

THE SPIRIT OF THE AGE

WOODSTOCK, VERMONT

The People's Rights—A Representative Democracy—The Union and the Constitution Without Any Infractions.

VOL. XLVI. NO. 56. WHOLE NO. 4382

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 31, 1910.

THE SPIRIT OF THE AGE
Woodstock, Vermont.

Printed Saturday Morning
ONE DOLLAR A YEAR

WOODSTOCK NEWS

Admiral George Dewey, who passed the summer in Woodstock, was 73 years old Monday, and a large part of official Washington called on him to offer congratulations. The admiral is in good health.

Miss Nancy R. Darling of Woodstock is a member of the committee having charge of the details of the program of the annual meeting of the Vermont Botanical and Bird clubs, to be held in Bennington Jan. 20 and 21.

Prof. Adams Sherman Hill, a well-known English scholar and author of notable books on rhetoric, who has passed many summers here at the Inn, died at his home in Boston Sunday at the age of 77 years. Death was caused by apoplexy. He was a law reporter, correspondent and editor in New York, Washington and Chicago from 1856 to 1868. He was assistant professor of rhetoric in Harvard from 1872 to 1876 and Boylston professor of rhetoric and oratory from 1876 to 1904. Professor Hill had a good many friends here and easily made new acquaintances. His son, Arthur D. Hill of Boston, who last year was district attorney of Suffolk county, has also been a summer visitor here and he delivered the Memorial day address in Woodstock several days ago.

The West Woodstock school closed Friday, December 16, after a term of fifteen weeks. Lucy E. Atwood, aged 5 years, was perfect in attendance. Absent one day or less, Lucile M. Atwood, Dorothy H. Freeman and Margaret L. Freeman. Dorothy J. Candler, Richard C. and Thomas W. Butlerford had non-essent marks. I wish to join with the children in thanking the members of the Green Mountain Grange for the Christmas tree which they had for us.

Ethel L. Houghton, teacher.

An Annual Nuisance.

That annual and perilous nuisance, the jail roof, is again in eruption daily endangering hundreds of pedestrians who pass along the sidewalk under the bristling eaves of the building. Falling snow and ice make the place a continual menace which would hardly have been tolerated a day under private ownership, and it is no less a nuisance under the authority of the county, and it has been so for years. An accident or two—and one is bound to occur sooner or later—might cost the county more than a new building.

MARRIED FIFTY YEARS

Former Sherburne Couple Have Golden Wedding Celebration.

Mr. and Mrs. G. L. Estabrook of Rutland celebrated on Tuesday the 50th anniversary of their marriage holding an informal reception during the afternoon and evening.

Mrs. Estabrook's maiden name was Marcia Ann Hastings. She was born Jan. 26, 1842, at Sherburne. Gilman Leonard Estabrook was born Dec. 15, 1836, at Sherburne. They were married in Sherburne, Dec. 27, 1860, by Rev. B. F. Summerbell.

Four children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Estabrook. Loren Estabrook of Sherburne, Mrs. C. H. Hunt of New York, Mrs. F. N. Johnson of Rutland, and Mrs. R. C. Cotton, now deceased.

The couple lived in Sherburne up to 15 years ago, when they removed to Rutland. They have five grandchildren.

Among the people who attended the celebration from out of town were Aden Hastings of West Everett, Mass., Mrs. Will Fish of Bethel, Mrs. M. F. Estabrook of Randolph, Mrs. Lucy Ryder of Brooklyn, N. Y., and Mr. and Mrs. C. H. Hunt and three children of New York.

John Page Brown, who would have been 101 years old January 11, died Dec. 23 at his home in Ludlow of pneumonia.

VERMONT NEEDS ORGANIZATION

Publicity Plan Suggested by a New Jersey Vermonter—Railroads and the Politicians Are Criticised.

