things and will not hesitate to use it when anything of real value to the working class is proposed by the Commons.

Then, again, although there is no property qualification for candidates for the Dominion Commons or Provincial Legislative Assemblies, the compulsory election deposits of \$200 and \$100, respectively, to be forfeited if the candidate does not receive half as many votes as the winner, tend to prevent more than two political parties contesting elections—to choke off small parties and prevent open criticism of the leading parties by opponents of both.

In municipal affairs the people were, supposedly, given self government, but with a string to it. In some towns only property holders may vote, but in all our New Brunswick municipalities one must be assessed on so much real or personal property or both to be eligible for the position of Mayor or Alderman or County Councillor. That is, the man himself, no matter how honest, how industrious and energetic, how learned and accomplished and NO MATTER HOW POPULAR WITH HIS FELLOW CITIZENS, does not count. He may not represent his neighbors unless he is assessed on so much property. Surely this is carrying the worship of the Golden Calf to the extreme of absurdity.

This is to say, in effect, that all our municipal representatives now holding office, among whom there are many men of ability and integrity, would, if they should suddenly become unable to qualify financially, become at once unfit to retain their positions. Our municipal law says in effect, that only the ability to make money and gain and hold on to property fits a man for membership on boards which control the raising and spending of municipal money, the appointment of assessors, the value property and appor-

taxes and officers to carry out the law. Thus the control of local direct taxation is kept exclusively in the hands of the propertied classes, by the veto of appointed governors and appointed senators and the absence from our system of the Initiative, the Referendum and the Recall, the indirect taxation imposed by the Provincial and Dominion governments is kept out of the hands of the common people.

All this should be changed. The system is unjust. ALL WHO PAY TAXES SHOULD BE EQUALLY ELIGIBLE for the positions controlling the levying and spending of those taxes. Otherwise, the right to vote is a farce. OF WHAT USE IS THE VOTE IF THE VOTERS MAY NOT VOTE FOR WHOM THEY WISH TO REPRESENT THEM? If they must be limited in their choice to members of a certain class—those with so much property—why not deprive them of the vote altogether and let the property holders have all power in name as well as in actual fact?

The argument, often used, that those who have not acquired real or personal property have to pay only a very small portion of the taxes and have no stake in the municipality and, therefore, no interest in the wise and economical government of the same, has no foundation in fact. The propertied man ultimately pays the least tax. He who lives in a rented house, and not the owner, ultimately pays all the taxes on that house; for the owner fixes the rent to cover the cost of wear and tear and taxes and leave a clear profit for himself. So with the business man—he adds their taxes to the cost of the goods they sell and the consumer pays the bill. The citizens who own only the houses they occupy and the farmers who work their own land without hired help are not much better off, in these days of competition and Trusts, than the landless and houseless wage-earner, and their interests are the same as his.

The landless and houseless man whose direct tax is law, but whose indirect tax in rent, etc., is highest of all, has a much greater interest in the prosperity of his town or country than has the more well-to-do citizen, for it is harder for the former to make a living. Knowing, as by sad experience he is coming to know, that any rise in rent and price finally comes out of him, he can be relied upon more than the latter to do his utmost to avoid borrowing and unnecessary expenditure. The present great indebtedness of our towns and cities, provinces and states and nations cannot be charged to the propertyless part of the population, for they have had no voice in incurring them. A change can only be for the better.

The practice of taxing those who are allowed no effective voice in the imposition and disposition of the money thus raised caused the revolt of the English Commons in 1642, the United States in 1775, Belgium in 1830, and has caused incalculable trouble since. The system is out of date. It is time for a change. All adult citizens—white and black, rich and poor, male and female—should have equal opportunity in every walk of life.

MOTION LOST

On the question, being called the motion was lost, on the following vote:

Yea—Ald. Stuart and Butler; Nay—Ald. Kethro, Stables, Clark, Dickinson and Russell.

