THURSDAY, Jan. 28th.

Petition from Deputy Reeve of Hullett asking for a grant of $300 to finish the school.

SEASONABLE SUGGESTIONS.

The closing committee reported as follows:—

ROADS AND BRIDGES.—Messrs. Greenway, Cresswell, Lockie, Snell, Gibbons, Black, Ford, Girvin, Sproxton, Brown, Shannon and Kelly.

FINANCE.—Messrs. Fisher, D. D. Wilson, Armstrong, Hays, Walsom, Gibson, Greenway, Lockie, Cresswell, Hunter, Willson, B. Strachan, Taylor, Brown and Monteith.

SCHOOLS AND PRINTING.—Messrs. Parsons, Willis, Watson, Gaunt, Simpson, Porter, Shannon, Garrow and C. Wilson.

ROADS AND BRIDGES.—Messrs. Simpson, Procter, Cook, Geigen, Malloy, Hunting, Snell, Girvin, Hays, Mullen, Strachan, Hunter and Parsons.

WARDEN'S COMMITTEE.—Messrs. Willis, Greenway, Lockie, Girvin, Brown and Garrow.

JAIL AND COURT HOUSE.—Messrs. Ford, Armstrong, Watson, Willis, Cook, Kerr, Gibson, D. D. Wilson, Geigen, Monteith, Kelly, Walker, Rhody, B. Wilson, Miller and C. Wilson.

Your committee would also recommend that Messrs. Lockie, Greenway, Brown, Garrow, Cresswell, Snell and Black be appointed a special committee to whom may be referred any special or unforeseen question which the Council may deem fit to refer for their consideration.

G. E. CRESSWELL,
Chairman.

Moved by Mr. Fisher, seconded by Mr. Snell, that A. Worthington, Esq., be re-appointed trustee of Clinton High School, and that W. A. Parsons, Esq., be appointed to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of Mr. Coats.—Carried.

PAUPER ASSESSMENT.

Moved by Mr. Gibson, sen., by Mr. Black, that three valuators, all to be selected from outside the County, be appointed to travel through all the Townships in the county towns and villages together, and value them according to the 30th clause of the assessment Act of 1869; having in view the quality and value of the land, and convenience for marketing provided by the county. Said valuators to be sworn.

Mr. Gibson in presenting the motion, said the many difficulties upon the matter of assessment made it desirable to have some proper basis for assessment. The statute demanded that property should be assessed at its value in case of a sale, and there was no doubt this rule had not been carried out heretofore. The cost of making such an inspection would be though, in the about $300.

Mr. Black, of Turnberry, contended that the valuation would have to be done after the snow disappeared, and to do the work before the sitting of the Equalization Committee, about a month only was given to do it. The duty of the assessor was a difficult one. The expense would be too large to send three men together. He thought a man should be chosen from one Riding to value the property in another, and thus avoid partiality and reduce the expense. The cost would be more than Mr. Gibson estimated it.

Mr. Cresswell thought the motion would throw aside the duties of the councillors. He did not think it would be well to select men to do the work proposed when the councillors present could furnish all the information necessary to the assessors. The work proposed would have to be done in one month, and in that time justice could not be done. If they were allowed all summer the plan might be efficient. The great trouble had been in the towns and villages,—the farming communities seemed to be quite satisfied with the rates imposed.

Mr. Lockie thought the motion cast a reflection upon the council. They would show a weakness in appointing men to do the work which they could do well enough themselves, and which they ought to do. The present rate was more nearly correct than ever before. It was the duty of each member to urge in his constituency the necessity of fair valuations. The expense he deemed needless as the council had all the information sufficient to arrive at a proper valuation.

Mr. Greenway a few years ago had introduced a motion in council for the same object which this motion had. He considered that no correct basis of assessment would be obtained until some measure like the one proposed was enforced. Three men judiciously chosen could drive through each concession and make a fair valuation, and at very small expense. The only way of having a proper valuation placed upon property was by such an arrangement. If assessors would do their duty there would be no occasion for further action, but it was not likely that they would ever do so.

Mr. Kelly suggested waiting until after the June session, and see the result of the Committee's work, and if unsatisfactory to them appoint valuators.

Mr. Parsons, of Stephen, was in favor of the resolution.

Mr. Strachan thought that a fair valuation could be made by passing through the concessions. He did not consider it fair to make the price for which a farm was sold always the basis of assessment, for in many cases these farms were the best and sold at fancy figures. The money necessary to carry out the proposition would not be much and would be well spent.

Mr. Fisher, of Clinton, thought the proposition good; valuators appointed from outside would not be interested parties such as the members of the council are, and they would give a more equitable judgment.

Mr. Sweetman, of Howick, thought the plan would be better than by individual valuation, as three men traveling together could consult upon doubtful cases.