The following article was written by John C. Dana, librarian of the Free Public Library of Newark, N. J., for the New England Homestead. Dana is thoroughly interested in a more progressive Vermont, and his criticisms come from observation and from experience with prevailing conditions in this state. He is something of an agriculturist, too, and his quiet acres in Woodstock are a fruitful joy to himself and a pleasure and inspiration to his friends.

Vermont has a population of 343,000. This group of people is organized for two purposes only; by the railroads, that they may give the poorest service possible at the greatest cost; and by the politicians, that they hold all the offices. I understand that neither the railroads nor the politicians do now, or ever have, acquired much in the way of graft from the state. It is not there to be acquired.

The newspapers of the state, considering its small population, seem to me remarkably good; and they are probably about as influential as are other newspapers.

ORGANIZATION NEEDED.

What the state needs is something the railroads, politicians and newspapers have not given them. It needs, in effect, what you talked about in your blast—it needs organization and guidance along certain definite lines.

The railroads ought to do this, because if the state were led to develop its land to better purpose by new farming methods, and to increase its quarry output and to attract more summer residents, the railroads would be the first to profit. But railroads in the East have not the sense, as have some of the railroads in the West, to do a thing like this. Not yet.

The politicians, through the state government, ought to organize and awaken and guide the state. They will not, chiefly because they are utterly incapable of so doing. They are more concerned to hold office for a few months, than to do something for the state they are supposed to serve. That they will not organize and improve the state is shown by the fact that in the past 50 years they have not—and that they cannot be shown by the same fact!

The newspapers, of course, form an educational and energizing force in a community, but not an organized one; and probably in no community in the country will any group of newspapers definitely and systematically organize that community for greater social effort.

VERMONT AN EMPIRE.

Here we are, then, with a little empire, rich in resources, easily capable of being made richer still, attractive to summer visitors and to the adventurous farmer, and by judicious advertising and improvement of railroads and highways easily made vastly more attractive still. At present it lies asleep.

Even with my slight knowledge of such matters I believe I can see how easily this little empire could be galvanized into active, productive life, by one man alone, if he were supplied with the sinews of war. Also, it would seem that the work of awakening Vermont, making it a more productive, attractive and more populated state, could be made to pay, in the long run, good returns for the persons who do the awakening.

WHAT VERMONT HAS TO ADVERTISE

Let some one person be constituted state organizer, without any title, without any office and without the knowledge of any save a very few in the inner circle. Let this person open an office, preferably not in the larger cities but in a quiet place somewhat like Woodstock. At this office let him begin to gather a Vermont library and a Vermont card index. The library would include things of recent date pertaining to the resources of Vermont in all lines,

farms, dairies, factories, quarries, water powers, its railways, highways, etc. I do not need to particularize.

The card index would be the main thing. It would consist, first, of a series of cards containing, as fast as the information could be acquired, the life histories of all men now prominent in the state; first of all those prominent in politics as aspirants for office. It would tell their birth, education, achievements, failures, wealth, poverty, good deeds and bad deeds. This would be not simply a card index, of course, but a file of clippings, typewritten material, etc., all alphabetically arranged.

Next, the names of men who are not, never have been, and never will be aspirants for office, but who are men of worth and influence and standing in their respective communities. (This is the great body of constructive citizens upon whose work the future of Vermont really depends, including the newspaper men. Editor).

Next, the newspaper men of the State, with the ins and outs of their power and influence.

Next, the railway men of the State. Then would come a careful index of the agricultural situation of the State, beginning with all the available notes on farms and lands for sale. Work like this has been carried on to a slight extent by the State; to a still less extent by farm-selling agencies, and to some extent by your journal. Let the index bring all this material together. The information would be accompanied by maps, plans, photographs, etc.

With this would go information about streams, water powers, mills, sites for large hunting parks, country places, small villas, etc. As already said, the index would include material on mining and quarrying in the State, manufacturing, etc.

