Huron Signal.

GODERICH, MARCH 7, 1877.

Bestir Yourselves.

In the course of the discussion on the railway aid resolutions in the Provincial Legislature last week, Hon. Mr. McDougall, in arguing the claims of the Credit Valley Railway upon Government aid, remarked that it formed a link in another through line from Detroit to the seaboard. The Toronto and Ottawa scheme—or the eastern branch of the Huron & Quebec scheme—connecting with this road, would form a trunk line, by means of the road now being projected from Ottawa to the western terminus of the Intercolonial Railway, communicating with the sea. Col. Sellers would, in all probability, could he view this scheme on paper, declare with fervor that there was "millions in it;" but it is more than a mere rose-colored tableau, since the Government has subsidized the Credit Valley railway to the amount of $2,000 per mile, and the Toronto & Ottawa scheme is pushing its claims with vigor. Notwithstanding the efforts put forth by several members in the House, among them the member for the East Riding, no aid was granted to the Toronto, Grey & Bruce railway, their suit being for some share of the fund to subsidize the portion of the road built, between Weston and Orangeville, before the railway aid fund was established. With good reason, we think, the bonus was withheld, since the voting of the same would establish a precedent which would give other roads already built a claim upon the fund. The low financial condition of the Company was a consideration in its favor, and it was, in a degree, with the purpose of redeeming it from bankruptcy that the petition was presented. Instead, however, of being left in its old position, the Toronto, Grey & Bruce, by the aid voted to the Credit Valley road, is to be injured if the latter road should be built, it being intended to tap the former, which with its present disadvantages would then have but a small chance of holding its own. The policy pursued in voting this aid to railways has been to assist such roads as do not compete with other local roads to a great extent. It cannot be said with truth that the Credit Valley has a claim upon the railway fund upon this ground, for it will compete with the Great Western and the Grand Trunk, and be as well an injury to the Toronto, Grey & Bruce road. If the latter road had been given the assistance thus voted, the act would have been closer to the line of policy set down in this case. But the objection taken to this grant was not to be gainsayed, and we now see where the promoters of the narrow gauge road could have strengthened their petition. The scheme we recommended two weeks ago of converting this road into a broad gauge would, if it had been made as a proposal to the Government for assistance, have overcome the objection raised, and it is possible would have blocked the efforts of the promoters of the Credit Valley railway completely. The former road is fully established, whilst the latter is yet recorded on the maps as "projected," for which reasons, had the T. G. & B. promoters but taken this step, they would have found more friends in the House than they did.

The Credit Valley, however, has no good prospects of eventually attaining a successful issue. The promoters have been compelled twice to appeal to the Government for aid, and the support given by municipalities is not liberal. Financially, it is not pronounced sound, so far as we see. Therefore, if our readers have a desire to see the Toronto, Grey & Bruce railway converted into a broad guage and established as the western section of the Toronto & Ottawa road, there is no time to be lost. The scheme presented by us two weeks ago doubtless had a rival in the Credit Valley Railway, and if we are ever to have anything like that which we hoped for in the Huron & Quebec scheme, it would be wise in our townsmen and friends in the surrounding country to act promptly in the premises.

The Indemnity Vote.

In giving the division on the Indemnity vote last week, we noticed the absence of Mr. Ross' name from the division list, but knowing the stand he has taken on this question, we did not comment upon the fact deeming that some such reason as below given accounted for the same. The following letter addressed to an exchange will satisfy all queries:

To the Editor of the New Era.

House of Assembly,
Toronto, Feb. 28, 1877.

Dear Sir, I observe you state in your issue of the 22nd, that on the proposition to reduce the indemnity of members, Messrs. Bishop and Gibson voted in favor of it, and that although my name does not appear, I would have voted for it if I had been present. I was present and spoke in favor of the reduction to $600, as I had last session done, but being paired that day with Mr. Monk, of Carlton, I was debarred from voting. It is but right my constituents should know that I did not shirk the vote.

Yours truly,
A. M. ROSS.

On Wednesday, Mr. Cameron, leader of the Opposition in the Local House, resigned his position as such. This action was a severe shock to the "members on the left." Mr. Cameron took this step because he had not been supported by his followers on a measure which he deemed to have a party issue. As a leader, this gentleman has given little satisfaction, since he is very inattentive to his duties and more absorbed with his briefs than with the interests of the Opposition. As a consequence his knowledge of public affairs was injurious to his reputation, he came to be regarded as unreliable, and his frequent absence from the House caused his supporters to become refractory. The measure before the House at the time was to define the boundaries of one of the ridings of York, and properly speaking should not have been treated as an open question by both parties. The members were much divided, although the measure was carried by a large majority. On such questions the policy of the Ministry should be fully sustained by its friends, for the recurrence of too many open votes indicates the absence of a properly defined policy. Influence was brought to bear on Mr. Cameron, by his colleagues, on Thursday which induced him to withdraw his resignation, so that the ambitious aspirations of his would-be successors are nipped in the bud.

On Thursday, M. C. Cameron, Esq., Q. C., of Goderich, and Messrs. Eason and Keays, of Bayfield, waited upon the Premier at Ottawa, in reference to the Bayfield harbor works. A small grant was asked to protect the work already done, to which request Mr. Mackenzie replied the best attention of the Government would be given. We notice that a delegation from Whitby has also interviewed the Premier with the purpose of getting a grant to complete the harbor of refuge there. Since Goderich is deeply interested in securing another grant, it would be well to be as forward as the rest in the matter of demonstration, notwithstanding that Mr. Horton is making every effort in behalf of the town. It is expected that in the supplementary estimates, some provision will be made for the work.

The second session of the third Parliament of Ontario, which concluded on Friday last, continued exactly two months, having begun on 3rd January. The Education, License Act amendment, and Railway bills, and the Consolidation of the Statutes have been the chief features of the business. An unmistakable spirit of advancement was manifested in the measures affecting the franchise. The Opposition has been feeble throughout, its opposition to the Government policy respecting the Orange Bill, finance, of the Central Prison and the mode of furnishing supplies being factious rather than sustainable.

The printer's devil who was abused alike for the absence of pie at his boarding house and the presence of "pi" at the printing office, was much in the same predicament as the Dominion Government last week. The Opposition has railed against its extravagance, but last week they rebuked the Government for its economy in discharging an assistant in the House of Commons library whom the head librarian reported as not needed!

The Harriston *Tribune*, in quoting our article, two weeks ago, on railway matters, thus comments: "We think with the Signal that the amalgamation is practicable, particularly as we believe the T. G. & B. Railway have failed to induce the Government to render them more assistance at present at least. We think our people would do well to fall in line with Wingham, Goderich, and any other place for the carrying out of so desirable a project."

Hayes and Wheeler were sworn in as President and Vice-President respectively of the United States, on Saturday. The inauguration took place on Monday.