Mr. Cresswell said that at a rough calculation the proposal to pass along each road in the County would entail a journey of 2,500 miles, and it would be useless to confine them to any time short of six months. He advocated the appointment of three outside men and that an oath be administered to them, and the valuation made by them would be a basis to be relied upon.

Some further discussion followed and certain amendments proposed to the motion, and it was suggested that the rolls for this year be forwarded from the various municipalities so that the Equalization Committee might examine them at the June session. The motion, however, was withdrawn and it was

Moved by Mr. Shannon, seconded by Mr. Hays, that the members of this Council use all lawful endeavors to see that the assessment in the respective municipalities be carried out as the law directs both in villages, towns and townships, and that the assessment rolls of this year be laid before the equalization committee at the June meeting, that the committee may be better able to arrive at a more correct basis, and save a great deal of confusion and perhaps future litigation; and that the Reeves be requested to bring the rolls of the present year with them in June.—Carried.

Moved by Mr. Cresswell, seconded by Mr. Snell, that the sum of $70 be granted to each of the Riding Agricultural Societies in the County of Huron, said sum not to be paid until after the 29th of November, 1875.—Carried by a majority of 20.

Moved by Mr. Greenway, seconded by Mr. Parsons, that the Engineer be instructed to have the bridge crossing Mud Creek, on the boundary line between Middlesex and Huron rebuilt, County of Middlesex to pay one half the cost.—Carried.

Moved by Mr. Mullen, seconded by Mr. Simpson, that whereas traveling menageries and circuses, in passing through the County do a great deal of damage to the roads, without making any compensation therefor, resolved that this Council petition the Legislature of Ontario to amend the Municipal Law so as to empower the County Council to pass a By-law for levying a toll on all horses, carriages or waggons engaged in any such business.—Carried.

The Clerk read the schedule of amounts expended for charity in the municipalities during the past ten years, as follows:—

Ashfield	$600.00
Brussels, in one year	144.00
Clinton	797.27
Colborne	793.83
Exeter	50.00
Goderich Town	[illegible]
Goderich Township	919.83
Howick	600.00
Hullett	2725.00
McKillop	1434.00
Seaforth for four years	181.00
Stanley	904.00
Stephen	1000.00
Tuckersmith	1094.00
Turnberry	1002.00
Usborne	1403.00
W. Wawanosh	1314.00
Wingham, in one year	9.00
Grey	9.00
	$20222.94

INDUSTRIAL FARM.

Moved by Mr. Garrow, seconded by Mr. Fisher, that it is desirable to establish at as early a date as possible a House of Refuge or Industrial Farm within the County, and that a committee should be appointed to make all necessary enquiries as to the estimated cost of such an institution and a convenient locality therefor, and to report with such full and complete information as will enable this Council to take definite action at the June session.

In presenting the motion Mr. Garrow said that towns and villages were centres where pauperism accumulated, and it was advisable that, as in the system of parish poor houses in England, each locality should support its own poor and do it as cheaply as possible. The statement made by Mr. Adamson of the expenses of the County in the past ten years was a strong inducement to make some other provision than at present existing. The poor were not properly cared for, and the expense was gradually increasing in this respect. Institutions already established were becoming self-sustaining. The County was wealthy and could well afford the outlay. It was the duty of every civilized county to provide for its poor.

On a division the motion was lost by a majority of 20.

Council adjourned.

THURSDAY AFTERNOON.

SCHOOL INSPECTOR'S REPORT.

Mr. J. R. Miller, Public School Inspector for West Huron presented a voluminous report of the condition of the schools in the Western District of Huron

The district comprised the Township of Ashfield, Colborne, Goderich, Hay, Stanley, Stephen, Usborne, West Wawanosh and the Village of Exeter. The amount received during 1874 for school purposes was $72,172.55, of which had been expended in salaries, new buildings, improvements, &c., $62,838.97½, leaving a balance of $9,333.57½. The amount of indebtedness throughout the district for salaries, repairs, buildings, &c., was $8325.76. The value of school property was $86,779, while in 1871 it was $36,820.

The whole number of school sections was 80—Ashfield 13, Colborne 7, Goderich 10, Hay 10, Stanley 11, Stephen 12, Usborne 8, West Wawanosh 8, Exeter 1; Union Sections 17; R. C. separate schools 2.

The number of school houses is 81—29 brick, 2 stone, 1 concrete, 48 frame, 4 log. There were 27 log schools in 1871. There are no rented buildings in the district. Each school had at least half an acre of ground as required by law.

School visits had been made to the number of 1611 during the year by different persons, 159 being by the inspector.

The school population for 1874 was boys 4846, girls 4276, being an increase of 434 over 1871. The number of scholars between the ages of 7 and 13 not attending school was 115. In many sections the trustees had looked after this matter faithfully. School accommodation was ample in every locality.