ORGANIZE TO SELL WHAT THE STATE HAS TO OFFER

I have given details enough. This quiet, unassuming gentleman, who has been, at comparatively small expense with the help of a few clerks, gathering the information above mentioned for six or 12 months, now, still quietly, associates with himself a few of the best men in different parts of the State. He says to them: "There is in this no office holding." The leaders in this enterprise will never ask for an office of any kind or accept one. This is an "organization for the betterment of Vermont." He quietly discloses to them his plans and gets their sympathy and support.

With them he associates also some of the native sons of the State in other States in the Union, etc., etc., of influence in their respective communities, and, in some cases, men of money.

At a meeting of a few of these men definite steps would begin to be taken; plans would be formed for presenting and passing through the Legislature of certain laws (I suppose some are needed) and for rescinding certain laws (and I have no doubt some need to be rescinded.) That is to say, this organizer would gradually bring it to pass that the official organization of the state, the politics, would itself be made effective to good ends and along proper lines; although at no time would he depend greatly on the state organization for the promotion of the work in which he is engaged.

Quietly, again, he would get in touch with the leading newspapers of the state, making plain to the men in view and securing their support. I believe in most cases and for nearly all the things the organizer would have in mind to accomplish this would be easy—though it could not be done quickly.

He is almost ready now to begin the campaign, for the awakening, the organizing, and the expansion of the state. He does this primarily through the public press. He does it not by condemning, blaming and finding fault; but by pointing out the possibilities and resources of Vermont and showing its people how they can be broadened and utilized.

THEN ADVERTISE AND GET THE BUSINESS.

At the same time he will carry on a campaign of absolutely reliable publicity outside the state; and it

HAPPY NEW YEAR

I wish to thank my friends for their generous patronage and assure them that the same is appreciated, and trust I may be favored with a continuance of your custom.

Wishing you all a Happy and Prosperous New Year.

E. A. SPEAR

will begin to be known, from Maine to California, that if one wishes to settle in a New England state, for the purpose of using water power for manufacturing, for the purpose of developing a granite quarry, for the purpose of establishing a fruit farm, a milk ranch or a butter factory or a small manufacturing enterprise of any kind; or if one wishes to go there for a summer home or to stay at a hotel, or to establish a hunting lodge with 5000 acres of a park, or a farm of a hundred acres or a country home, if anyone in all this country wishes to go to New England for any one of these or kindred purposes, he will know—within two years of the establishment of this organization bureau—that Vermont is as good a state as any to go to and that information about it can be obtained more quickly, more accurately, than about any other state in the union, etc., etc.

I believe results will follow of great profit to the state, and I cannot help thinking, as I said, that the men who thus organize the state primarily for public benefit would be able to make in time their organization self-supporting.

COUNTING MONEY.

For Coins Uncle Sam Uses Machines That Make No Mistakes.

Uncle Sam is now too big, too prosperous and too much in a hurry even to count his money, and instead of counting his coins by hand he simply runs them through a sort of hopper operated by electricity, and an automatic register shows how many went through. The coins fall into a bag and are tied up and sealed, the government guaranteeing that the correct number is in the bag. The machine can make no mistake; hence Uncle Sam feels safe in making his guarantee. In this way all the money is counted out at Washington to go to the sub-treasuries and banks throughout the country. The treasury does a great deal of counting of money, and for the purpose women are employed rather than men, as it has been found after long experience that women make fewer mistakes; hence the operators at the electric machines are of the female sex.

But there is one place in the life of the coin where it must be counted by hand, and that is when it comes back to the treasury for redemption. The money then must be gone over by hand to separate the foreign, mutilated, worn out and counterfeit pieces, a work that requires very quick perception, and women have been found to do it excellently well. Usually they can detect a counterfeit coin by its color or as it lies among the others on the table, but if not then the operator captures it when she tosses it from one hand to another, for there is a false ring in its chink as it leaps into her palm.

