

THE SPIRIT OF THE AGE

WOODSTOCK, VERMONT

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

VOL. XLVIII. NO. 2. WHOLE NO. 4402

SATURDAY, MAY 20, 1911.

THE SPIRIT OF THE AGE
Woodstock, Vermont.
Printed Saturday Morning
ONE DOLLAR A YEAR

WOODSTOCK NEWS

Woodstock's Oldest Frame Building.

The oldest frame building in town, barn on Norman R. Case's farm, on the Pomfret road, is about to be torn down to make room for a large dairy barn. The old structure, which is 35 by 40 feet, has some historical associations, as it was once used as a meeting house. Rev. Aaron Hutchinson, the first preacher to settle in this section, who supplied the three towns of Woodstock, Pomfret and Hartford for five years, beginning in 1776, occasionally held services here.

During a service one Sabbath, so the story goes, a bear came down from the hill across the valley, not far from the building, and the whole congregation rushed out to join in the pursuit of the animal, the incident ending divine worship for that day. History doesn't tell of the bear's fate.

Mr. Case doesn't know who built the barn, but it was probably Joel Matthews, who gave the place his grandfather. The building therefore 135 years old or more.

Notified to Watch Forest Fires.

Notices have been sent by the state board of forestry to the first selectmen of every town in the state pointing them fire wardens and instructing them to take charge and, where possible, all forest fires in their jurisdiction. Several serious forest fires have been reported since the latter part of last week and together with the extremely dry condition of the woods great alarm is felt. The state will stand the expense of fighting the fires.

Extra wardens have also been appointed in many of the towns where there are valuable lumber tracts.

WOODSTOCK NOTES

Julius Ludwig, from Staten Island, New York, instructor in Ashcroft riding school for the last month two, has given up his position and is succeeded by J. L. Lovell of Timore, Md. Mr. Lovell has been connected with the Northampton riding school for four or five years.

Rev. and Mrs. E. R. Phillips have been visiting their former home in Milton, N. H., and were also in Franklin N. H. a day.

By invitation of the pastor, Rev. A. R. Clark, George C. Randall Post, A. R., the Relief Corps and Co. will attend morning service at the Methodist Episcopal church, Sunday, May 28.

Mr. and Mrs. E. R. Cummings are guests of Mr. and Mrs. A. T. Skwell on Sunday.

Henry H. Vail of New York is in the summer home here for the season, arriving Monday in his automobile.

Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Davis of Middlebury have moved into H. H. Vail's house at the corner of Golf and Maple streets, formerly owned by F. W. Wentworth, and now owned by W. M. C. Howard and sold Howard moved their household effects out there from Simmons' block, Monday, to board with Mr. and Mrs. Davis.

The Hartland Nature Club. The first field meeting of the season was held at Sumner's Falls Saturday, May 13. As the river bluffs of the way from Hart Island had recently burned, it was thought desirable to omit the bird walk; but different species of birds were noted, nevertheless. Luncheon eaten on a bit of rising land overlooking the falls, hot coffee and sandwiches being prepared by Mr. Underwood. Several warblers were observed

among the pines and some sandpipers by the river, also three parties fishing for dace. An unknown willow and two antennaries were found near the water's edge.

From 2-4 p. m. the formal meeting was held. Mrs. Morgan reported having seen a greater variety of birds on May 11th and 12th than any previous year. She reported, too, a pair of Stone snipes taken in Pomfret recently, also a fish hawk, which she had seen near enough to determine.

Mrs. Ward sent a box of crimson-capped mushrooms and some cotton seeds from the South.

Mr. Underwood described a flock of duck hawks which he had seen near Rutland. He brought the club several valuable reports: "Flora of the State of Connecticut," presented by himself; "Flora and Fauna within 30 miles of Hanover," presented by W. W. Eggleston; "The Flora of Willoughby," presented by Geo. G. Kennedy; and "Keys to Trees of Hanover," presented by H. G. Rugg. He read a very interesting letter from the Nature club of Sussex Co., N. J., congratulating Hartland on having a similar club doing similar work.

The most interesting feature of the afternoon's program was the looking over of a large number of photographs of birds and birds' nests that were taken and sent by Mr. Owen Durfee, of Massachusetts.