The whole number of teachers in the district was 102, the religious persuasions being thus classified—Methodists 45, Presbyterians 38, Episcopalians 11, Roman Catholics 6, Baptist 1, Quaker 1. Certificates were as follows: First Class B, 3; first class C, 4; second class A, 8; second class B, 17; third class B, 1; old county board 4; interim 11. Highest salary to male teacher $500, lowest $300; highest to female teacher $320.

There are 38 libraries, containing 2252 books. The supply of maps is good. Prizes were distributed in 51 schools.

The standing of the schools in the different municipalities was as follows:

	Excellent	Good	Middling	Bad	Very Bad
Ashfield	2	7	3		
Colborne	1	2	4		
Goderich	3	3	3	3	1
Hay	2	2	6		
Stanley	2	4	5		
Stephen	3	7	1	1	1
Usborne	3	2	3		
W Wawanosh	1	4	2		
Exeter	1				
Total	11	25	35	3	3

Three Teacher's Institutes have been formed at Exeter, Varna and Dungannon. Two of these are doing excellent work, and the third is not fairly in operation.

Through the kindness of W. Young, Esq., Reeve of Colborne, and the Council of that municipality, a handsome sum of money was placed at the disposal of those attending the competitive examination held on the last Saturday in June. Books of the value of $100 were distributed with satisfactory results. Such examinations should be held in each township.

The subjects of compulsory education, Township Boards and assistant teachers was referred to at length recommending a fair consideration of the subjects, particularly of the two first. The report concluded with a few words of praise of the zeal of the majority of the teachers and the success they had met with.

Moved by Mr. Willis, seconded by Mr. Gaunt, that Dixie Watson and Peter Adamson, Esqs., be appointed on the Board of Audit in the terms of the Act in this behalf.—Carried.

Moved by Mr. Ford, seconded by Mr. Malloy, that the Engineer be authorized to have the bridge at Ben Miller rebuilt, should the same be rendered impassable by the spring freshet.—Referred to Road and Bridge committee.

Moved by Mr. Garrow, seconded by Mr. Girvin, that Rev. Robt. Ure be re-appointed Trustee of the Goderich High School.—Carried.

Petition from John Ruddell praying for $130 compensation for horse killed at Blyth.

Moved by Mr. Snell, seconded by Mr. Fisher, that the sum of $3,000 be raised by the County for improving the boundary lines of the respective municipalities, the said sum to be expended on the same principle as heretofore.—Carried.

Communications from Messrs. Sinclair and McDermott, with certain accounts and tenders for printing referred.

Moved by Mr. Cresswell, seconded by Mr. Monteith, that a tax of one dollar be levied on each dog and two dollars on each bitch in the County of Huron; that the payment for sheep killed by dogs be dispensed with, and that the Clerk be instructed to draft a by-law in accordance with this motion, to be submitted to Council at its present sitting. Lost on a division by a majority of 14.

Council adjourned.

FRIDAY MORNING, 29th Jan.

Council resumed.

Moved by Mr. Gaunt, seconded by Mr. Girvin, that the Clerk be authorized to prepare a by-law appropriating the sum of $230 to build two bridges on the boundary between West Wawanosh and the county of Bruce, the said sum estimated to be one-half of the cost of building the same, and a copy of the by-law be served on the Clerk of the County of Bruce as directed by statute. Carried.

Application of Mr. Trainer to be re-appointed inspector of Weights and Measures was ordered to be filed.

Mr. Reid, keeper of the Court House applied to have a small house erected out of the Court House fee accumulation for his family.—Referred to Jail and Court House committee.

Council adjourned after reading and passing two by-laws.

FRIDAY AFTERNOON, Jan. 1875.

INSPECTOR'S DWAN'S REPORT.

The report of the Public School Inspector for North Huron district was presented. The schools within the district were, on the whole in a satisfactory condition. They were not all efficient in an equal degree nor do the teachers possess aptitude for teaching in an equal degree. Some schools (not a few either) are in a high state of efficiency and a few, it must be confessed, can bear a little improvement. It is but just to state that in some places the teacher has to contend with serious difficulties, of which one of the most annoying is irregularity in attendance. A school in which this evil exists can lay claim to no great efficiency, as the progress of regular attendants is sadly interfered with, and the best efforts of a teacher rendered comparatively fruitless. One would naturally suppose that, in all cases, parents would be shrewd enough to keep their children regularly at school, as by that means only can there be any reasonable expectation of receiving value for the money expended in sustaining the schools. It should not, however, be forgotten that teachers themselves can do a great deal in diminishing this bane of schools very considerably.

There has been a change of teachers in 44 schools. These changes are unfavorable to the advancement of pupils unless the new teacher should be better than his predecessor. A number of the changes have, however, been unavoidable, as many of the teachers gave up their schools to prosecute their studies with the view of raising themselves in their profession.

