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The Guelph Herald.

SATURDAY EVENING, JANUARY 8, 1881.

## SYNDICATE.

For many days the columns of the Mercury have been overflowing with inane ravings upon what it is pleased to designate "the Syndicate fraud." We have not taken the trouble to wade through any of the series, and fancy the readers of the Mercury could hardly be pleased with a daily dish of tasteless hash such as has been provided for their palate by the youthful and inexperienced occasional editor. The Mercury has lashed itself into a passion because we have not taken any notice of the trash alluded to, and in an article upon Mr. Guthrie's speech in the City Hall takes occasion to give way to another fit of ill-humor upon the silence of the HERALD.

We had not the pleasure of being present at the meeting called illegally by Mr. Donald Guthrie, M. P. for South Wellington, and city and county solicitor, who ought to have known better than to call a meeting contrary to the statute in such case made and provided. We must, however, excuse this ignorance, or defiance of the law on the part of the learned (Ontario) Q. C., as it is not by any means the first case in which the gentleman's law has been found to be sadly deficient. The Mercury says, "Mr. Guthrie's speech was a clear, "calm and dispassionate review of the "Syndicate bargain." It may be so, but if it was the Mercury has done our member a very grave injustice in so badly reporting him!

It is all very well for the Mercury, after the meeting is over, to say that supporters of the scheme had every opportunity to give their views—they had not. We defy the Mercury to point to a single line in the paper, editorially or by advertisement, ask any one to come forward. We defy the [illegible] to show that a single word was said by any person who took part in the [illegible] for the getting up of it, inviting the speakers. No, the meeting was called and simply for the purpose of [illegible] at Sir John A. Macdonald [illegible]ment. What does the chairman of the Reform Association, of the County of Wellington, say, according to his own report? "The [illegible] stated that the meeting was called by Mr. Guthrie FOR THE PURPOSE OF EXPLAINING to the electors HIS VIEWS on the Pacific Syndicate contract."

The chairman told the truth on that occasion—he did not pretend the meeting was called to hear more than one side. Had it been so the chairman would have invited gentlemen who were opposed to Mr. Guthrie's views to come up on the platform. Had there been any intention to give the Government side an opportunity there would have been an invitation in the notice calling the meeting, or at least Mr. Guthrie after having given full swing to his own views would have asked if any one would like to speak on the other side. There were several gentlemen in the audience who could, even at that short notice, give a good account of themselves and a reason for the position they take upon this question.

The meeting was called as a clear Grit party meeting. If it was not, we ask why was Mr. George Elliott called to the chair as President of the Reform Association? Did not that give a tolerably party complexion to the meeting? Considering that the gentleman who should have presided at a mass meeting in the City Hall of Guelph was not present (as, of course, he could not be under the circumstances), if the promoters of the meeting had been desirous of not making it a party meeting they would have selected some other gentleman, some gentleman of Conservative principles, or some gentleman of not very pronounced politics, or, having determined upon the gentleman selected, they would have placed him in the chair as simply Mr. Elliott, and not as the President of the Reform party here.

The fact is that the Conservative party in Guelph cared so little what Mr. Guthrie and his friends might have to say on a party subject that they did not think it necessary to take any steps to thwart him or oppose what he had to say. We fail to see anything that Mr. Guthrie is likely to gain, or that the party of which he is the local representative is going to benefit in the slightest degree by these meetings. Does Mr. Guthrie or does the editor of the Mercury think that meetings of this kind will have the smallest atom of effect on the vote in the House? Would Mr. Guthrie, who is now opposed to the carrying out by the present Government of the Pacific Railway, vote with the Government if a resolution had been passed at the meeting in favor of the scheme? we say unhesitatingly, "no," and if Mr. Guthrie was here he would honestly say he would not—then what is the use of such meetings? There is no use in them; the only object is to give the Grit member a chance of getting off in his own Riding what he will not take the opportunity of expressing in his place in the House, where he ought to be, attending to his duties. There is no use in attempting to convince the electors of Puslinch that Sir John, Sir Charles and Sir Samuel are not fit to govern the country. That is a useless waste of wind, because, if they do precisely what Mr. Mackenzie said he would do, it would not make a particle of difference; wrong they are, and wrong they must be. No matter what they do "its a' ane to Dandie Dinmont." If the meetings please the Grit party, by all means let them indulge in them; it does not hurt us any. Our views on the Syndicate question are in the first place that the railway must be built. We believe that the present plan of doing so, while not perfect in all its details, is much cheaper than the plan proposed by Mr. Mackenzie and supported by his party, and it does not become those gentlemen to try to put difficulties in the way of carrying this railway out successfully. The country has been pledged not only to the railway itself, but to the mode and general particulars, time and time again. Were the gentlemen patriotic they would, instead of howling about the country, give their aid in the House to the Government to make all the details perfect and as advantageous to Canada as possible. It takes two people to make a bargain, and this is equally true with a Government as with individuals;—if Canada cannot get everything exactly as she wishes she must do the best she can, and not allow a few thousand acres of waste land to stand in the way of an undertaking of the magnitude of the Pacific Railway. We have not time in an article of this length to go into the details, nor is it necessary, they have been so fully laid before the country already that every one is familiar with them, and each portion that goes to make up the whole of the bargain can be shown to have arguments in its favor. Sir Charles Tupper has both in and out of the House ably vindicated his position in the matter, and we feel satisfied that every fair and honorable effort will be made by the Government to have the bargain as favorable as possible to Canada.