Ontario Legislature.

Toronto, Feb. 26.

The House went into Committee on the Railway Aid resolutions which were carried, the suggestions to aid the Toronto, Grey and Bruce and the North Simcoe being rejected.

On the Supplementary Estimates, Hon. Mr. Cameron objected to the salary proposed for Minister of Education, and moved the reduction of the item to $4,000. Hon. Mr. Crooks seconded the motion, though he pointed out that the duties of a Minister of Education were far more onerous than those of the previous Superintendent of Education.—The motion to reduce was lost.

Toronto, Feb. 27.

On motion of concurrence in the report of the committee on the railway aid resolutions, a discussion ensued, objection being taken to aiding the Credit Valley Railway, as it was a competing line. The claims of the Toronto, Grey and Bruce were again presented, supported by Mr. Gibson and Mr. Creighton. Hon. Mr. McDougall opposed this, as it would be a bad precedent in aiding a completed road. The discussion was adjourned.

On the resolution respecting the Agricultural College, Guelph, amendments were offered in effect that County Councils should nominate pupils to be admitted to the college; another, that applications from the sons of farmers should receive the preference; another, that due regard should be had to the recommendations of the County Councils as to the admission of pupils, but that it was inexpedient to lay down a rule upon the subject. The latter amendment was carried.

Toronto, Feb. 28.

On the third reading of the School Bill an effort to have the clause which provides that the amount to be contributed to High Schools shall in future be $400 instead of $200, struck out was defeated.

Mr. Widdifield moved the third reading of a Bill to permit the electors of the incorporated village of Stouffville to vote in the same ridings of York as if incorporation had not taken place. Messrs. Cameron and Mowat objected to the Bill. Messrs. Macdougall and Fraser supported it. The motion carried:—Yeas 51, nays 19.

Mr. Cameron thereupon resigned the leadership of the Opposition, in view of the fact that he had lost control of that body.

The universal franchise bill was discharged.

MR. ROSS' JURY BILL.