New School Houses have been erected in the following places: Nos. 2, 3 and 9, Hullett; Nos. 2 and 7, McKillop; No. 3 and 11 Morris; No. 2, Turnberry; Nos. 10, E. Wawanosh; and Nos. 6, 9 11, 17 and 18 Howick. These houses are all substantial, sufficiently large and comfortably seated. S. S. No. 18, Howick, and S. S. No. 11, Turnberry, had no existence until this year.

Meetings were held in the various School Sections in Tuckersmith to determine whether the legal majority, giving the Township council the power to establish a Township Board of School trustees could be secured. The necessary majority was obtained and the election of the Board will take place at Brussels, on the 6th day of Feb. The Council purposes to convert the surplus money arising to Tuckersmith into a school fund.

I thought at one time to prepare a tabular statement to accompany my report, but feared that I might be taxing your patience too far in doing so. Should this be thought desirable it will be forthcoming at a future sitting.

ARCH'D DEWAR.

ROAD AND BRIDGE COMMITTEE.

This committee reported as follows:—After carefully examining motion of Mr. Kelly referring to the Graham and Fisher bridges, your committee recommend that the motion passed at the December meeting, assuming Fisher's bridge be not adopted. With regard to the Graham bridge we would recommend that the matter be deferred until the June meeting until it be proved which of the two bridges we are bound to maintain, or if it is necessary to maintain either of them; also that the Engineer take steps to prevent any accident resulting from the inefficiency of the Graham bridge.

We recommend that no action be taken with reference to rebuilding bridge at Ben Miller in case it is rendered impassable by the spring freshets.

We would recommend that the Exeter bridge be built of wood, as suggested by the Engineer; also that, in reference to the boundary bridge between Tuckersmith and Hibbert, recommend that the Council pay one-half of the first contract of $940, being $470. The committee fail to see the necessity of appointing a committee to assist the Engineer in letting contracts, but recommend that the Reeve of each municipality wherever the job is to be let give such suggestions as formerly.

THOMAS SIMPSON,
Chairman.

Moved by Mr. Kelly, seconded by Mr. Willson of Wingham, that clause No. 1 of the report be amended by instructing the engineer to have Graham's bridge rebuilt at once, as it is in a very dangerous condition. Lost on a division by a majority of 25.

The Jail and Court House Committee reported that they had found the jail in a satisfactory condition. The management reflects much credit upon the jailer, Mr. Campaigne, and his assistant. There are at present only three prisoners in jail, all males, confined for petty offences. They would recommend that the application of Mr. Ried, caretaker of the Court House for a small dwelling house be not acted upon.

GEORGE WILLIS,
Chairman.

SCHOOL AND PRINTING COMMITTEE.

The Committee having considered the tenders sent in from *Star*, *Signal*, *New Era*, and *Expositor*, recommend that the tender of the Goderich *Star* be accepted, it being the lowest. The committee recommended that the reports of Mr. Miller and Mr. Dewar be printed in the minutes and 200 extra copies be struck off.

J. T. GARROW,
Chairman.

Moved by Mr. Gibson, seconded by Mr. Armstrong, that as it is likely the county will need to issue debentures to the amount of $260,000 to meet the gravel road debentures for that amount, which fall due in July, 1876, and as it would increase the value of these debentures, it the county was assessed at its full value; that the Clerk be instructed to have a circular printed and forwarded to all the Clerks requesting them to call the attention of the assessor of the respective municipalities to the 30th clause of the Assessment Act. Carried.

Moved by Mr. Kelly, seconded by Mr. Wilson, that the clerk be instructed to procure three copies of the last Statutes of Ontario, or enough to furnish the Reeves and Clerks of each municipality in the County with one copy each, and one copy of Harrison's Manual for the use of this Council. Carried.

Moved by Mr. Cresswell, seconded by Mr. Garrow, that the keeper of the Court House be notified to vacate the rooms at present occupied by him and family within two months after being so notified, as the rooms are required for the legitimate purposes of the Court House, the accommodation of the courts, and the sum of —— be granted to him in lieu of such rooms. Referred to Finance Committee.

Council adjourned.

Saturday morning, Jan. 30.

Council resumed. All the members present except Messrs. Lockie and Greenway.

Moved by Mr. Fisher, seconded by Mr. Willis, that a committee composed of Messrs. Greenway, Cresswell, Garrow, Willis, D. D. Wilson, Gibson and B. Willson be appointed to define the limits of High School districts for this County, and report at next June session of this council. Lost by a majority of 19.

FINANCE REPORT.

The Finance committee reported as follows:—The agreement arrived at by the Warden and special committee with reference to the share of Lucknow's indebtedness to Huron, we recommend be confirmed.

Sidney Smith, inspector of registry offices, having reported against Mr. Hays' claim made at the December session of this Council for $270.76, we recommend that it be not allowed.

