

Minutes of Ramsey Council.

Ramsey, 7th July, 1862.

The Council met this day in the Town Hall, pursuant to public notice.

The Council all present; the Reeve in the Chair.

Minutes of last meeting, read, approved, and signed by the Mayor.

The following communications were read: From the Bureau of Agriculture, Emigration and Statistics.

From the Receiver General's Office. From the Clerk of the County Council. A letter from Thos. Teskey was received and read.

An account from the "Almost Express" was presented.

The Reeve and Clerk were served with a notice and protest from William Smith, No. 12, 10th concession.

Mr. Menzies presented the petition of Jas. Snedden and others.

Mr. Houston presented the petition of J. Greig, Pathmaster, 1st division, 8th line.

Mr. Anderson presented the petition of J. H. Wylie.

Mrs. McAllister was heard in reference to the 5th con. line, being blocked up at lot No. Eleven.

Mr. Toshach moved, seconded by Mr. Houston, That the Clerk do notify Daniel Drummond, Pathmaster, to have the obstruction removed on 5th con. at lot No. 11. Carried.

Moved by Mr. Toshach, seconded by Mr. Menzies, That the Council do resolve itself into a Committee of the Whole, for the transaction of whatever business may come before it.

Carried.

Council in Committee, Mr. Anderson in the Chair; to whom was submitted the several documents read in Council.

The Committee recommended that the account of Wm. C. Scott be paid, and that no action be taken on the petition of T. Teskey.

The petition of James Snedden and others have been under consideration, and the parties interested heard, and agreed that the road may be closed after the crops have been secured. Your committee recommend that before the road can be shut up, due notice be given, as required by law, of the application for the same.

On petition of James Greig, Pathmaster, \$60 be allowed to cut a drain along the meadow and building two culverts.

That the prayer of the petition of J. H. Wylie be granted.

Council resumed; the Reeve in the Chair.

Moved by Mr. Menzies, seconded by Mr. Toshach, That the report of the committee as minutes and read be adopted. Carried.

Moved by Mr. Anderson, seconded by Mr. Toshach, That the sum of \$33 be granted to repair the bridge at Clayton.

Mr. Belton, Pathmaster, to expend the same, and that the Clerk be and he is hereby authorized to grant an order on the completion of the same. Carried.

Moved by Mr. Menzies, seconded by Mr. Toshach, That Messrs. Galbraith and Houston be a commission to examine and report on the petition of William Smith, in reference to a water course.

Carried.

Moved by Mr. Anderson, seconded by Mr. Toshach, That Messrs. Galbraith and Houston be a commission to give William Smith, 6th con., a contract in accordance with decision of Council at the distribution of Statute labor.

Carried.

Moved by Mr. Menzies, seconded by Mr. Toshach, That Messrs. Galbraith and Houston be a commission to give out the contract of breaking 14 cords of stones on the Perth road at lot No. 11, 6th con. Carried.

Mr. Anderson gives notice that at next meeting of Council he will introduce a By-law to amend By-law No. 120 of this Council to provide for the payment of any expenses incurred in carrying out the provisions of said By-law.

Adjourned till called by the Reeve.

DAVID CAMPBELL, TOWN CLERK.

OUTRAGE ON THE BRITISH FLAG.

The Observer contains a letter, dated Chios, Levant, 24th May, which states that her Majesty's ship Foxhound, Captain Hobart, while cruising near Rhodes on the lookout for pirates, engaged a Greek boat, and manured her with his first lieutenant and eight men to search along the coast. The boat was searching along the coast near Yali, when the Pasha of Rhodes, passing in his steamer, took her for a pirate, and fired a shot to bring her to. The boat, however, kept her course until a second shot was fired. The officers and men were ordered on board knocked down and lashed. In this condition they remained for two hours, the Turks pliering them. They were by the aid of an engineer, who spoke a little English, interrogated by the Pasha. They were then released, the Pasha giving the lieutenant a letter, in justification for what he had done. On reaching the Foxhound the lieutenant reported the affair to his captain, who immediately went in pursuit of the Pasha, but was always too late. From Chios he sent a telegram to Smyrna ordering the Pasha to come and give satisfaction. The Pasha arrived on the 24th, gave the captain written apology, 100 piastres to each of the boat's crew, returned the stolen articles, promised to punish his crew, and finally saluted the English flag with twenty-one guns.