Mr. Ross said, in moving the second reading of the Bill to amend the Act respecting Jurors and Juries, I shall shortly direct the attention of the House to the defects of the present Jury law, defects both of principle and of detail, and then explain the alteration I purpose making in the mode of selection, with a view to make the law both more efficient and less expensive. But first it may be well to direct the attention of the House to what I conceive to be the main essentials to be kept in view in any Jury law, viz: To secure that the men we place on our Juries, whether Grand or Petit are men of good average intelligence, qualified to understand the important questions submitted to them. Secondly, that they shall be so impartially chosen that both suitors and criminals shall have confidence that they are placed in the jury box without any known sympathies for, or prejudices against, either the plaintiff or prosecutor, or defendant. Thirdly, that these conditions shall be secured as far as possible at a reasonable expense. Now let us see how far the present law complies with these conditions. To secure good intelligent jurors a power of selection must be in the hands of those who, from their local knowledge have some idea of the character and intelligence of those from whom the selection is to be made. I believe the present law in so far as the Township selection is concerned imposes the duty of selection on the proper parties, viz: the Reeve, the Assessor, and the Clerk. These officers should have as good a general knowledge of the inhabitants of the Township as any that could be chosen, but their power of selection is circumscribed by cumbrous provisions, first, by limitation to certain property qualifications; secondly, at this stage by unnecessary ballot; and thirdly, by the large number of names that they are obliged to return as compared with the actual number required for service, so that the good results aimed at by this selection are greatly interfered with and the best men in their judgment not secured. The present process of selection by Township selections is, first to go over the assessment roll and strike out all who under the act are exempt from serving, then to commence with the man who is assessed for the highest amount on the roll, then to take the next highest, and so on through the assessment roll until the one half of the highest assessed ratepayers are taken from the rolls. Then from this half, one third are struck off by selection. From the remaining two thirds one half are balloted, who are the jurors for the year. Now you will see from this that one half of the ratepayers are arbitrarily excluded from the available list by assessment limit, without reference to their qualifications as jurors. Next the power of selection only permits the striking out of one third of the half that remains and this is the only excercise of the power of selection placed in the hands of those best qualified to select. Here where the true selection should be made, where the local knowledge is possessed, the selectors have only power to strike out one sixth of the rate-payers, and the cumbrous provisions of the law prevent an intelligent choice. But it may be said a second selection is provided for by the County selectors, but this second selection is a farce. It is a delusion and a snare. These second selectors meet, and go over the large number of names returned from the different local municipalities—a number ten times in excess of what are actually required for service—and select the jurors who are to serve for the year. I presume the County officials named, viz: the Judge, Sheriff, Clerk of the Peace, Warden and Treasurer were selected as most likely to have some knowledge of the men returned from the various parts of the county, but practically these men know nothing of ninety-nine out of every hundred of the names returned, and their selection is a mere matter of guess work, and is not, and cannot be, any real selection at all. Practically the duties proposed by this County Board of selectors are merely the reduction by hap-hazard of the unnecessarily large number of names returned from the local municipalities to the number actually required for service for the year, and of seeing that the names selected have not served within a period of four or five years previous. But the second selection is worse than useless, it is pernicious, and this brings us to consider the second main essential in a good jury law—that proper provisions are made to guard against the packing of juries. All modes of selection are to some extent open to objection on that account, but as it is desirable to get men with proper qualifications, a selection must be provided for by those possessing the requisite local knowledge; but a selection by those not qualified to judge is the introduction of a pernicious principle and power, capable of corrupt use without any compensating advantage. This second selection is one purely of that character. The selection by the Township authorities is reasonable because they possess the local knowledge, but the second selection is practically useless because the selectors cannot be supposed to possess the knowledge necessary. It seems, however, specially designed to afford facility for packing. Trial by jury, although the origin of it is obscure, was no doubt instituted—and notwithstanding the admitted frequent failure of justice under jury verdicts—is still maintained as a protection against the arbitrary power of the crown, or of the courts which are constituted by crown nomination, or as a protection against popular prejudice acting upon a court and called into force by either political, religious or class strife. In ordinary times when no causes of great public interest are before the courts to be submitted to a jury, there is no inducement to secure partisan juries, and in such times the selection of the jury might with greatest safety be left, as in old times, to the Sheriff. But where questions of great political, religious or class interest are strongly agitating the public mind, there may be an inducement and an attempt to secure juries whose sympathies are known to be for the one side or the other, and a law that does not as far as practicable provide against this is defective. Let us see whether this second selection does not afford facilities for defeating the end sought by the institution of trial by jury, and does not, in fact, facilitate and render practicable the selection by these county selectors of every juryman on the list for the year of any political, religious or class sympathy, that these selectors or a majority of them may agree upon. These second selectors are the Judge, the Sheriff, the Clerk of the Peace, the Warden and Treasurer. Three of these are Crown nominees, and two officials created by the people. Now, it may be, and does not unfrequently happen, that all these officials are of one political stripe. Now, if it were known that some strongly political case—arising, it may be, out of some contested election, or one in which the character of some prominent political leader was involved — were coming before a jury in any county; there is nothing to prevent these county selectors from selecting every juryman of the list for the year of any political party which they might wish to see triumphant in the pending case. It is true that ordinarily these selectors have not the knowledge that would enable them to do this, but where a strong motive existed they might acquire the knowledge from their political friends in the local municipality, and nothing but their oath to act impartially would interfere with their manipulating the jury lists to suit their purpose. But human nature is weak, and we cannot rely too much upon the restraining efficacy of an oath in such circumstances. Any one who has paid any attention to the evidence given under oath at past election trials, must have come to the conclusion that political feeling is frequently stronger than the moral obligation of an oath. Now, where a possibility of such action exists under the provisions of the present law, it would require very strong reasons of utility otherwise to justify their retention. But no such reasons exist as to this second selection. As I have shown, this selection is not nor can it be any real selection at all, unless the selectors purposely take pains to inform themselves of the qualification of the parties returned by the township selectors. That they will not do unless some strong motive prompts them, and when that motive exists, its purpose is likely, nay sure to be, pernicious and corrupt. The third essential in a good jury law is that it shall not be too burdensome or expensive; that it shall be as economical as is consistent with securing the desired results of efficiency and impartiality. Let us see if the present law complies with these conditions. I shall give the House some figures taken from the return moved for by me last session and presented to the House in the early part of this session. I find from this return that the total amount paid by the several counties in the year 1875 to provide juries was $128,755. I may mention that the return is defective as regards three counties, whose treasurers have made no return of the expenditure for jury purposes in their counties; but I have estimated these counties at $3000 each, which is below the average amount of the counties returned, making the total of $128,755 paid through county treasurers as before stated. To this must be added the amounts paid to the different township selectors. I find there are 630 local municipalities in the Province which at, say $10 each, will give $6300, making a total paid in cash by the people of Ontario, to provide juries to try the several cases, civil and criminal, brought before the courts in a single year of $135,055. But even this does not show the total burden for this purpose. I find there is on an average in each county 288 men who serve as jurors in the year. If we multiply this by 37, the number of counties in the Province we have a total of 10,656 men who serve on an average six days each. If we estimate their time taken from the labour of the country, at say $1 per day, we have an amount of $63,936 as the loss to the country in addition to the actual money paid, making a total of $198,991, in round numbers $200,000, per annum as the present cost to the people of this Province for the jury system. Mr. Speaker, this is no exaggeration. The figures are there and cannot be gainsayed. Let us look now for a moment at the work these jurymen do and apportion the cost to the cases tried. I find in this year 1875 there were 1373 cases tried by juries and 2117 tried by judges without a jury, so that it will be seen there have been fifty per cent more cases tried without a jury than with. These are both civil and criminal, showing that both with our criminals, and suitors in civil causes, for the larger part prefer trial by judge without a jury. Now, what is the cost for each case tried.—Taking the whole cash paid, and leaving out of consideration the loss of time and dividing by the number of cases tried we have an average of $98 for each case tried. In some counties the cost is much more and in some it is less, but that is the average. The lowest is I find in the county of Welland, where there were a large number of cases tried at a cost to the county of $47 for each case. The highest is the county of Simcoe where from the return only seven jury cases appear to have been tried in this year, at a cost to that county of $663 for each case. I should be almost inclined to doubt the correctness of the return as to the small number of jury cases in this county, but that is as it is given. In my own county (Huron) the cost is $153 for each tried, merely to provide the jury. Perhaps it might be interesting to hon. members were I to read the figures for each county, which, I may premise, only include the costs paid by county treasurers and does not include the amounts paid by the townships. (The hon. gentleman here read over the list for each county.) Now, hon. gentlemen will see from this how expensive our present system is. I have made enquiries from several legal gentlemen in the House as to what is the average costs as between party and party in both County Court and Assize cases, and am informed that in County Court cases, it is from $50 to $60, and in Assize cases about from $80 to $100. It will therefore be seen that the cost of the jury alone is more than all the other legal costs in a cause. Now Mr. Speaker having I, think, clearly shown that the present law is defective in the mode of selection, and also erroneously expressive, I will briefly explain the provisions of the bill I have submitted, with a view to remedy these defects. By section one I make every resident voter on the voters' list, unless otherwise exempt, liable to serve as a juror in any list in which he may be selected. I next provide for what I call the County Jurors Board, composed of the same parties who now form the second selectors, whose duty it is to meet annually on the first day of August for the purpose of deciding on the number of jurors that will likely be required for the ensuing year, judging from business of past years. I fix the number of names to be returned by all the municipalities at three times the number they decide as likely to be required, thus giving ample margin for an efficient ballot. Taking this excess into account, and the number of courts in the year, and the balloting of any particular jury from the panel, the probability against any particular juryman being on any particular jury is as 48 to 1. This Jurors Board, taking the numbers on the different voters lists as a basis, decide how many both Grand and Petit shall be returned by each local municipality, and I also make a provision that they shall, through the Clerk of the Peace, direct the township selectors to select the names for the year from surnames beginning with certain letters of the alphabet, say for the first year the first five or six letters and the next year five or six succeeding letters, and so on. My reason for this is to prevent any one serving as a juror oftner than once in say five or six years. The only practical work performed by the present county selectors, is the checking to see that parties are not put on the jury lists oftener than this. The plan I here propose would prevent any possibility of anyone serving in this way, and this therefore does away with one of the reasons for having a second selection The township selectors—who I propose shall be the same as at present, viz., the Reeve, Clerk and Assessor— will then meet and select the number required from the municipality, selecting the grand jurors first, and afterwards the petit jury. Under my plan a much smaller number of names will be required than under the old. In 1874 there were in Huron 3707 names returned to the Clerk of the Peace, of whom only 241 served. Some townships returned between two and three hundred names, while under this bill they would only return about 30 or 40. A much closer and more intelligent selection could therefore be made. Under the present law the jurors are divided into four lists, Grand Superior and Grand Inferior, Petit Superior and Petit Inferior. I propose that there shall be only two lists viz: Garnd jurors and Petit jurors, who shall serve indiscriminately in either court they are balloted for. I cannot see that it requires any different qualifications to be a juror at the Assizes than it does at the Quarter Sessions. Then as to the number of jurors summoned for each court. The present act makes the minimum 48, that is four juries, and although a discretionary power is given to judges to frame a lesser number in the precept, I have never known a smaller number summoned than forty-eight. I propose to make the minimum 24, that is two juries, which I think would be quite sufficient for all the rural counties. In the counties that are connected with cities for judicial purposes of course a larger number would be required.

Mr. Hardy—Twenty-four would hardly give sufficient number for a challenge in criminal cases. Sometimes the forty-eight are exhausted.