In viewing this subject it must not be looked upon as so much for the primary cost of the road, but the future development and filling up of our country, which is far more important to us. The acreage that we give away is a mere flea-bite to the millions of acres we will have left, and we are not at all alarmed at the bogy sought to be created by the Grit, non-patriots in the shape of holding lands so high as to keep back settlement. Such a policy would be too suicidal for any Syndicate to adopt. We are not only safe on that ground, but safe because if so childish a line were pursued the remedy would be at once found in the quantity of land remaining in the hands of the Government.

Ireland might be dropped into Lake Superior and it would never be known except for the taste of the poteen that would be imparted to her waters, but that is no proof that Ireland is not a great place any more than because poor Paddy, as we once heard him say: "Arrah, sure, is the whole of Canada as big as Dublin?" That, therefore, Canada is a nothing. So to compare the land to be given to the Syndicate to the County of Wellington for the purpose of bewildering the poor farmer, who thinks his hundred acres a considerable property, is ridiculous. Let any one take a map of the North-west and mark off the land proposed to given to the syndicate and see what a mere line it is after all.

We cannot deal just now with Mr. Wright, or the rag baby. Had the Government decided to do the work themselves, of course the National Currency question would have had to be part of the success of the scheme, but of that again.

The meeting broke up with "cheers for the Queen and Edward Blake," poor D. G., the hero of the day, not given a place with the other two great personages.

The New York Truth newspaper has apologized to Gen. Garfield in the case of the Morey letter, saying that it was a forgery.

London Truth revives the story of the marriage of Lady Burdett-Coutts and Mr Ashmead Bartlett, asserting that it will take place during the present month, and that the clause of the will of the Duchess of St. Albans by which the Baroness would forfeit her interest in the bank in the event of marrying a foreigner will be contested in the courts.

The press of the United States unite in condemning the defenceless condition of the large cities on the seaboard; and the navy is composed of old patched-up vessels. In case of a great war any power which had a sizeable navy could besiege the large seaports, and compel a heavy ransom to be paid. The New York World, commenting on the situation, says that "there are few persons, probably, in New York to-day who expect to see a fleet of Spanish iron-clads anchored in New York Harbor, and this great city held to a ransom of $100,000,000 under the guns of such a fleet, though it is quite certain that in the actual condition of our coast defense and of our navy, such a catastrophe would be among the immediate possibilities of a war between Spain and the United States."

The American branch of the Land League is making active preparations for "Boycotting." An Irish merchant of Pittsburg, Pa., stated the Irish Land League in that vicinity has developed a new plan. The plan is this: The members propose to act against all those who do not sympathize with them and who prove it by their actions. To be sure it is not intended to use any violent means, but the members of the Land League will mark those who are engaged in business who refuse to aid them in their project, and every member of the League will refuse to buy from any such and will use his influence to prevent others from doing so. The gentleman condemned such a scheme, and said it would receive the disapproval of the better class of Irish citizens. The leading Land Leaguer that city believes that this system of Boycotting will be adopted, although no bodily harm is meant to anyone, the only object being not to patronize their opponents!

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