A CONSUMMATE VILLAIN.

About three weeks ago a respectably dressed man made his debut at the residence of Mr. William Upper, Township of Thorold. After a few moments' conversation, he succeeded in making the landlord believe that he had just arrived from California, where he made the acquaintance of his [Mr. Upper's] eldest son, who resides in that State.

He was retained at Mr. U's, and during that time he visited several farmers in different parts of the county of Welland, to whom he made offers for their farms. At last he agreed to purchase one-half of Mrs. Hansall's farm for \$4,300 and after inquiries respecting the validity of the deed, he concluded to return to Palmyra to get the amount from his banker. It was only after Mr. Upper's son, who with his father's conveyance drove him to the Suspension Bridge that returned home, that it was discovered that Mr. Burr had taken away some articles of clothing valued at about \$30, belonging to the young man, with whom he had slept during his two weeks' stay at the house.

The return he has made for the kindness and hospitality shown to him is warning to others as well as to Mr. Upper, not again to place confidence in strangers coming to their houses under such circumstances.—St. Catharines Post.

We are sorry to learn that D. Row, Esq., who was picked up Saturday last, in the crowd of people around the ticket wagon at the circus, Mr. Row's loss consisted of a pocket book containing \$140, several notes of all hands, and a check on the bank for a considerable sum. There were also several papers in the book. The money contained in the book. The money contained in the book. The money contained in the book.

It is the only time that a man has been heard of, who has been so suddenly arrested on his way to the circus.

In New York, on Saturday, the spots reports amounted to more than three million of dollars. It was reported that the New York market was very active.

There was a great deal of business done in the New York market on Saturday.

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Death of the Hon. W. H. Merritt.

We are called upon to record to-day the death of one of the most prominent and influential citizens of Canada, the Hon. W. H. Merritt. His death was not unexpected.

The loss of a beloved son a short time ago aggravated the symptoms of a disease which had well nigh proved fatal before, and though he struggled with his natural energy against the decay of life's powers, it was evident that the last message could not be long delayed.

Mr. Merritt left his home at St. Catharines and travelled by easy stages to Montreal, on his way to the sea board, resting at Hamilton, Toronto, Kingston, Brockville, and other places. He was very weak, and frequently was obliged to call in medical aid. He was accompanied by his daughter-in-law, the widow of the late Mr. W. H. Merritt, his grandson, and his secretary.

When the party reached the St. Lawrence Hall, Montreal, about a week ago, it was arranged that they should proceed to Saratoga, but the honourable gentleman became so ill that the journey was put off. Two days afterwards he had a fresh stroke of paralysis, and almost entirely lost the power of his limbs.

On Friday, he was so much better that he could sit up in bed, and was able to dictate letters on business. On Saturday, however, Mrs. Merritt considered that he was too weak to pursue his journey, and it was resolved that they should return home by the steamer "Champion." On Saturday morning, he was placed on a litter and carried from the St. Lawrence Hall to the steamer. He was able to converse with those around him during the whole of Saturday, but as night came on, they saw that his end was approaching. He was sensible to the end, and passed away without a struggle, at two o'clock on Sunday morning, while the steamer was ploughing her way up the St. Lawrence a short distance above Dickinson's Landing. At Prescott a carpenter came on board the "Champion" and a case was made in which the remains were deposited. The corpse was conveyed by steamer to Hamilton, and thence to the late residence of the deceased, at St. Catharines, by train on the Great Western.