The Mayor submitted his annual report, which was ordered printed in Town Book. His Worship was pleased to note the improved condition of the town's finances; that fire losses had been slight, owing largely to the efficiency of the fire department and our splendid water service; that the Public Works department had made all the improvements possible; and the economical tendency of the Council.

Adjourned.

NEWCASTLE CHURCH NOTES

Rev. S. J. MacArthur of St. James church Newcastle, preached on Church Union in Chatham, Sunday. The Presbytery of the Maritime Provinces were occupied Sunday morning and afternoon respectively by Methodist Local preacher, E. H. Stuart of New Brunswick. In Newcastle, Methodist church Rev. Mr. Dore spoke on the history of the church Union movement.

OBITUARY

MISS FLORA A. POWELL

On the 2nd instant, at the home of her sister Mrs. Ezra Keswick, Harcourt, Miss Flora A. Powell passed peacefully away at the age of 97 years.

The deceased had been in failing health for some weeks, but it was not thought the end was so near. Not having been able to take much nourishment of late, Miss Powell sank quite rapidly, when, on Friday the spirit took its flight.

Miss Powell was one of the older members of a large family of eight, five of whom survive her. The surviving members are, Mrs. Ezra Keswick, Mrs. Wm. Mundie, Mrs. H. Bates, and two brothers Charles and Robert.

She deceased for a number of years followed the profession of school teacher, and in later years that of trained nurse. She was widely and favourably known. For quite a number of years she was an earnest and faithful worker in the division of the Sons of Temperance, and was ever ready and willing to help, on every good cause. Miss Powell will be much missed by all who knew her.

The funeral was held Sunday forenoon. The service at the house was held by Rev. R. H. Staver, while that at the grave was held by Rev. J. R. Miller of Bass River.

Interment was in the Presbyterian Cemetery at Bass River.

CAPTURED A LARGE HAWK

At the home of Louis Gallon in Upper Nelson, on the third inst. a hen hawk in pursuit of some tame pigeons which went under the kitchen veranda for safety, dashed through the window scattering the glass all over the floor and then flew into the dining room. While trying to get out through the window Mr. Gallon captured it after a hard struggle and killed it. It measured three feet eleven inches from tip to tip of the wings and one foot ten inches from point of bill to end of tail.

PLAYED AT CAMPBELLTON

Newcastle Concert Band played at Campbellton last Saturday night and for the Carnival Monday night.

There is no better medicine made for colds than Chamberlain's Cough Remedy. It acts on nature's plan, relieves the lungs, opens the secretions, aids expectoration, and restores the system to a healthy condition. For sale by all dealers.

ARTHUR McKENDY MARRIED

The marriage of Arthur McKendy of Bathurst, brother of Howard McKendy, of Douglas town to Miss Landon of Bathurst took place on Monday morning. Mr. and Mrs. McKendy passed through Newcastle Monday forenoon en route to the U. S. A. on their wedding trip.

DOCTOR ADVISED OPERATION

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Canifton, Ont.—"I had been a great sufferer for five years. One doctor told me it was cancer of the uterus, and another told me it was a fibroid tumor. No one knew what I suffered. I would always be worse at certain periods, and never was regular, and the bearing-down pains were terrible. I was very ill indeed, and the doctor told me I would have to have an operation, and that I might die during the operation. I wrote to my sister about it and she advised me to take Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound. Through personal experience I have found it the best medicine in the world for female troubles, for it has cured me, and I did not have to have the operation after all. The Compound also helped me while passing through Change of Life."—Mrs. LUTHER BLAIR, Canifton, Ontario.

Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound, made from roots and herbs, has proved to be the most successful remedy for curing the worst forms of female ills, including displacements, inflammation, fibroid tumors, irregularities, periodic pains, backache, bearing-down feeling, flatulency, indigestion, and nervous prostration. It costs but a trifle to try it, and the result has been worth millions to suffering women.

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