Your committee would recommend that the petition from the Trustees of Goderich asking for a refund equal to the amount the town has paid towards the County Inspector's be granted; also that Garrow & Walker be instructed to put in an appearance at the trial of the claim of J. L. Squier for rent, &c., of Blyth registry office amounting to $600, and if a satisfactory settlement cannot be effected with the advice of the Warden, Treasurer and Clerk, that the suit be defended; also, that the Treasurer's statement be printed in the minutes, and that the estimates in June be made to raise a sufficient sum to obviate the necessity of our Treasurer borrowing so largely from the Bank.

With regard to the application of the Goderich High School Board for a grant of $600 for the purchase of High School furniture, we would recommend that it be not granted.

We would further recommend that the application of George Ruddell for damage to horse, &c., be not all paid, but that he receive the sum $57; also that $60 be paid as costs in the suit of McDermott vs. County of Huron for stationery, &c., the plaintiff having agreed to abandon the suit if each would pay costs.

With reference to the resolution recommending remuneration to the caretaker of Court House in lieu of the rooms he is notified to vacate, your committee would recommend that he get $25 per month; that he furnish a house for himself, and that the Warden's committee define his duties in future, and that they instruct him when to paint the rooms.

A. S. FISHER, Chairman.

Moved by Mr. Watson, seconded by Mr. Willis, that the report of the Finance Committee be amended by granting the sum of $250 towards furnishing the Goderich High School, the town of Goderich having given $5,500 towards the erection of said school.

Mr. Watson said that it was but simple justice to grant some aid to the furnishing of the school. It was as much a County institution as a town one, and although the town did realize some remuneration from those who attended the school from a distance, yet it was not to be compared with the privileges of high education furnished.

The motion was lost by a majority of 12, and the report was adopted.

Mr. Garrow said that the Equalization Committee last year had interfered with the business of the Council. He proposed that the members of the committee assemble the week before the Council meeting, in order to consider the business which came before them in order to report to the Council early in the session. Objection was raised to the motion, and it was withdrawn.

Moved by Mr. Kelly, seconded by Mr. Gibson, that Mr. Bay's salary be $900 for the current year. Carried.

The Council then adjourned, to meet on the third Monday in June.

COUNTY SURVEYOR'S REPORT.

The County Surveyor presented his report in substance as follows:—No communication had been received from the adjoining counties with reference to boundary line improvements. Each county seems to place a different construction upon the act in this respect. It was doubtful if any county could be compelled to accept a share in the expense of a bridge over a stream which could not be called a river.

No steps had been taken with the Exeter bridge. He had thought of recommending an iron bridge, but after making an inspection; he would suggest a bridge like the Brussels one which would last for twenty years. The bridge at Lower Wingham was in a very damaged state and it would be well to rebuild it after the spring freshet. The bridge on the boundary between the townships of Hibbert and Tuckersmith was completed but not in a satisfactory manner. He had been present at the time the tenders were examined, and the Reeve of Hibbert declared in favor of the tender of one Mathews, which was the lowest being $940. Now, however, a man named Burns comes forward as contractor claiming the sum of his contract as $1075. It would probably be best to pay over Huron's share of the $940 contract to the county of Perth.

The letting of such contracts was a thankless task, and, if practicable, a committee of three members should be appointed to meet in Goderich once a month to receive tenders and let contracts. Every county contract should have the signature of the Warden in order to make it binding upon the corporation.

The persons who have bought the toll houses complain that they can not remove them at present. The posts had been removed, however. This work, together with conducting the waste water from the Court House to the tank on West street, would be done as soon as the frost was out of the ground.

All which is respectfully submitted.

A. BAY, Co. Engineer.

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Huron Signal.

GODERICH, Feb. 3, 1875.

South Huron Election.

The proclamation for the election of a member to fill the seat recently made vacant in the House of Commons by the election court has been issued. The nomination will take place at the Village of Varna on Thursday, 11th inst; and the election on the 18th. The nomination will be made after the new manner of Dominion election, by a paper signed by twenty-five *bona fide* electors, attested to by the candidate so nominated.

Riding Agricultural Societies.

With the change in the electoral distribution of the county, the statute in such case calls for the establishment of Agricultural Societies with boundaries corresponding to those of the separate Ridings. In Huron, as in many other counties agricultural societies have become about as numerous and common as saw-mills, with less to the benefit than to detriment of the farmer, it may be said. Heretofore we have had exhibitions in their season within the county so numerous as hardly to be kept track of. Each township or union of townships, village and town has its show, and so circumspect is the working of each that, with a few exceptions, they have proved successful only in the completeness of their failure to be remunerative or interesting. Notwithstanding the efforts made to amalgamate societies in the past, the efforts have proved futile in the instance of the North Riding, at least; and it cannot be expected that any other state of affairs could exist when we consider the number of smaller societies, in this portion of Huron, which are supported by the farming community. The smaller societies have found it difficult to secure the government grant so small have been their operations, and beyond their local interest they are unimportant and devoid of good results. The societies are not able to offer prizes to induce persons from any great distance to enter for competition, and thus the competitors must a few of their relations, and the spirit of rivalry is correspondingly diminished. The exhibitions affect only those who make their appearance at that season and with their productions, for exhibition pass bitter and thinking only by the more good fortune of a few, with the exception of a few who may happen to be outside the ordinary. Prize farmers are encouraged by agricultural societies of the minor class, but they can be much dependent upon the public support as they should from themselves as institution benefited to the farmer.