Naturally a man of strong frame and of the most temperate habits, it may be said that, dying at the age of 69, Mr. Merritt has passed prematurely from the stage, and there can be no question that his unceasing labors in many public enterprises destroyed vital powers which, under other circumstances, might have endured to extreme old age. It may literally be said that he died "in harness," that he was worn out by his labors, that not a shade of the rust of inaction rested upon his finely tempered intellect.

Mr. Merritt was the son of one of those brave and self-denying men who upon the break ing out of the American Revolution, adhered to the principles of their forefathers, and sought a home in the then wilderness of Canada, in which they could maintain their allegiance to the Crown and country of their love. Mr. Merritt was one of the best specimens of the descendants of that noble band of pioneers. He exhibited none of the narrowness of spirit which can be sometimes traced in the descendants of the United Empire Loyalists. He was liberal and tolerant in the highest degree, his views of public duty was exalted, his aims for the improvement of the country in which his lot was cast, wide and far reaching, so much so indeed, as to be far beyond the calibre of all his contemporaries.

He was first brought into notice by the active part he took as an officer of the Canadian Militia during the year of 1812, while a very young man. Some years later, fired by the example of DeWitt Clinton and other projectors and promoters of the Erie Canal, through the state of New York, Mr. Merritt conceived the design of uniting lakes Erie and Ontario by the Welland Canal. It is not our purpose to dwell at length upon the manifold difficulties which Mr. Merritt encountered in carrying his project into completion. We trust that these labors will be recorded in a suitable form from the materials which must remain in possession of Mr. Merritt's family. They will form a most interesting view of the progress of a very important work, and a lasting memorial of possibly the most useful citizen whom Canada has ever possessed. It was not simply that Mr. Merritt, almost single handed, overcame the prejudices and pecuniary troubles encountered in constructing the Welland Canal; he also wielded an immense influence in securing the completion, on a great scale, of the connecting links of the St. Lawrence navigation necessary for the full development of our carrying trade, and it may be said that in every important step taken during the last forty years to develop Canadian commerce he took an active share. Although he frequently encountered schemes much in advance of his contemporaries which he frequently the appearance of being chimerical, he was, nevertheless, eminently practical in his mode of carrying out his plans. A more remarkable combination of the apparently impracticable with the actually practical, was never seen. No obstacle daunted him. Earnest and laborious, though without any charms of manner, his influence, and his power of persuasion, were such that he was able to carry out his projects, whoever came within his reach almost invariably became his supporter. He was accused of making his public schemes tend indirectly to his own advantage, and there may have been some truth in the accusation; but there cannot be the slightest question that, in the main, his projects tend to the rise in an exalted desire for the public weal, and that he was a genuine benefactor of his country. He saw the Welland Canal rise through all its stages, from its original plan of petty tricks of timber, to its present magnificent proportions. He saw it crowded to repletion with the vessels of both nations, the American people paying tribute to the enterprise of Canada. He witnessed the immense development which its construction gave to the section of country through which it passes, in which his own personal interests lay, and more especially the striking prosperity of the town in which he resided, and which he may be said to have created. Having accomplished so much, Mr. Merritt might well have rested upon his laurels, but he was not a nature to seek inglorious ease even in advanced years. He devoted and carried through to completion the Welland Railway, which he contemplated would be, instead of a rival, an assistant to his greater work. He involved his personal fortune in the construction of this enterprise, and it is probable that the difficulties he encountered, hastened his end. But we cannot look upon this incident as marred the decided success of his career. He was the hero of the greatest struggle with the difficulties of nature encountered by the pioneers of civilization in the great lake region of North America, and deserves to have his name enrolled with DeWitt Clinton, with Brunel, and with Stephenson, men who devised great works and struggled successfully against gigantic natural difficulties, and the still stronger prejudices of mankind.