The next meeting will be held at Spruce Swamp, near Barron Hill, on June 10.

HARTLAND.

Lee H. Graham took a trip to Middlebury last week.

Mrs. D. C. Clark of Woodstock, is a guest of her sister, Mrs. R. W. Headle.

Mrs. J. C. Underwood spent a part of last week with her uncle, F. P. Marsh, in Woodstock.

R. W. Headle was a guest of his grandchildren in Rutland last week. Walter Andrew of Madrid, N. Y., is a guest at L. L. Lobdell's.

Rev. C. O. Gill attended a ministers' meeting at West Hartford last week.

Mrs. A. J. Lawrence and daughter Lottie of Deerfield, Mass., are visitors in town.

Bear in mind the Pre-Memorial service to be held in the Congregational church May 28, at 10.45 a. m.

Mrs. A. J. Lawrence has decided her residence in Hartland village to Elmer Mackenzie.

Mrs. C. R. Bagley is a guest at P. E. Rogers'.

R. Sanford Blood of New London, Ct., was a week end guest of his grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Santord Bagley.

Miss Mary Adams has finished work at F. G. Spear's and gone to Lebanon, N. H.

Mrs. D. C. Webster is at W. E. Davis'.

Glenn Lobdell and W. E. Jenne are putting a new roof on J. G. Underwood's house.

Mrs. Fred Laure and daughter Estelle entertained the chicken pox this past week.

To Protect Killington.

State Forester A. F. Hawes has made an offer which, if accepted, will doubtless be a great protection to Killington peak as far as forest fires are concerned. Mr. Hawes said the state would provide for and pay a fire warden to do nothing but watch out from the peak, provided a shack would be built for his protection and a telephone line strung so he could communicate with the rest of the world in case of the discovery of fire.

It is not known whether or not this will be accepted. The plan would be to have the fire warden stationed at the summit so he could command a view covering many miles.

M. E. Wheeler of Rutland who owns the land in that vicinity said that he hadn't considered this proposition but he was anxious to have the road repaired to the top and hotel put into shape. He said he would give \$500 if others would raise \$1000, making \$1500, for which he thought the work could be accomplished.

Elm Tree Press. Fine Printing 17.

Of the Unique and Inspiring History of Vermont

By William S. Rossiter. Mr. Rossiter was formerly expert special agent and chief clerk of the United States Census Office. He prepared an historical and statistical study of the progress of Vermont which was to form part of an official document of the State. The document was never issued and Mr. Rossiter's study was published in the Quarterly of the American Statistical Association for March, 1911. Its publication led to the expression of opinions not very complimentary to Vermont in the Transcript of Boston and the Sun and Post of New York. These opinions and the study itself have disturbed the peace of mind of the men in authority in the State.

The following extract is taken from the concluding pages of Mr. Rossiter's admirable and sympathetic study of past and present conditions in Vermont:

While it is true that the population returns for Vermont offer to the student perhaps the gloomiest statistical picture to be found at the present time in the United States, the state is still very far from material or population catastrophe, and unquestionably still possesses in her own people the remedy for many ills.

Historical narrative is often out of place in a statistical paper, but the sketch of the early trials of the state of Vermont, which appears at the beginning of this study, was included with a definite purpose. The story of the New Hampshire Grants is a record of extraordinary persistence, self-restraint, and sagacity on the part of the leaders and people of that period. By the patient exercise of these qualities, complete success was achieved. The population of Vermont in 1910 is more than six-fold greater than it was in 1785; the number of present-day Vermonters possessing in full measure the fine traits of the fathers, is much greater than the number of those who shaped the early destinies of the state. It is a significant fact that in a recently issued and authoritative publication presenting biographical sketches of more than 17,000 Americans who are considered to have attained greatest eminence in all walks of life and in all callings, Vermont is near to leading the sisterhood of states in the proportion of persons so included to each 1000 persons born in the state.