By a certain amount of the arrangement for Riding agricultural societies the many difficulties attending the existence of such societies will be obviated. Already the County Council have granted $70 to each one, and the government grant, [illegible] as any of the three ridings will provide these sums are sufficient to support a society of first magnitude. At the exhibitions of such an association a prize would be well earned and the competition spirit would be excited which would tend to advance agricultural interests than many other means that have been tried. In extent across the diversity of the quality and variety of produce would be remarkable, and the area of the West, East or South Ridings well represented would be an interesting and instructive exhibition. The farmer would more readily hence acquainted with the specialties of each locality, and should he fail to remunerate himself by drawing of the liberal prizes that would be offered, the information derived from the extended field of observation would of itself be remunerative.

Mr. A. M. Ross, M. P. P. in accordance with the provisions of the statute will therefore hold a meeting at Smith's Hill on Thursday (to-morrow) Feb. 4th., for the purpose of forming a society for the West Riding of Huron, to elect officers and to transact all the preliminary business. All farmers and officers of agricultural Societies should make it a point to be present, as great benefit will be derived from the formation of such an association and unity of action on the part of the present existing societies is necessary to its success. The appointment of the place for the annual meeting will be discussed and of course the most central point will be selected. In the South, Exeter will be the gathering place, whilst in the East Brussels or Wroxeter is likely to be the place.

We hope that a goodly number will assemble at Smith's Hill on the day named, and that all the arrangements will be speedily completed for carrying out the new plan.

The Assessment.

The matter of fair assessment has again been discussed in the County Council, and the result has been such as to show that the councillors have not lost faith in the old system of valuation. Mr. Shannon's motion pledging the Council to enforce the law respecting the duties of assessor's and the proper mode of deciding upon a basis for assessment, showed a worthy purpose and a determination to overcome the evils which have caused so much discussion of late by the means first within the hands of the Council and which if properly applied will prove efficient to meet every difficulty. The suggestions made to counteract the difficulty were wise, both that of Mr. Gibson and Mr. Garrow, but they did not meet the difficulty fairly but rather circumvented it, since the delinquencies lay with the assessors and the failure of the Council to demand a correct valuation from them. Mr. Garrow's motion was the least expensive and possibly as efficient, but the means already within the hands of the Council should have the preference in a fair trial.

It cannot be expected that the feelings of local interest can be totally overcome, but notwithstanding this, sufficient information can be gleaned from the members of the Council to decide as to the correctness of the valuations. The equalization Committee have within their reach all the information they require, and a fair and equitable basis could be arrived at and discrepancies in the assessors rolls be detected and if possible remedied. The assessors are not instructed as to rate of valuation to place on property, and if fully warned of the penalty of their improper conduct, and with a few careful investigations into the features of the case, outside of the usual duties of the Equalization Committee, there is no question but that the work will be done properly, and the Township of Hullett be not alone the victim of honesty.

WOULD it not be well if, at the meeting at Smith's Hill to-morrow, the farmer's present would discuss the matter of forming a Farmer's Club in connection with the West Riding Agricultural Society? Such organizations have been productive of great benefits in many localities, for instance in Tuckersmith, and they should exist in every locality. By meeting once a month, or as often as was deemed advisable, the information derived from a free discussion of agricultural topics would prove valuable to every member. By making each member of the Society which is proposed to be formed also a member of the Farmer's Club, a strong and influential order would be established. Let our farmer friends consider the matter.

THE Court of Common Pleas of Toronto has refused the mandamus to compel a revision of the Goderich Township voter's lists. The old lists, with all the spurious names thereon will thus remain for another year. In the approaching election, Reformers will see to it that the list is well scanned and that none be allowed to vote whom it is known are not entitled so to do.

In the list which we gave last week of the members elected to the Local House, we incorrectly placed Mr. D. D. Hay in the column of Independents. Mr. Hay is a well known Reformer, and there can be no doubts as to his political identity McIntyre of Cornwall, and grand of glengarry may correctly be placed with the government, and no doubt will take position on the right when the House assembles.

MONTREAL TELEGRAPH COMPANY.—We noticed a few days ago that the Dominion Telegraph Co., had adopted a system of half-rate night messages, which meant 15 cents for the first ten words and half a cent for each additional word. It is only justice to say that the Montreal Telegraph Company have had in practice a system of night messages, at half the full rate, for the past four years, although not generally known. This rate means when, for instance, the full rate of a message is 40 cents, handed into the offices as a night message, it would cost only 20 cents.