Mr. Ross—The Sheriff in that case could, as now, have recourse to a tales and complete the jury from any persons present, or a special provision might be made to meet such cases. But these cases occur so very seldom that I do not think it right to incur the present enormous annual expenditure, merely to provide for a contingency of such rare occurrence. There is one other amendment I propose that I dare say may not receive the cordial assent of hon members who belong to the legal fraternity. That is increasing the jury fee to be paid into court from $1.50 in the County Court and $3 in the Assize Courts, to $15 and $20, but I think it is clearly indefensible that while each jury case costs the county about $100, the litigant is only asked to pay the paltry sum of $1.50 or $3. The principle that I contend for—that the litigant should pay the cost of the attendance of the jury at the court—has been recognized by both Canadian and Imperial Acts.

I find that our first jury law in Canada in 1792 provides that jurors shall be summoned and taken conformably to the law and custom of England. The next act in 1822 provides "that every common juror shall be paid one shilling and three pence in every cause on which he shall serve as a juror, to be paid by the plaintiff or his attorney, and to be accounted in costs by the party charged with the payment thereof." Another act passed the same year also, provides that sixpence shall be paid to each juror in the district court, to be paid by the party in the cause. That is the origin of the present jury fees. Under that act as some hon gentleman will recollect the juror received nothing for coming to or attending the court but this fee for each case he served upon. But when the present Jury Act was framed throwing all the cost upon the county, and paying the juror a per diem allowance, no alteration was made in jury fees. I find also that the Imperial Act affirms the principle that the litigant should pay the attendance of the juror. In the Imperial Statutes of 1871, I find "that every common juror shall be paid ten shillings for each day's attendance at the court to be paid by the parties to the cause, under regulations as the judges shall prescribe." In England, therefore, the amount paid by the party is larger than I propose here. All the lawyers that I have conversed with, agree that with a good case, where they felt that their client had law and equity on his side, they would prefer to have the case tried by the judge without a jury, but it is when they have a bad case, and when they think—apart from the justice of their cause—that they would be most likely to succeed by appealing to the sympathies or prejudices of a jury, that they insist on having one. If such is the fact, are we not forced to the conclusion that we are keeping up this cumbrous and expensive machinery, principally in the interest of the dishonest litigant; that the people of this Province are being heavily taxed, not for the purpose of securing justice and right, but as a screen for the dishonest, a protection and cover to the knave and the cheat. Let it not be supposed that I desire to abolish trial by jury. It is a protection against a dishonest judiciary, should we ever be cursed with one. But it is an expensive luxury, and I think it is but fair that those who insist on having it should pay a fair proportion of the cost. Mr. Speaker, I have now explained the principal provisions of the bill. Some hon. gentlemen perhaps are surprised that I have not touched upon the propriety of reducing the number composing both grand and petit juries For myself I never could see the necessity or use of summoning twenty-four grand jurors for the purpose of making merely a preliminary investigation in a case, to see whether it should go to trial or not. It appears to me that twelve with the concurrence of nine to find a bill would be ample protection. The desirability of doing away with the necessity of unanimous verdicts of petit jurors also, finds favor with many legal gentlemen, but I believe upon these points there is some doubt as to our constitutional power to legislate, besides these are matters I prefer to leave to legal gentlemen who are most competent to deal with them. I have confined myself to matters that I have a knowledge of and from a nearly twenty year's experience feel myself competent to deal with. I am sorry that I have not been able to reach this bill earlier in the session when it might have been referred to a committee and fully considered by the House, but I deferred bringing on the second reading in the hope that the return moved for by me last session of the number of jury and non-jury cases tried in 1875, and cost paid for same, might be in the hands of members, but the printing committee did not at first order it to be printed, but on my application reconsidered their former decision and it is now in the printers' hands. I am sorry, however, that it is not in the possession of members that they might refer to the figures as a justification of my proposed legislation. I would ask the House, however, to agree to the second reading as an affirmation of the principle of the bill and of the necessity of a reform in the direction indicated, and trust that the advisability of some such amendments as proposed has been made so manifest that the Government will take the matter up next session.

The bill was then read a second time.

DOMINION PARLIAMENT.

Ottawa, Feb. 26.

Petitions were presented praying for the incorporation of the Dominion Grange.

Mr. Palmer introduced a Bill relating to the repeal of the Insolvency Act, and Hon. Mr. Blake one to establish a court of maritime jurisdiction in the Province of Ontario.

Mr. Barthe moved the second reading of the Bill to Repeal the Insolvent Acts in force in the Dominion. Mr. Blake announced that he would make some amendments. He proposed that the judge should not have power to grant a discharge unless one of four conditions was realized. (1) That the dividend should not be less than fifty cents on the dollar; (2) or that this sum might have been realized but for the negligence of the assignee or inspector; (3) or that the debtor having in writing notified his creditors that he intended going into insolvency, the creditors did not take action thereupon within a month; (4) or that the insolvent has received consent or discharge under the 52d section of the present law.

Sir John and a majority of the members supported Mr. Blake's views.

Ottawa, Feb. 27.

Mr. Snider introduced a Bill to authorise the Corporation of Kincardine to levy harbor dues.

Mr. Cook introduced a Bill to Amend the Act Respecting the Election of Members of the House of Commons.—He said that the object of the Bill was to do away with bribery, which under the present law a candidate had ample opportunity to practice. It was customary for election agents to procure blank ballots, and, marking them with the name of his candidate, hand them to the electors, who deposit them in the ballot box, and give the agent the new ballots, who uses them in the same way with the next elector.

A number of bills were advanced a stage, and the House adjourned during a discussion on the item of $120,550 for immigration and quarantine.

Ottawa, Feb. 28.

Hon. Mr. Blake's Bill to establish Central Prisons as circumstances warranted, was introduced and read a first time. Mr. Blake also introduced his bill to prevent gambling on public conveyances.

Mr. McCarthy's motion for reports on statements on the subject of the construction of the Georgian Bay branch of the Pacific Railway by Hon. A. B. Foster led to a discussion upon the cost of the work, in which a good number of the members took part. The motion was carried.

The debate on Mr. Barthe's motion to repeal the Insolvent Act and on Mr. Wood's amendment giving the Bill the three months' hoist, was resumed. A division was taken on Mr. Wood's amendment, which was carried:—Yeas, 103; nays, 41.

Ottawa, March 1.

Mr. McDonald (Toronto) presented a petition from the Toronto newsboys praying for alterations in the criminal law relating to juvenile offenders.

In reply to Mr. Scriver, Hon Mr. Blake said he expected to lay before the House a measure which might have the effect of preventing to some extent, or at least mitigating the evils resulting from strikes such as had recently occurred on the Grand Trunk.

Mr. Mackay (Cape Breton) moved for a select committee on the coal interests. The mover desired a tax on American coal, for the benefit of Nova Scotia miners. An amendment was offered by Mr. Cartwright, to submit the matter to a committee of enquiry. The debate was adjourned.

