

## The Village Assessment Roll.

In looking over the Assessment Roll, now in the hands of the Village Clerk, we find a considerable increase in the total amount of taxable property in our village. Either three or four years ago the total amount of taxable property was about \$144,000. Last year it had risen to \$160,205, and this year we find it \$162,355, an increase of \$2,000 on last year. This is not as large an increase as some previous years show, yet the advancement is steady and sure.

But the Roll reveals some more mysterious facts than the above—facts of a curious and serious character, which it is the duty, not only of those effected thereby, but the duty of our Village Fathers to look into. We find there a lot of one acre on a certain street, assessed at \$250, the owner of which is a Conservative, and on which he will vote, while a lot of two acres, on the same street and on the same side, with only a one acre lot separating it from the one just referred to, is assessed for \$180, or \$20 too low to give the owner a vote, who is a Reformer, which makes all the difference in the world, when the figures can be manipulated under the heading of vote or no vote. It looks as if there was something wrong when one parcel of land can be entered on the Assessment Roll at \$250 per acre and an adjoining parcel at \$90 per acre. Other cases of a similar nature could be mentioned in this class. But another fact stands out in bold contrast with the above, yet in the same connection, and that is the manifest difference, in an opposite direction, it makes in the comparative assessable value of the property of Conservatives and Reformers when the figures cannot possibly be manipulated with a view to effecting the vote of the proprietor. For instance, we find in one place an acre of ground assessed for \$100, which we are informed, and have reason to believe our information correct, it would require at least \$830 or \$1000 to purchase, the property of a Conservative. Another property for which we are informed the sum of \$12,000 was asked a short time ago, we observe is valued by the Assessor at \$5,000. Yet another property for which \$3,000 in cash was paid a short time ago, and improved since to the extent of between two and three thousand additional, we observe to be assessed at \$1,500. Another property of over 21 acres, with beautiful residence, all, we believe in the corporation, is assessed at \$2,600. Another property for which over \$6,000 was paid a short time since is assessed at \$3,500. These are all the properties of Conservatives. On the other hand, it may be seen at a glance that the property of Reformers generally is assessed at a much higher proportionate rate, thus making Reformers to bear a heavier portion of taxation than Conservatives. We do not claim that the property of Reformers is assessed any too high, but we do claim that the properties referred to are assessed entirely too low. And in this claim public sentiment will bear us out, as well as the better judgment of the Assessor—for we believe his common sense should direct him in a more honest course. The whole thing seems to be so systematic that we are almost forced to the conclusion that it is the result of design rather than accident. It is the manifest duty of our council to see that corporation officers, their own appointees, do not demoralize their position by allowing political considerations to so influence them in the discharge of their duty, and thereby not only deal unfairly with those who happen to hold opposite political views, but also to thereby defraud the corporation of a large amount of legitimate revenue. Of course we are aware of the fact that the Village Fathers unanimously coincide with the Assessor in his political views, but we would not willingly believe them capable of winking at dishonesty of so glaring a nature. We hope therefore that in the interests of the entire corporation as well as the interests of those who are adversely effected the Council will investigate the matter. It is not our desire to see the Assessor unceremoniously "sat upon" until the whole matter is honestly looked into, and if that official has anything to say as to why sentence should not be passed upon him we shall be glad to hear from him. But that official must not forget that if he assesses property either 30 per cent. above or below the real salable value he lays himself open to a charge of perjury, and is liable to prosecution by any ratepayer.

## The Franchise Bill.

It is now announced that the new Franchise Bill that has been introduced into the House of Commons will be allowed to drop for the present Session. The main points of the Bill—those dealing directly with the Franchise qualification, were not so objectionable as the machinery by which it was arranged to work the measure. In this lay the most objectionable features. The mode of appointing revising barristers and the nature of their duties seemed to be arranged solely with a view to perpetuating in office a Tory Government, and expending as much of the public funds as possible. They being the appointees of the Government, and that appointment for life, and putting the assess-