The modern Vermont problem differs sharply from the earlier one. It is not a matter of arms and diplomacy, yet it requires exactly the qualities which the fathers manifested. The state is naturally fertile; waterpower abounds; forests with proper conservation should be a source of continued wealth. The scenery is beautiful to a degree surpassed by few states in the Union; the climate, though severe, is most healthful and invigorating. Hence in this period of rising prices for staples of food and of congested urban population seeking the pure air of the hills, is not the opportunity of Vermont at hand?

If the influential and able element in the state should organize and address themselves with unity, energy, money, and enthusiasm to the task of encouraging native Americans to settle in the more fertile areas, should seek outlets for their products, develop resources, and start new industries, it is reasonable to suppose the state would promptly respond in population and prosperity in proportion to the effort. In this undertaking, it should not be overlooked that there is an army of 168,000 allies in the Vermonters in other states, scattered, indeed, all over the Union, but possessing an undimmed love for the fatherland.

Success in any movement to solve the state's present day problem seems to lie first in organization. By organization all things are achieved in this age.

If public opinion in the state favors the modern policy of conservation, let it be remembered that today there is no conservation so vitally important to the state of Vermont as the conservation of strong and resourceful men and women.

This is No. 17 of a series of Vermont reprints which The Age purposes to publish weekly during the year. These reprints will also appear as leaflets, printed on good white paper 8 1/2 x 11 1/2 for distribution by Vermont citizens and for use in reading and study in Vermont public schools. The leaflets are sold in lots of not less than 25, for 25 cents, mailed post free.

Address The Elm Tree Press, Woodstock, Vermont.

The previous numbers are: "The Independent Farmer," by Thomas Green Fessenden; "Love and Liberty," by Royal Tyler; "The Green Mountain Boys," by William Cullen Bryant; "Vermont," by William G. Brown; "Ode to Independence Day," by Royal Tyler; "Vermont Winter-Song," by Mary Cutts; "A Picture," by Charles G. Eastman; "Comic Miseries," by John G. Saxe; "Come All Ye Laboring Hands," by Thomas Rowley; "The First Vermonters," by Samuel Williams; "Green Mountain Home," by Achaa W. Sprague; "My Mountain Land," by Charles Lindsey; "Ethan Allen," by C. L. Gossell; "Wake Up, Vermont," from the New York Sun; "Vermont Broadside," "Of the Unique and Inspiring History of Vermont" by W. S. Rossiter.

SHERBURNE

George Fish and sister were guests at M. S. Neil's from last Saturday till Monday.

Rufus Maynard visited at Walter Wilson's the first of the week.

Frank Sawyer of Bridgewater was in the place last Sunday.

Nelson Johnson of Pittsfield is with his brother here at this writing.

Miss Raymond of the North Sherburne school visited her sister in Bridgewater from Friday till Sunday.

Mrs. Stone and Mrs. Cameron were in Bridgewater Monday.

Ralph Spaulding of West Woodstock made a short call at F. G. Spaulding's last week Friday.

Mrs. Ed. Currier and Warner Bates were in Felchville the first of the week.

Mrs. Mary Wilson is with her son Walter and family for an indefinite stay.

Mrs. Dodge Sentenced.

A sentence of not less than four years nor more than six years in the State prison at Windsor, was imposed on Mrs. Florence M. Dodge in Essex county court at Guildhall Monday by Judge A. H. Hall following her conviction Saturday on the charge of manslaughter in having shot William Heath, a painter, at her home in Lunenburg, September 17.

C. V. Freight Wreck Causes Five Deaths.

A Central Vermont local freight train, bound from White River Junction to Springfield, Mass., and a Boston & Maine freight, from Springfield for White River Junction, collided head-on, two miles south of the Junction Sunday morning in a fog, four men being killed and one fatally injured, others being severely hurt. The wreckage caught fire, badly burning the bodies of one or two victims.

The dead: Roy Kendall of Brattleboro, brakeman. James M. Livingstone of Greenfield, Mass., brakeman.

Ralph H. Fairman of Vernon, head brakeman on the Boston & Maine.

R. I. Webber of Ware, Mass., fireman.

James McKay of Concord, N. H., member of wrecking crew.

Overlapping of orders, by which both trains are said to have received word to continue in opposite directions over the single track, is decried by the engineers to have caused the collision.