Ottawa, March 2.

Hon. Mr. Blake's Bill to amend the Insolvent Act was read a first time, and the Bill to extend the Criminal Law to Prince Edward Island was read a third time and passed.

On the motion of Hon. Mr. Cartwright to receive the report of the Committee on Ways and Means, Sir John McDonald moved an amendment, condemnatory of the Government's financial policy. A lengthy discussion ensued, in the course of which Mr. Greenway made an excellent speech, so independent in tone that the *Mail* berates him soundly and reads him out of the ranks of straight-laced Tories. He said he had entered Parliament as an Independent candidate, and last year voted against the proposition of the hon. member for Kingston on the protection question, for which he had been read out of the Conservative party, with which in past years he had acted. At a large meeting his constituents had showed themselves to be all free traders, and as a free trader, and representing an agricultural constituency, he would vote against the present amendment of the member for Kingston. He could not understand how the present depression could be relieved by the imposition of additional taxes.

The debate was adjourned.

Literary Notes.

Canadian Methodist Magazine — S. Rose, Toronto.

The March number is to hand, and the most notable article is a biographical sketch of the Rev. Wm. I. Thornton, M. A., formerly President of the Canadian Conference, by the Rev. W. Morley Punshon, L. L. D. Amongst the other interesting contents, are articles by Rev. Wm. Arthur and Rev. Wm. S. Blackstock, together with an excellent portrait and sketch of Ira D. Sankey, an excellent engraving of the first Methodist Church in Japan, and a choice piece of music. The April number is announced to contain a fine portrait and sketch of Dr. Guthrie, and a beautiful engraving, entitled "On the River."

Belfords' Monthly Magazine—Belfords Bros., Toronto.

The March number of this periodical is the best yet issued, both in point of illustrations and contents, "Nicholas Minturn" and "What he cost Her," are continued in chapters of absorbing interest. An illustrated paper on the "Capital of Canada," gives a readable sketch of Ottawa. "The tantalizing Talmud," "A romance of the Arlington Hops," "My old and strange Acquaintances," are articles of excellent merit. Mrs. Susannah Moodie contributes a paper on chess, and some excellent poetry is furnished. Tennyson's "Harold" is completed in this number. A sacred song with chorus, "Twas the Master that knocked at the door," words by George Russell Anderson, music by C. A. White, will be welcome in the home circle.

GODERICH TOWNSHIP.

Hide your Dogs.—Mr. R. Russell is on his annual assessing tour. It would be well for all interested to hide their dogs, if only with a good raw-hide.

Wedding.—A happy event took place on Wednesday last when Mr. Jas. Cox was united in marriage to Miss Francia Elliott, youngest daughter of Mr. John Elliott, at the residence of the bride's brother, Mr. Thos. Elliott. A large number of invited guests witnessed the ceremony, and were entertained at a sumptuous repast. Many were the warm congratulations extended to the happy couple.

Local News.

ABOUT TOWN.

Harbor Mills.—Last week the shipments were 669 bags and two cars of bran and 1,680 bags of flour.

Lumber.—During last week the shipments of lumber were: Williams & Murray, 3 cars; Secord, Cozzens & Co., 11 cars.

Fishing Nets Lost.—During the gale from the east on Thursday night last, five fishing nets were carried away by the breaking up of the ice in the lake.

Spring Show.— The annual spring show of entire stock under the auspices of the West Riding Society will take place at Smith's Hill, on Wednesday, April 11th.

Fish.—For last week the shipments of fish were: John Craigie, 425 lbs; Wm. Lee, 900 lbs; Jas. Mitchell, 900 lbs; Jas. Clark, 500 lbs; E. Hosker, 100 lbs smoked fish.

Funeral Sermon.—Rev. J. Caswell, Dungannon, on Sunday night preached an impressive funeral sermon on the death of Mrs. Richard Bonnamy, in Brock Street St. Church, to a large congregation. The text chosen was, "The memory of the just is blessed."

Personal.—Lieut. Col. Ross, M.P.P. has been re-elected a member of the Council of the Dominion Rifle Association.

—We are pleased to see that Mr. Thos. Roddy, an old resident of Goderich, has been re-elected City Attorney for the city of Meadville, Pa.

—We are pleased to learn that Mr. G. R. McDonagh, son of Mr. Jas. McDonagh, Smith's Hill, has passed his examination and obtained the diploma of the Royal College of Physicians, London, Eng. This examination is much more difficult, we believe, than the Canadian examination, and Mr. McDonagh is to be congratulated on his success.

Skating Carnival —The last carnival of the season will take place at the rink on Monday evening next. Prizes will be given for costumes (lady's and gents'), and for boys' and girls' fancy skating. The value of the prizes to be awarded is $24. Rees & Co. of London, will be here on Saturday and Monday, to let costumes. The band will be in attendance.

Insurance.—We would direct attention to Mr. H. McMath's business card in another column. Mr. McMath has been appointed agent for the Stadacona (Fire and Life) and the Ottawa Agricultural Insurance companies, both of which stand high in financial circles. We take pleasure in recommending him to the public as one in whom perfect confidence may be placed. Mr. M. is also prepared to lend money at low rates.

New Pier.—In order to facilitate the work of loading vessels, the International Salt Co., are about building a pier at their works, at which vessels may lay whilst receiving cargos. Nine car loads of spiles and three spile-drivers have been received for the work. The pier which is to be open spile work, will be about 1,000 feet long, and broad enough for two tramways leading from the works to end of pier. Work will be commenced at once, while the ice is strong. Vessels drawing fourteen feet of water will be able to load at this pier.

Accident to a Goderich Boy.—In Detroit on Friday, 23rd ult, J. T. Wilkinson, shipping clerk in Gould's wholesale grocery, 84 Jefferson Ave., and son of Mr. Jas. Wilkinson of Goderich, met with a sad accident. Whilst removing some flags from a window in the upper story, near the elevator, and in stepping down he lost his balance and fell through the hoist down to the main floor three storeys below. In falling his right arm struck an obstruction, and was broken in two places, but this so broke the fall that his other injuries were not of a serious nature. A physician at once attended him, and we are glad to hear that he is recovering.

Don't be Misled.— Notwithstanding the many attempts that are being made to mislead the public in relation to the high honors Messrs. R. M. Wanzer & Co., of Hamilton, Ont, received at the Centennial Exhibition the facts as first announced cannot be denied. The Wanzer sewing machines were awarded at the Centennial an International Medal & Diploma and carried off the *only gold medal* given for sewing machines at the Exhibition. These two honors were the highest the judges could bestow, and can be claimed by no other sewing machine. The Wanzer machines were the only sewing machines autside the United States that received an International medal and Diploma. Canada may well feel proud that one of her manufacturers can claim these high honors. Mr. J. W. Weatherald is the general agent for Goderich and vicinity.