ment rolls into their hands to make out the Voters' List, they have the power to give to that list whatever complexion they choose, and manipulate it to any extent in the interests of the party. There could be no appeal from the decision of the revising officer, which is a most arbitrary and unjust measure, and gives supreme power to an officer who may do as he chooses, without any restraining power. Another bad feature of the bill is the power it gives revising officers to cut up a riding or county into whatever polling sub-divisions he pleased, and gerrymander a township, town or city at his own sweet will. The municipal councils are in a much better position to arrange polling sub-divisions, but this would not suit the object the Government have in view, which is to give these officers as much power as possible, which will tell with the greatest effect at the polls, for almost every provision in the bill has this object in view. There is no broad, just principle in it. It is a vile, party measure from beginning to end, for the dearest rights of every citizen are put into the hands of an officer who is to a large extent irresponsible, or responsible only to a majority in the House of Commons, and that majority would, in a matter of this kind, invariably give a party vote. The great aim of any good Government should be to secure for every man the full and honest exercise of his right to the franchise, and to provide every possible safeguard against his being corrupted, but such cannot be said of this bill, for every clause of it opens the door to suspicion that the lists may be manipulated, and however just and fair the revising officer may be this suspicion will prevail, because the door is left open for it, by giving him too much power of an irresponsible character. The bill contains so much that is objectionable, unfair and arbitrary that it will never give satisfaction, and can be made a great and powerful instrument of evil. The clause giving to unmarried women, who have the necessary qualifications, the right to vote, we heartily concur in as far as it goes, but it does not go far enough. Why confine the franchise to those two classes? Are not single women who earn their living in factories, shops and other places, who are not female teachers, are not the daughters of farmers or citizens who do their work at home, and are not married women—who are often the bread winners as well as the men—as well entitled to vote as the class included in the bill? And why not include married women? Is it as a Richmond Hill lady suggests, that "the fact of them getting married is proof positive that they are too great ninnies to be entrusted with the franchise." One thing is very certain, the line drawn in the bill is a very arbitrary one, and the ground on which it is laid down unknown to us, but it falls very far short of doing justice to the classes mentioned. Let us hope that when it is again introduced, if introduced it must be, the exceedingly objectionable features regarding revising barristers and their powers will be removed, and the clause relating to women be so rearranged that the classes now excluded will have the same privileges as their sisters with whom the bill has already proposed to deal liberally, and we conscientiously believe that one of the results will be, the clearing of the political atmosphere of much of the pollution and corruption that now taints its every breeze.

## The N. P. Elephant.

The Montreal Witness remarks the lull in the discussion on the trade question. The Tories assume it to be settled and the Liberals having been twice beaten are getting afraid of it. But the Witness thinks it is far from settled. It looks for the return of calm reason, and thinks it impossible for a swindle so huge and so far reaching to become permanent. If men were guided by reason, protective tariffs would soon fall through, but then they are not. Men are guided by whim, prejudice, passion, party names, narrow selfishness, and many other motives which becloud reason. Many a man has taken the N. P. shilling for his vote and paid a pound for it. We fear the N. P. has got a pretty firm grip on this commonwealth, and a fearful burden it is directly and indirectly. As an engine of political corruption it works most efficiently, but the cost to the poor people of Canada is fearful to contemplate, and the results to the future of the country in the shape of financial burdens, alienated public lands and corrupted public sentiment are incalculable. Yet we know people who are bled by this N. P. to an extent that they would not endure from church and state combined if they knew it, whose vote, nevertheless, are sure for their tyrants every time.—Waterloo Chronicle.

## Shade Trees.

The Proclamation of the Reeve, Mr. J. Brown, for volunteers to inaugurate an "Arbor Day" in Richmond Hill, which we hope will now be an annual institution, was well responded to by a number of our villagers who are interested in ornamenting and improving the appearance of our streets. The turn out "however" was not as unanimous as it should have been or as we hope it will be when our people become better acquainted with the object of setting apart a day each year for that purpose. There were upwards of two hundred trees set out on Yonge, Church, Centre, and Elizabeth

streets, and the previous moistness of the earth and the subsequent rains will, no doubt give them a good start in their new situations. It is not to be expected that all will grow but if a few do so, and the places of failures are persistently filled each year, we shall, in a few years, have very pretty avenues in which to promenade, and we feel that we can say without fear of contradiction that with our streets and lanes thickly and evenly studded with handsome shade trees our village will be one of the most beautiful and attractive in the Province of Ontario.

The New York Independent says: "Recent cable dispatches try to make out that the Gladstone administration has greatly declined. A late issue of the Spectator says that when Mr. Gladstone rose to speak on the Affirmation bill 'it was at once evident that he was at the highest point of power, and that his mastery of the house had never been more complete.' The vote against the Affirmation bill was not a vote against the Government. Mr. Gladstone had courage enough to say that while he believed the bill would injure the party, it was right and ought to be passed. It would be a disgrace to England to permit such a noble man to go out of power."

Herbert Spencer, Prof. Huxley, and Tyndall, John Morley, and about 200 of the leading literary and scientific men of England, have signed a memorial to be presented to the Home Secretary, protesting against the continuance of the imprisonment of Mr. Foot, the editor of the Free Thinker, for blasphemy, and asking for his release. Sir Wm. Harcourt, it is understood, will refuse the petition. Public feeling against atheism is strong, and it is said that Lord Randolph Churchill is preparing a bill to disqualify atheists from sitting in Parliament.