AN OLD RESIDENT GONE.—It is our painful duty to record this week the death of one of the old landmarks of this section. Mr. Dobbie, although strongly urged to go to Chicago which at that time was just setting out in existence, came to the Huron Tract in 1828 as carpenter for the Canada Company, and some few of the old residences now standing are the handiwork of his design. For several years he resided some 5 miles out of town in the township of Goderich, where he erected a fine stone dwelling house, but losing all of his children by that dread disease, consumption, returned to town, where for the last few years he and his wife have continued to reside. Mr. Dobbie was a good citizen and a truly honest man and now at the age of 71 years goes down to his grave respected by all who knew him, leaving his aged partner to mourn his loss. The funeral on Monday was largely attended by people from the town and surrounding country. Rev. Mr. Ure conducted the funeral ceremonies.

Communications.

To the Editor of the Huron Signal.

DEAR SIR,—In the issue of 22nd January of the Goderich *Star* appears an article headed "Partizan Returning Officers." The zeal of the writer has evidently got the better of him, in relating the case as he does, plainly without a knowledge of the facts. "Evil tongues are evil dressers," and it is perfectly natural for the author of the article to misrepresent a circumstance which he did not witness. It is venomous in its tone, and breathed from a *foul breath*. It is the duty of every man, however, to stamp out every such lie no matter how transparent, and to check their natural tendency, inflicted as they are with a species of dry rot, to spread abroad false reports. Little can be expected from them so long as they are [illegible] ignorance.

At the request of two pithy misanthropes a false statement is made in the case of Samuel Blair who came to the polling booth at Porter's Hill to cast his vote. In the presence of Case's agents, he received his ballot paper, went behind the screen and placed his cross properly on the ballot paper. On coming out, he shouted that he had voted for the reform party, and showed the ballot to all present. The returning officer had no legal provision to guide him in such a case, except to place the ballot in the box as a properly marked one. It was not spoiled, according to the reading of the statute, and he could not act more consistently with its provisions.

It is not likely any one would have preferred, in this Riding, to vote for Mr. Dawson instead of Mr. Ross; but the *Star* will please notice that those gentlemen were not the candidates in the South Riding election, as it states they were. It surely cannot be that the ignominious defeat of the party has so far addled the brain of the editor that he has forgotten where Mr. Ross and Mr. Dawson were running. I would recommend him to read Mr. Sproxton's and find out who were the candidates in the late election, who were successful and what Ridings they contested in.

Such misrepresentations show the brightness of the genius which inspired the *Star*, that being of darkness disguised in a garment of light and the fit spirit to perform the devil's drudgery.

FAIR PLAY.

CLINTON ITEMS.

From the *New Era*.—Rather an uncommon scene was witnessed in town the other day, it being a yoke of oxen hitched to a double cutter. The animals were, of course, slow on foot, but their motor appeared to enjoy it just as much as if he had a span of 2.40 trotters, and why should he?

One day last week, Mr. John McDonald, of Hullett, took to the Stapleton Saw Mill a soft elm log that measured four feet six inches at the thin end. It was eleven feet long and contained over sixteen hundred feet, board measure. This is the champion log.

On Tuesday evening, as a gentleman from this town was coming home by way of the London Road, he found a man lying in the snow by the roadside, not a great distance from this town, who had taken a drop of the ardent too much. He took him to a house near by, where he was properly cared for. Had he not been found it is possible he would have perished before morning.

Mr. A. Straiton, station agent at the railway depot of this town, was the happy recipient of the sum of $50 a few days ago, with a testimonial letter, from a number of the shippers of this place as a token of the esteem in which he is held.

ABOUT EXETER.

From the *Times*. Market figures—Wheat 80, oats 37, peas 70, pork 8, beef 5½, butter 23, eggs 18.

Mr. John W. Broderick disposed of his store, dwelling and a portion of his landed property a few days ago for the sum of $2,000 to a Mr. Crunnican, whose intention it is to start a general store.

A few days ago as Thomas, son of Mr S. Buckingham of Exeter was carrying a pail of hot water, he slipped and fell, scalding himself severely around the legs.

A son of Mr. James Page, of Crediton, while chopping one day last week, gave his foot a severe cut, the axe going through the boot, making a cut of two inches long in the sole.

BRUSSELS AND VICINITY.

From the *Post*. Market figures—wheat 83 to 85, barley 95, oats 39, peas 65, pork $7.75, beef $5, butter 20, eggs 18.

One day last week D. Moran of Seaforth, had a narrow escape from death, while swamping in Grey. He was struck on the head by the limb of a falling tree, and buried beneath the snow.

The first regular monthly cattle fair will be held on the premises of Mr. J. Graham, in front of McIntosh's Hotel, Wingham, on Wednesday, the 3rd day of February next.