The wreck tied up traffic for hours. The tender of the Boston & Maine locomotive was thrown bottom up on top of the Central Vermont locomotive, and the track was ripped up for nearly 100 yards.

LAUGHABLE LAWS.

Queer Acts That Have Been Passed by the British Parliament.

Lord Palmerston, when prime minister, once said that the British parliament could do "anything but turn a man into a woman or a woman into a man." This ancient legislature can abolish any institution of the country, the throne, the church, the courts of justice, and can even extinguish itself. But it is often unable to "make sense" of the statutes in which it embodies its authority.

One of the most ludicrous enactments to be found in the acts of parliament is the statute for the rebuilding of a certain jail. The bill as originally drafted provided that prisoners should be confined in the old jail until the new one was built, but in committee a clause was added to the effect that the new prison should be constructed out of the materials of the old, and the bill became law before anybody detected the absurdity.

Then there is the "fifty-second of George II., chapter 146," which enacts that the penalty imposed under it shall be given, half to the king and half to the poor of the parish. After the act had been passed it was discovered that the penalty which the act provides is transportation for fourteen years. The first intention was that the penalty should be a fine of £500. On second thought parliament substituted a term of penal servitude, but it forgot to omit the clause providing for the division of the spoils between the king and his indigent subjects.

Again, the Darlington improvement act of 1873 has a "definition" that it would puzzle the most astute lawyer to explain. It reads, "The term 'new building' means any building pulled or burnt to, or within ten feet of the surface of the adjoining ground."

Such mistakes are, of course, due to clumsiness or carelessness. Others just as amusing arise from the use or misuse of technical language.

One amendment proposed by a member of parliament was worded as follows:

"Every dog found trespassing on enclosed land, unaccompanied by the registered owner of such dog, or other person, who shall on being asked for his true name and address may be then and there destroyed by such occupier or by his orders." But this gem of meaningless rhetoric was not passed.

Peers of the realm, as well as the commons, lapse into ambiguity. A certain noble lord in committee on the agricultural holdings bill put down this startling notice:

"To ask the government whether they will consider the practicability of introducing some provision for alleviating the great hardship now suffered by the family of any clergyman if he dies while occupying his glebe, as many clergymen have latterly found themselves reluctantly compelled to do."—Harper's Weekly.

Westminster and Coronations.

The longest time that Westminster abbey has ever been closed for coronation preparations was for the coronation of George IV., in 1821. The abbey was closed to the public in May, 1820, and was not thrown open again until two years later. The proceedings against Queen Caroline delayed the work to some extent, but most of the time was taken up in removing and replacing every particle of woodwork and fittings. The abbey on this occasion was said to have contained the largest congregation ever assembled there and to have presented the most splendid coronation spectacle ever witnessed.—London Standard.

Persistence.

A well known publisher said at a literary dinner in New York: "As an editor I find nobody so persistent as the amateur contributor. If the amateur were half as ingenious in writing his material as in trying to land it he would become a Dickens in no time. An amateur said the other day to an editor: 'Allow me to submit this bear story.'"

"My readers don't care for bear stories," said the editor. "They want something spicy."

"But this," said the amateur, "is a story about a cinnamon bear."

Willing to Change His Methods. "But why does your father object to me?" demanded the humble suitor.

"Because," explained the haughty beauty of proud lineage, "papa says his ancestors have always been gentlemen of leisure and you have to work for a living."

"Well, tell him I don't expect to after we are married," replied the humble suitor.—Philadelphia Record.

A NIMBLE FOOTMAN.

He Could Run and Gallop as Well as Pose and Bow.

In that record of social customs in the eighteenth century, "The Merry Past," Mr. Ralph H. Neville makes a good fund of the extreme formality of the times. Lord Lyttleton was once much piqued by the remarks of a certain old lady, well known for her strong predilection for beauty and athletic form in her footmen, and in consequence fixed upon the following method of making her ridiculous:

A friend of his had an Irish servant of remarkably fine presence, with a great fund of native humor. This man Lord Lyttleton borrowed and instructed to apply to the old lady, who, as was known, had advertised for a footman. Her ladyship either was or affected to be troubled by the most delicate and irritable nerves, which could not endure the slightest disturbance or noise.