The North-West Transportation Company, which has lost so many vessels on the upper lakes and sacrificed so many human lives, the latest instance of which was the Asia disaster, is now putting upon the Sarnia and Duluth route one of the finest lake steamers that has ever been built—The United Empire. It is 260 feet in length, and built without regard to cost. Their other vessels have all been refitted under the management of Wm. H. Beatty, now manager of the N. W. Transportation Company.

Queen Victoria's birthday, May 24th, will be celebrated on that day throughout Great Britain, excepting in London, where it will be kept on May 26th. This is an admirable arrangement, the London Globe thinks, inasmuch as it will enable loyal subjects to observe the day once in the country, and a second time in London; while Mr. Labouchere, Mr. Bradlaugh, Mr. Parnell, and others, by spending the 24th in London and the 26th in the country, can easily avoid the celebration altogether.

One hundred and twenty members of the House of Commons, chiefly moderate Liberals and Radicals, have sent a memorial to Mr. Gladstone, asking the introduction of a bill granting female suffrage in any franchise measure the Government may propose. Besides those signing the memorial, many members have pledged themselves to vote for a woman's suffrage bill, if the bill be proposed by some private member, and not introduced as a Government measure.

Supplementary estimates amounting to \$1,220,000 were asked for by Sir John's government on Tuesday. That will run the expenditure of next year beyond \$32,000,000. Five years ago Sir John and his party decried against it even exceeding \$22,500,000. The electors are being roused to the tremendous extravagance existing at Ottawa. The last dollar will be dragged out of the people by burdensome taxation, to be squandered upon political favorites.

Many of the mechanics of Hamilton are on strike for higher wages. The Dominion Government is advertising in the Old Country papers that they will give assisted passages to mechanics who desire to come to Canada. The mechanics of Hamilton will not get the higher wages they want if the Dominion Government can prevent them by importing old country mechanics.

Mr. Bradlaugh's constituents are determined to keep up the fight for their electoral rights in the House of Commons. They are fighting for a principle which they ought never to yield.

W. H. Vanderbilt, the great American railway king, has secured a large interest in the Canada Pacific Railway.

C. C. Jacobs Buffalo, N. Y., says: "Dr. Thomas' Electric Oil cured him of a bad case of piles of 8 years' standing, having tried almost every known remedy, 'besides two Buffalo Physicians,' without relief; but the Oil cured him; he thinks it cannot be recommended too highly." There being imitations on the market of Dr. Thomas' Electric Oil, customers will see that they get the genuine.

## PUBLIC NOTICE.

NOTICE is hereby given that any person trespassing on the property of the undersigned, Lot 5 on 48 Wood Lane, will be prosecuted according to law.  
R. BLACK.

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Cottons, Cottonades, Shirtings, etc., lower than the lowest.

A Full Stock of ready-made clothing. Men's suits from \$5.50 up.

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## COURT OF REVISION

MUNICIPALITY OF RICHMOND HILL!

PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given, to all whom it may concern that the first sitting of the Court of Revision, for the Village of Richmond Hill, will be held in the Council Chamber, on

Saturday, June 2nd, 1883,

At 2 p. m., to hear and determine on appeals against the Assessment Roll for the current year, of which all persons interested are requested to take notice and govern themselves accordingly

M. TEEFY, CLERK. Clerk's Office, Richmond Hill, 7th May, 1883. 45

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Mrs. D. Morrison, of Farnham Centre, P. Q., writing about Dr. Thomas' Electric Oil, says: Gen. Bell, used it on his son, and it cured him of rheumatism with only a few applications. The balance of the bottle was used by an old gentleman for Asthma, with the best results. It acts like a charm."

FURRED TONGUE & IMPURE BREATH are two concomitants of biliousness remedied by Northrop & Lyman's Vegetable Discovery and Dyspeptic Cure, Heartburn, which harasses the dyspeptic after meals and all perplexing and changeful symptoms of established indigestion, are dispersed by this salutary corrective tonic and celebrated blood purifier.

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Druggists throughout the Country all speak highly of Dr. Carson's Bitters. The general opinion expressed is that it gives the best satisfaction of any medicine they sell, and never hesitate to recommend it in all cases of Disordered Stomach, Biliousness or Indigestion. Price 50 cents a Bottle. Mr. Sutherland Johnston, a Sarnia Druggist, has sold an enormous quantity of Dr. Carson's Stomach Bitters. He says that they give splendid satisfaction. They act promptly in relieving all disorders of the Stomach, Liver or Kidneys and are the "Best Blood Purifier." For sale by all Druggists at 50 cents a Bottle.