Star Line.— Week before last we published an item from a Bay City exchange, announcing that an amalgamation had been effected between the Saginaw and Goderich and Star lines of steamers for this season. We are informed by private letter from Mr. C. Fisher, clerk of the *Holland*, that such is not the case, and that the Holland will resume her old route as soon as the season opens. The vessel expects to start from Detroit on the 20th inst., and will come here as soon as possible. At the annual meeting of the stockholders of the Star Line, held at their office, J. J. Bagley, Wm McKay, R. L. Montgomery, Geo McMillan and Wm. E Warriner were elected directors for the ensuing year. At a subsequent meeting of the directors Wm. E. Warriner was chosen president and treasurer, and R. L. Montgomery secretary and manager. Our readers will be pleased to learn that the Holland is to continue its visits to this port.

Patent Barrel.—Our fellow citizen Mr. Jas. Tomlinson is meeting with much success in the introduction of his patent barrel. From the Guelph *Mercury* we clip the following item: "A considerable demand having arisen for the Tomlinson patent barrel, which Messrs. C. & A. Sharpe have been manufacturing in Guelph for some time past, it is proposed to further extend the business and carry on the manufacture in Guelph by a joint stock company, with a capital of $20,000, in $50 shares. The company will have the power of making, using and vending the barrel in the county of Wellington; but this limitation will not prevent sales to purchasers from outside the county. It is also proposed to manufacture kegs, cheese boxes, &c. The owners of the right for this county offer to take stock to the extent of $10,000, assuming all claims for royalty, or otherwise, as a compensation for the right. The immediate expenditure for plant, &c., necessary to make 1,000 barrels per day would be $5,745, exclusive of buildings and land. The wages, cost of material, &c., would be about $142 per day. A meeting to organize the company will be held in a few days."

Our Salt Interests.— The Ottawa correspondent of the *Globe* thus refers to the salt interests of Goderich, and to Mr. Attrill's scheme for salt mining: "A new feature is presented in connection with the salt interest of Canada. An hon. member of the Upper Chamber (Hon. Senator McDonald) has received from a salt manufacturer (H. Y. Attrill) of Goderich, a magnificent specimen of rock salt—a cone extracted by a diamond drill at a depth of 1,083 feet, clear as crystal in its natural state, and when reduced to powder of extreme whiteness The bed of salt is 110 feet in thickness and extends over an immense area. By the excavation of rock salt which is to be attempted, it is claimed that a ton may be produced of the rock salt as cheaply as a barrel by evaporation. Another very satisfactory circumstance is that although crushed or refined salt pays a heavy duty, rock salt in its natural state enters the United States duty free. The consumption of salt for packing purposes in Chicago alone is equal to nearly 3,000 barrels a day, and this forms [illegible] moderate portion of the whole [illegible]. Already the pork packers are large consumers of Canadian salt, and if the cheaper article can be exported duty free the trade may be increased almost indefinitely."

Crowded Out.—Some correspondence and a report of the working of the License Act in Huron are crowded out of this issue.

Seed Potatoes.—All parties who ordered seed potatoes from us, of the Allan Hybrid variety, will please call and get them at once. If not called for within one week, other orders which are now waiting will be filled. Whitely & Elliott.

Change of Time.—A change in the running of trains was made on Monday. The morning train leaves fifteen minutes earlier than before, 6.45 a. m., the mail train at 12.05 p. m.; or twenty minutes later than heretofore and the afternoon train leaves at 3.10 p. m., as before. The arrival of trains has not been altered.

General Shipments.—Among the miscellaneous shipments from the station last week were the following: Kirkpatrick, Bro. & Co., 6 rolls leather; Wm. Stitt, 10 bbls whiskey; Wm. Burns, 100 bushels wheat; E. Hosker, 70 bbls salt; R. W. Standly, 70 bbls salt; Wm. Campbell, 140 bbls salt; J. A. Hearn, 17 head cattle.

Masonic. — The regular monthly meeting of Goderich Lodge, No. 33, will take place at the Masonic Hall this evening. As business of importance is to be transacted a full attendance is requested. Brethren of Maitland Lodge are invited.

For Dakota.—On Tuesday morning Mr. R. Hadwin, of Lucknow, started by the early train accompanied by sixteen young men from his neighborhood, and thirty-six horses, for Dakota. Mr. Hadwin has taken up a tract of land, and is going into farming on a large scale.

North St. Church. — Anniversary sermons will be preached in the North St. Methodist church, on Sabbath, the 18th inst., by the Rev. H. Johnston, B. D., of Hamilton. The annual tea will be held on the following Monday evening, when Mr. Johnston will deliver his popular lecture on "The Rose, Shamrock and Thistle."

In New Quarters —The stock of the Estate of R. B. Smith was last week removed to the new premises—the Glasgow House store recently built by Mr. F. Jordan. This store is at once creditable to its proprietor, the architect and builder. Mr. W. Hick has done his work in an artistic and creditable manner. The store is 77 feet deep, well lighted, and the ground floor has counters and shelves on either side running from end to end of the building. The shelves are divided into sections by graceful fluted columns supporting a neat, heavy cap, all painted a beautiful, glistening white. The windows are large, with plate glass lights, whilst over the door are stained glass lights, the centre one being red with the words Glasgow House engrossed thereon. Mr. E. R. Watson did the painting, and has truly done himself great credit, the kalsoming of the walls in a lavender tint and the interior of the show windows in light green with different shadings being very pretty, whilst the wood painting is smooth, bright and even. The cellar extends the full length of the building, is airy and cool, with cement floor and has a well of excellent water underneath. The upper floor is divided into millinery show room, millinery work room, dress making and fitting rooms. Miss Morris has charge of the dressmaking and millinery departments, and is assisted by an efficient staff of workwomen. Mr. J. H. Colborne, manager of the Estate, is to be congratulated on his new premises, and his enterprise promises increased prosperity for the firm. So mote it be.

School Board.—The regular meeting of the School Board took place on Monday, Messrs. Crabbe, Ferguson and Pasmore being absent. Mr. Swanson on motion took the chair. The monthly report by Mr. Miller, Principal of the Central School, was read, showing the average attendance for February to have been 664; number on roll, 772—boys, 401; girls, 371. The auditors' statement was received and filed. It shows the following receipts and expenditures for the past year:

RECEIPTS.

Balance on hand	$ 217.59
County Council, rebate on account of Inspector's salary	45.67
Town Council, lumber	11.13
Text book	5.50
Government grant	535.[illegible]
Municipal school grant	5,000.00
Balance overpaid by Treasurer	82.94
Total	$5,898.33

EXPENDITURE.