Mr. John Beeker, harness maker, while coming down the stairs from Moore's photograph gallery, slipped and broke his leg near the ankle. The injured limb was immediately set, and the sufferer is now doing as well as could be expected.

The Presbyterians of Brussels are holding prayer-meetings every night, and the Methodists meet on Tuesday and Thursday evenings. Some of the ministers of this place have expressed themselves strongly in favor of a general revival of religion.

GODERICH TOWNSHIP.

The Council met at Holmesville on the 21st January, 1875, when the following gentlemen handed in their qualifications and declarations of office, namely:—Henry Ford, Esq., Reeve; Gabriel Elliott, Esq., Deputy Reeve; Messrs. John Cox, Joseph Whitely, Hugh Davidson, Councillors. The Reeve having taken the chair, minutes of last meeting were read and passed. Moved by Mr. Cox, seconded by Mr. Elliott, that the salaries of the Township officers be as follows, viz: Clerk $130, Treasurer $65, Assessor $80, Collector $70, Auditors $6 each, Tavern Inspector $2 for each tavern inspected.—Carried. Pathmasters were then appointed. Moved by Mr. Cox, seconded by Mr. Whitely, that John Beacom be assessor.—Carried. Moved by Mr. Whitely, seconded by Mr. Davidson, that Henry B. Evans be Treasurer.—Carried. Moved by Mr. Davidson, seconded by Mr. Cox, that John McCartney be Tavern Inspector. Carried. Moved by Mr. Cox, seconded by Mr. Davidson, that the following accounts be paid,—John Ingles, plank, Piper's mill road, $4; James Fair, lumber, $3.08; T. J. Moorhouse, stationery, $13.29; G. McKee, Returning officer and use of house, $7; George Sturdy, R. O. and use of House for election, $7; Thos. Woods, R. O. and use of house, $7; John Redd, R. O., $5; David McNeilly, work done on 4th con., $1; Wm. Connell, reducing hill 14th con., $4; J. T. Anderson, balance gravel for 10th con., $5; David Patton, going to London with railway debentures, $20; Jos. Proctor, inspecting one tavern, $2; Herbert Elford, use of house for Ontario election, $4; D. Patton, attending school arbitration base line, $2.80; D. Patton, signing railway debentures, personally visiting Reeves of several townships on railway business, and other etceteras, $16.70; Robert Elliott, balance on serving notices of appeal on voters' lists, $4.70; Edward Kelly, use of house for nomination, municipal election and declaration, $5. The Reeve appointed Francis Whittingham auditor. Moved by Mr. Cox, seconded by Mr. Whitely, that Adam Cantelon be auditor.—Carried. The Council then adjourned to meet again on the second Monday in February.—Carried.

JAMES PATTON, Clerk.

St. Marys *Argus* says:—We understand that a number of the hotel keepers and other liquor sellers of this town were caught selling liquor on Monday last contrary to law, and will be arraigned before the authorities for the same. Nearly all hotels of Stratford and Mitchell were opened immediately after the polls were closed on that day, and will be tried for this breach of the law.

Grand Trunk Railway.

TRAINS WILL LEAVE GODERICH AS FOLLOWS:

No. 1 Express, 7.00 a. m., for Toronto, London and Buffalo.
No. 7 Mixed, 9 10 a. m., for Stratford.
No. 3 Mail Express, 12.45 p. m., for Toronto, London and Buffalo.
No. 9 Mixed, 3.00 p. m.,

TRAINS WILL ARRIVE AS FOLLOWS:

No. 8 Mixed, 11.00 a. m., from Stratford.
No. 2 Mail Express 2.00 p. m., from Toronto, Detroit and Buffalo.
No. 10 Mixed, 7 00 p. m., from Stratford.
No. 4 Express, 10.00 p. m., from Buffalo.

LOCAL NEWS.

WINGHAM MARKETS.—Wheat 89 to 95, oats 40, barley 95, peas 70, pork $7.75, hay $10, butter 22.

[illegible] to us enlarged and in a new dress. It is a good weekly, and well conducted.

LUCKNOW MARKET PRICES.—Wheat 80 to 84, oats 42, peas 62, barley 95, pork $7.75, hay $14, potatoes 75.

BIRTHS.—The number of births in the County of Huron in the past year was 1,144.

PERSONAL.—Mr. Andrews, for seven years publisher of the *Reporter*, Kincardine, is now Principal of the Niagara High School.

VITAL STATISTICS.—The returns for 1874 of the town Clerk show the statistics to be 44 marriages, 122 births and 33 deaths.

MR. M. G. CAMERON of this town was one of the few successful law students at the first intermediate examination before the Society in Toronto last week.

ACCIDENT.—Capt. Cox, of the British Exchange, on Tuesday of last week, slipped upon the stairs whilst descending to the cellar, and sprained his ankle.

REMEMBER the neck-tie