Mr. Merritt was long a representative of the County of Lincoln, in the Provincial Parliament, and was a member for some time of the Baldwin-Lafontaine Cabinet. As a politician he was a consistent but moderate liberal, and devoted his chief attention to questions of commerce and finance. He took an active part in securing the passage of the Bankruptcy Law, and in securing the passage of the Bankruptcy Law, and in securing the passage of the Bankruptcy Law.

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of private judgment. Protestantism, said he, asserts the right of every man to think for himself, to investigate truth for himself, to decide for himself, and to act for himself in things pertaining to God and a future state of being. You are not mere things, automata, imbecile children, that you should not be allowed to think and act for yourselves—you are men possessed of reason and accountable for its right use.

I know, Gentlemen, that there are religious teachers who do not agree with me on this point, who affirm the Clergy alone have the right to say what you ought to believe, and what you ought to do in order to eternal life.

They would have you shut your eyes and open your mouths, that they may feed you according to their own will—it may be with the sincere milk of the word; or it may be with the bread of life mixed with the gravel of human additions; or it may be the poison of the old serpent administered with a popish spoon.

The Rev. H. A. Spencer was the last speaker, and delivered a short, but very sensible address, after which the meeting gradually and quietly dispersed; the young people of both sexes, forming little groups for conversation and amusement, exchange of compliments, and salutation of friends.

At the risk of offending a few of our warm friends, which we are sorry to do, we claim the right and feel it our bounden duty, as a public journalist, and one of the members of a "Free Press" to express our opinions freely and fully. And we must say, that, with one little exception, the whole proceedings passed off admirably, considering the large gathering of people, nothing having occurred to mar the happiness or bring a shadow over the countenance of any one present. We can well excuse Mr. Morris, who had to travel to Franktown and prepare for his duties on the sabbath; but we could not admire the hasty and formal closing of the exercises, in the middle of the speakers, and of the time allotted to the speakers, and the hasty flight of the "aristocratic rector of Carleton Place."

Involuntarily did we offer up a prayer for more of that "Charity that vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up, doth not behave itself unseemly." Such exclusiveness and narrow bigotry, for we can call it nothing else, which prevents clergymen of one denomination from associating with co-workers and fellow laborers, of another name, has, in our humble opinion, a tendency to hinder the flow of gospel truth, and retard the spread of the broad Protestant principles of the Reformation.

We give the Brethren, who had the management of the affairs, all credit for the highly respectable appearance, good order and regularity of their procession, as well as during the entire exercises of the day. And had they publicly, as they have since privately, disavowed the invidious proceeding to which we have alluded, the whole affair would have been perfect. As it is, however, we are happy to be able to do the society the justice of saying, that the insult offered to the numerous and respectable body of Protestant "Dissenters" who were on the ground, and to their ministers, was gratuitous on the part of the snobbish "Rector," and formed no part of the programme of the Orangemen.

For the information of our more distant readers, we may mention that the speech of Puseyism to which we have alluded, met with the disapproval of nearly every person who was on the ground, and is openly condemned by intelligent men of all shades of religion—Churchmen and Orangemen commencing more bitterly and feeling the insult more keenly, than even those for whom it was intended.

The war in the States has, apparently come to a stand still, both parties being exhausted by the late struggle. McClellan, who promised to drive the Southerners to the wall, is now waiting to be attacked himself, and says he is ready for the rebels to come on.

The people of the North are becoming uneasy and dissatisfied, seeing that the government is suppressing the actual state of affairs and withholding the truth from the public.

It also appears that the fortune of war is going against the North, elsewhere, than at Richmond. The attack on Charleston has been relinquished in consequence of the defeat at James Island. The condition of the Federal army in Tennessee is critical, and the prospects of the Union cause in that state are gloomy in the extreme. It is now very clear that President Lincoln will need all the three hundred thousand men he has called for, in order to overcome the South; but it is not so clear that he will be able to raise them, in the present temper and feeling of the North, without much trouble.