Teachers' salaries	$3,963.62
Other salaries, including Inspector, Secretary and care taker, &c	622.50
Prizes	40.00
Apparatus	5.00
Building account	159.25
Repairs	357.42
Furniture	153.21
Sundries	587.33
	$5,898.33

Mr. Nicholson reported, on behalf of the Visiting Committee, that good order prevailed in the schools, but that some repairs were needed. Report received and the Contingent Committee ordered to have repairs made and procure what may be needed; also to get a desk for the Secretary in order that the books and papers of the Board may be kept secure.

Sermon to Young Men.—On Sunday evening last there was a large gathering of young people at the North St. Methodist church, to listen to the Rev. F. H. Sanderson's address to young men. The text chosen for the occasion was the last clause of the 2d v., chap. ii, I Kings, being King David's counsel to his son Solomon, "Shew thyself a man." Our space will not permit us to give a full sketch of the discourse, which was logical, convincing and impressive. Excellent counsel was given, particular attention being directed to intemperance, card playing, gambling and dancing. Against dancing and card playing Mr. Sanderson clearly pronounced himself in opposition, contending that they were harmful and seductive amusements. Decision of character, respect for the "dignity of labor," and honesty of principle were touched upon at considerable length and eloquently, as characteristic of the true man. The farmer, mechanic or professional who worked faithfully, persistently and inspired by ambitious feelings merited the general approbation and was the successful one in life, whilst the unstable and erratic toiler seldom got beyond mediocrity. The fop whose sole ambition was to dress well and who entertained a profound contempt for honest labor, was a contemptible being in comparison to the rough clad but honest mechanic. The discourse concluded with an earnest appeal to the young men, above all, to remember their service to God, to walk uprightly and in His fear. Doing this, they could not fail in their work and the highest and best reward would await them. About three quarters of an hour was occupied in the delivery of the sermon, and throughout that time the closest attention was paid to the speaker by the audience, which seemed deeply impressed with the sentiments enunciated.

Legal Notes.

The Jail.—There were 21 prisoners in the jail last week. Seaforth is redeeming itself; no commitments from there since Dr. Coleman became Mayor.

The Pork Thief.—Daniel Laporte, we understand, is wanted in Bruce County by the legal authorities, for house-breaking and larceny.

Delirium Tremens.—An intelligent looking young man named O'Mara was brought to jail last week with the delirium tremens, and incarcerated for a term of ten days. Prisoner is the author of a legal work, which he was selling, and was formerly in high rank in the British army.

Assault Case.—On Wednesday a lad named Frederick Jones was brought before C. Crabb, Esq., charged with assaulting John H. Mallough in the play ground of school house No. 1, West Wawanosh. The case was dismissed with costs. Mr. Campion appeared for defence.

Thieving.—Two Clinton youths, John Ellerby and Emery Howe, were last week committed to jail, charged with taking $2.50 from the till of Mr. P. Cavan's store, in that town on the 26th ult. Howe says he stole $1.75, and Ellerby confesses to having received some of the money.

Insane Prisoners.—On Thursday last Mr. Lewis, Clerk of the Peace; Dr. Coleman, Mayor of Seaforth; Mr. John Kaina, Reeve of Howick, and Mr. John O'Sullivan, Clerk of McKillop, visited the jail to examine the four insane patients there incarcerated. Mrs. Ireland and Daniel Looney were considered particularly bad cases, the former suffering from St. Vitus' dance as well as insanity, and latter evidently incurably demented. The cases have been reported to the Provincial Secretary, and their removal to an asylum will be effected as soon as possible.

SEAFORTH.

Personal.—Dr. Burgess, of Seaforth, removes to Gorrie, in the Township of Howick in a few days. It is proposed to entertain him to an oyster supper before leaving town. Dr. Burgess is a good physician and will be an acquisition to the village of Gorrie.

Ladies' Aid Society.—A meeting of this Society was held in the W. M. church, on Tuesday the 27th inst. Mr. Jas. Beattie occupied the chair and an excellent choir discoursed sweet music during the evening. Readings were given by the following ladies and gentlemen in order: Mr. Sparling, Mr. Hicks, Dr. Campbell, Mrs. A. Sparling, Mr. Gray and Miss Johnston, after which an excellent repast was provided. The Rev. Mr. Buggen opened and closed the proceedings with singing and prayer. A goodly sum was raised towards church purposes. Another meeting will be held soon.

CLINTON.

Reward.—Mr. R. M. Racey offers a reward of $50 for the detection of the party who recently sent out a number of postal cards, purporting to be from Mr. E. Doherty, salesman and traveller for Mr. Racey, of this town, announcing that he would wait upon them in the course of a few days with samples. It is not known what object the party had in sending out the circulars.

Carnival.—The carnival on Tuesday evening of last week was a great success. Quite a number of Goderich people were present, in costume, as follows: C. Nairn, Prince Paul; C. Slight, Baron Pompoline; Miss E. Holmes, Folly; Miss S. Nolan, Folly; H. Holmes, Spanish Count; Miss C. Holmes, Child of the Regiment; Miss H. Andrews, Folly; Wm. Holmes, Turk.

Threshing by Steam.—On Monday and Tuesday of last week, Messrs. Glasgow, Macpherson & Co., had in operation at Mr. Fair's farm, near the town, their new "Vibrator" Separator and "Monitor" Agricultural Engine, and it is almost needless to say that every one was highly pleased with the exhibition.

Quick Trip.—Mr. Whitehead, on his return from Winnipeg last week, made the quickest trip from that place on record. When he first received intelligence of the sickness of his wife he was some seventy miles west of Winnipeg, and the only conveyance he could secure to carry him to that city was a dog train. He arrived at Winnipeg on Friday evening, and as the stage did not regularly leave till five next morning, he had to give an inducement to start at once, and by obtaining a special train to make a connection at another place, he was enabled to reach here by Wednesday afternoon; about four and a half days.—*New Era.*

An article of Canadian production, and a really valuable preparation for coughs, colds, and all throat affections, is Gray's Syrup of Red Spruce Gum. Canadian travellers have already opened up a demand for it in England and France, while on this Continent it can be met with from Manitoba to Nova Scotia, and from Montreal to New Orleans. Try it. See advertisement.

The Big Hills' School.

LAW VS. JUSTICE.

To the Editor of the Signal.

Sir,—Our present public school system is yet very far from being a perfect one, so much so that it is at the present time receiving a large share of attention from our rulers, as well as from the general public. But there are some grievances connected with it that are not so well known to the people at large as they perhaps should be, and which in some sections bear very heavily upon them. Most persons, no doubt, have very little idea, what an amount of selfishness, tyranny, and *injustice* may be *lawfully* perpetrated under the shelter of the school acts; and since school matters are now a subject of discussion, it may be just as well that certain things, though done in a corner, should come abroad.