There are some interesting facts connected with copper cents. You would think that, inasmuch as pennies are money, they would be fairly well taken care of, wouldn't you? But they very mysteriously creep away and are seen no more. We have to put 80,000,000 of them into circulation annually, and the majority never come back for redemption. You can hardly destroy such a coin, so we infer that as they are changing hands frequently and are of small value they are handled carelessly and lost.

One woman in the treasury at Washington spends all her time in making the little paper covers which are seen around the sacks of smaller coins in the banks. They are called "cartridges" and are popular with the banks, as they are easily handled.—American Banker.

Subscribe for The Age, \$1.00

He Packed His Trunk.
A very newly married man just back from his honeymoon revealed a secret to a group of friends one night recently.

"You know I was very suspicious of my best man and the ushers," said he, "and I was cocksure they were going to put over some horse-play, so to be on the safe side I packed my trunk myself on the morning of the wedding and shipped it to the Grand Central station. When it came time to dress for the big event in the evening I got all rigged out and then looked in the closet for my shoes. They weren't there nor anywhere else. I had packed them in that trunk, and they were in the baggage room five miles away. The stores were all closed. It was just an hour before the ceremony. Nothing to it. I borrowed our coachman's best patent leathers and was married in those."—New York Sun.

Mary, Queen of Scots.

Mary, queen of Scots, was tall and slender, but very graceful in all her actions. Her face does not seem to have been especially beautiful, for she had rather irregular features, but her fascination of manner was irresistible. She had a way of cocking her head a little to one side and of looking sideways at the person with whom she was talking that gave a strong impression of coquetry. She had very small hands and feet and was fond of showing both, often having her gowns shortened in order that her feet might be seen. She always had her own hair cut close and wore a wig to save the time and trouble of hairdressing.

Siberia.

Siberia is no longer thought of as a land of desolate ice fields and barren steppes. On the other hand, it is known to be one of the most wonderful lands on earth. The rich prairies of the middle Amur and the Ural region, where the wild vine grows freely, and the fertile black earth plains of the Tobol and the Irtish—not mere patches of rich land, but steppes covering tens of millions of acres—and vast tracts densely covered with forests predict for this far northern country a remarkable future. Its population is steadily increasing, and it is already beginning to be one of the great grain centers of the earth.—New York American.

He Was Helping.

A Baltimore man whose son is a student at Princeton has had frequent occasion to remonstrate with his boy touching his extravagance, but the father invariably "comes to the front" when request is made for further funds.

In his last letter to his son the father, after the usual recital, stated that he was forwarding a check for \$50, and he wound up with:

"My son, your studies are costing me a great deal."

To which the hopeful in his next letter replied:

"I know it, father, and I don't study very hard either."—Harper's Magazine.

Heredity and Natural Selection.

Heredity is the tendency of every organism to produce its like. But in the production of the new forms there is, generally speaking, a slight variation in some cases from the parent form, and it is in the direction of these variations that natural selection acts. The variation repeats itself and keeps on doing so until finally the change is so marked that what practically amounts to a new species results. Thus are accomplished by slow results, extending through ages perhaps, the ends that man by artificial selection accomplishes in a few years.—Exchange.

The Tauern tunnel in Austria is to be ventilated by electric fans.

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SEVENTIETH YEAR

Clubbing List

Any one of the periodicals in the following list will be sent with THE AGE for one year for the sum noted after each.

Mirror and Farmer	\$ 1.55
Boston Post, daily	3.55
New England Homestead	1.80
Boston Evening Record	3.00
Delineator and Everybody's Magazine or Woman's Home Companion	2.90
Boston Journal, daily	8.55
Boston Herald, daily	3.75
Recreation	2.50
St. Nicholas	3.50
Outlook	3.75
New York Thrice-a-Week World	1.65
New York Tribune Farmer	1.50

ONE DOLLAR A YEAR

The Age gives all the local news of the County and State.

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The Spirit of the Age

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