The new servant, handsomely dressed and well powdered, presented himself at the lady's door and, his errand being announced, he was soon ushered into her salon.

My lady was alone, and after asking the young man a variety of questions, the answers to which seemed to be satisfactory, she told him she liked his appearance much as he stood, but she wished to see him walk to know whether he did that gracefully, a main point with her.

The man walked up and down the room, the old lady's eyes following him closely and in evident admiration of his six feet of height and his fine figure.

He was next ordered to turn this way, then that way, then to make his bow, then to carry a fan and book, and, last of all, to walk the length of the room again.

Having walked the last time, the man made a profound bow and said: "Your ladyship has examined some, but not all, of my accomplishments, which are all equally excellent. You have seen me walk; now you should see me trot."

With that he trotted up and down the room with his utmost vigor, until the glasses, china, chairs and everything else danced.

Then, stopping a moment, the rascal said, "Now, my lady, you've seen me trot; I'll next show you how I can gallop."

This he also performed with his utmost energy and, running downstairs, bolted out of the hall door.

Letting Himself Down Easy.

Matt Carpenter, the famous Wisconsin senator, was pleading a case before the supreme court. Before he had got half through with his argument the judges had made up their minds that his case was without merit and, moreover, that he was unprepared. When he finished his argument and counsel for the other side got up to reply the judges whispered to each other, nodded, and then the chief justice said, "I don't think it will be necessary to hear from you, sir." Carpenter's opponent was deaf, and he could only tell that the chief justice was addressing him. He turned to Carpenter for aid. "What did the chief justice say, Matt?" he whispered. "He said he'd rather give you the case than listen to you," Carpenter bawled in his ear.

An Ancient Loaf of Bread.

A loaf of bread 4,500 years old was found in the tomb of Mentuhotep, who died in Egypt 2500 B. C. It is now in the Royal museum of Berlin, being one of the most interesting discoveries of modern times. This loaf of cake or bread is dark brown in color. Inside are many large holes. Probably this part of the bread long since fell into dust, but much of the bread still remains in the shape of whole kernels and pieces of grain. Examination proves that it was made of barley and that the grains were only rudely crushed and not sifted. This proves that barley bread was one of the earliest kinds ever made.

Exchanging Civilities.

The detective who had run down and captured the bank robber stood in the corridor of the jail talking to the prisoner in the cell.

"Well, my safe blower," he said, "I guess that name fits you. I've got you safe, anyhow."

"That's all right," growled the prisoner. "You're a safe blower because I can't get at you."—Chicago Tribune.

Told Them In Advance.

Boarder (on leaving)—Madam, you are one of the most honest persons I have ever met.
Landlady—I am glad to hear you say that, sir.
Boarder—Yes; your honesty is even apparent on the very front of your establishment. Your sign says "Boarders taken in."

HUMOROUS QUIPS

The Crossed Fingers.

He swore that her kiss was the first he had had.

But his fingers were crossed.

He'd kissed but his mother when he was a lad.

Yes, his fingers were crossed.

He vowed that not only he'd never had a taste

Of quivering lips, but that no other waist

Had ever been clasped by his arm. Then

His two fingers he crossed.

The sparkler he gave her he'd purchased that day.

But his fingers were crossed.

No previous maiden had worn it—nay, nay!

But his fingers were crossed.

And never, so long as his life should endure,

Would eye, cheek or lip of another maid lure.

He knew it—past every doubt he was sure.

But his fingers were crossed.

She listened to all of the guff he had said

While his fingers were crossed.

She laid on his bosom her wise little head

While his fingers were crossed.

She answered so low that the fanned "tit-tit" bird

But his fingers were crossed.

Who peddles sweet secrets could scarcely have heard

As she breathed, "Oh, my love, I believe every word!"

But his fingers were crossed.

—Strickland Gillilan in Puck.

Dr. H. D. Holton of the State Board of Health in conference with Health Officer A. O. Bailey, M. D., of Randolph, in regard to the prevention of further cases of scarlet fever, recommended the dipping of all school books in a weak solution of carbolic acid and gasoline.