At Porter's Hill, in the Township of Goderich, there is a school known as the Big Hills' School. It appears that in the first settlement of the country, the eastern portion of this school section was more thickly peopled than the western, which extends to the lake shore, and that this supremacy of numbers has to the present day been maintained. When the first school was built, the eastern, the thickly peopled end, got by strength of number the school house built, not in the centre as it should in fairness have been, but on their side of the centre. When this building came in the process of time to be replaced by the present brick building, the same selfish motives procured its location on the same side. This school section being a very large one, the injustice that was by this means done to those parties living at the extreme points of the western, or lake shore side, was all the greater. And now the progress of time has again made it necessary that a new school should take the place of the old. It is now proposed, therefore, to erect a good substantial building, one likely to last for a long time to come. Naturally enough then these parties, hitherto so unfairly dealt with, seek the justice of having the new school placed in the centre of the division. But allow me here to digress for a moment, to shew up the full extent of this unfairness towards these parties, some of whom were practically cut off from school privileges. They have for twenty years and more paid their school rates in the same proportion as the other end, yet they to the present day are without the use of the school themselves have built and are yearly taxed for.

One of these men (and he has a large family,) is two and a half miles from the school, another is two and three quarter miles off, and two more are three miles off or over. I am within the mark, I know, perhaps as much as a quarter of a mile each time. Unless then the children are kept at home when young, and sent to school when grown to be strong and active, they cannot go. Now, bear in mind that a farmer expects to school his children when young and of but little use, and looks for their assistance, and generally must have it, when they become fitted to render it. Consider now the climate of this country. In summer the heat is extreme. Think of the cruelty of forcing a young child of tender years, (even if unusually strong,) a child, say of seven to ten or twelve years, to walk from two and a half to nearly three and a half miles of a weary trudge to school, remain there until four in the afternoon, then again plod the same distance homewards. Think of this, I say, in the hot summer time. If we turn to the winter, the time of year in which farmers can best afford to let their children go to school, it is even worse. The day is now but half a day long. It would be positive inhumanity to send little children out to walk such distances. To accomplish it they must start very early, must often be the first on the road to track the freshly fallen snow. Then how often what in the morning may be only an ordinary snow fall, by evening may have become a severe storm. But even in ordinary winter weather, think of your little children having to toil home between two and three miles, against a keen cutting breeze off the lake, along an elevated road such as is the cut line, too often, as has actually occurred, not to arrive home until after dark. I think enough has been said to convince any one of the utter impracticability of children walking these distances to school at any time of the year. How many men are there who would not think a horse a necessity if they had such a distance to go to their place of business?

Now, to resume the thread of my story again, I repeat that these parties having contributed to the building of their school, and having paid for a long period to the taxes, and notwithstanding this have been unjustly without school privileges, that they, now that the chance is open by the building of a new school, seek a tardy and long deferred justice at the hands of the trustees and their fellow neighbors to the east. And we naturally might expect that this neighborhood having so long a time enjoyed the advantages of education would be improved in their moral principles thereby and be able to discern more clearly, than did their ancestors, who thought that might was right. In the first place, they then seeing that a new school house was under consideration, appear to have made themselves masters of the situation by getting in all their trustees from their own end, consequently the weak end has not a voice in the matter of the new school, and the east side are determined to if possible, raise taxes as usual from their unfortunate brethren, wherewith to build themselves a large and durable school house to last to their children and grand children after them. Seeking to remedy this evil state of things, the lake shore people are desirous of dividing the section and building themselves a school suited to their wants. But now the plot thickens, and we get a clearer and closer view of the intense selfishness of the other party, and also of the utter disregard which these trustees have for the just claims of those over whom they have been placed in a position of trust. It appears then that the aggrieved parties can form themselves into a separate section, but that in accordance with certain legal provisions, they do not actually cease to belong to their own original section until next January, consequently they are liable for school taxes to their old division until then. This being the case, it seems that these conscientious men are desirous, not only to build this coming summer, but also, quite contrary to the usual procedure, to lay the whole tax on next fall, thereby causing the new section (if it be formed,) to pay their full share of the whole cost of a school belonging to a division in which they virtually have no part or lot. In January next, after having just paid a heavy tax to build for their neighbors a fine building in which to bring up their children in the way of godliness and christian charity, they are then brought face to face with the necessity of again dipping into their pockets to build themselves a modest little building, which through the fewness of their number will cost them perhaps as much as the other did.

Now the root of all this trouble exists in the people having a right to locate a school according to vote, and not as it rightfully should be in all cases in the centre or as near to it as can be. And let me ask has not the ratepayer living at one end of a school section an equal right with those living at the other end? If not, why?

But, Mr. Editor, there is an easy way out of all this trouble. Instead of building one large school in which it is proposed by and by to keep two teachers, and having that up at one end, let there be built an ordinary school at either side. This would fully meet the need of the whole section. By this means the strong end could have their school where they desire, and no one would grumble. At the same time it would conciliate and satisfy the injured parties on the other side, and would be no more than simple justice to them. And again the opprobium so justly earned by certain, would, (instead of having a monument built to perpetuate it to generations to come,) in a short time be forgotten.

It is to be hoped that the Inspector will give the matter his serious attention and that he will throw the weight of his influence on the side of the two schools being built by the united efforts of the section. But, Mr. Editor, bear with me whilst I for a brief space, touch upon that which constitutes the cap to the whole of this arbitrary treatment. These men, after receiving for a great many years school taxes paid to support a school for their own neighborhood, by men whom they themselves close the school doors upon, men whom they would seek to force money from to again build themselves a larger and better school—mark you, taking money out of their pockets and giving them nothing but emptiness in return—well! over and above all this injustice, they seek to gratify their overbearing and authority loving disposition, by (using the compulsory school law as a cat's paw,) endeavoring to levy fines upon them for not sending their children to a school which they themselves have been the very parties to place them outside of. In conclusion, I would just like to ask is all this the result of the many years of school privileges enjoyed at the big hills? If it is, sad reflection—wonder if the bible was used in that school lately, or if the progress of the age had set it aside for more advanced studies.

OBSERVER.

PRICES DOWN.

The Subscriber begs to intimate to his customers and the public generally that he will offer the balance of his large stock of

HOLIDAY GOODS
AND
SILVERWARE

at a great reduction for cash.

He would also announce that every article in his establishment is offered at greatly

Reduced Prices

as he has adopted the

CASH SYSTEM

entirely, and profits being based on the

READY-MONEY
PRINCIPLE,

Not credit—enables him to sell all his goods at a very material reduction,

Theo. J. Moorhouse.
Goderich, Jan. 2nd, 1877.

Cheap China,
Crockery
—AND—
TABLE CUTLERY,
FOR CASH.
ALSO
Tea by the Caddy
And General Groceries,
AT
WHITELY & ELLIOTT'S.

No reasonable concessions, in prices, will be spared to lessen the cost of removal to new premises in Horton's block. The Goods must be sold.

WHITLEY & ELLIOTT.