Very meagre information from the camp has been allowed to be published, and this is an evidence that the condition and prospects of the army have not improved. We may be sure that this time has not been wasted by the Confederate generals, who are fully alive to the necessity of following up their successes by vigorous blows, and whose troops are flushed with a series of brilliant victories.

The President has proceeded up James River to visit the beleaguered army, and see with his own eyes the position of affairs, and probably settle with Gen. McClellan the programme of future operations; whatever the result of this visit may be, there can be no doubt of the imminent peril of the Federal army, and of the necessity of withdrawing it to safer and more salubrious quarters, and from a position where a successful defense will lead to no result, and disaster ensue its destruction.

No change in the markets this week.

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Our Common School system is just now undergoing a thorough criticism, and expression is being freely given to opinions, just and unjust. The Rev. Mr. Baker was lately heard to say, in presence of a number of individuals, that the "Educational system of Canada was a curse to the Province."

Coming from any other source it might be set down as a rash expression, but from a man of his cloth in high church matters, his office as school trustee, and from the fact that he got his own choice in the selection of a teacher in our Grammar School, (to whom we find no fault) the question will bear to be turned over and looked at, on some future occasion. In the meantime we would respectfully suggest that our friends, everywhere, eminently fitted for, and would make a most valuable assistant on, the editorial staff of the *Montreal True Witness*.

We will send a copy of this day's paper, or give a letter of introduction, to the Rev. G. E. Clarke, editor in chief of that paper, who will be glad to obtain new talent, having exhausted his own vocabulary of abuse in the heaping foul epithets upon our excellent Common School system of education.

For the information of some of our readers, who feel interested in a public meeting lately held at Douglas, we have to say that, if a minute of the proceedings of that meeting was sent to us, we have not yet received it. It is expecting too much to ask us to trouble the proceedings without going to the trouble of sending us a copy, or expecting us to play "second fiddle" to papers of smaller circulation and less note. Matters of that kind should be sent immediately after they transpire. When allowed to lie over for two or three weeks they are of no interest to the public, who, by that time, have generally obtained their information through other sources.

We have to thank Mr. William Morphy, of this place, for files of late New York papers. Mr. Morphy arrived home on Saturday night from California, in good health and spirits, after an absence of about a year and a half.

School Money.

In the "Journal of Education" for June, received at this office on the 7th of July, we find the following apportionment of the Legislative School Grant for 1862—

COUNTY OF LANARK.

Bathurst.....\$376
Beckwith.....25
Blenheim.....150
Burgess, North.....136
Dalhousie.....8
Dartmouth.....103
Drummond.....300
Elness, North.....160
Lanark.....331
Lanark, South.....32
Lanark, West.....399
Montgomerie.....280
Pakenham.....471
Ramsay.....43
Sherbrooke, North.....84
do South.....\$3215

COUNTY OF RENFREW.

Admaston.....\$196
Alcona.....48
Alicia.....82
Altona.....178
Bagot and Brougham.....20
Blithfield.....146
Bonnyton.....115
Brudenell, Raglan, and Radcliffe.....132
Grattan.....12
do for Separate Schools.....137
Horton.....307
McNab including Arnprior.....69
Pembroke.....42
Petawawa, Buchanan, and McKay.....29
Rolph and Wylie.....150
Ross.....67
Saskatoon and Griffith.....63
Stafford.....230
Westmeath.....148
Wilmforce.....\$2171

TOWNS.

Brockville.....\$352
do for Separate Schools.....126
Prescott.....162
do for Separate Schools.....135
Perth (Report not received, apportionment not made.).....

INCORPORATED VILLAGES.

Kemptville.....\$122
Merrickville.....104
Smith's Falls.....130
Renfrew.....80

There is a wonderful unanimity among Canadian journals as to the necessity and strong probability of European mediation between the North and South. Even the *Montreal Herald*, which has long favored the North, justifies an offer of mediation at the present juncture. It says—"Although we confess our hopes of any beneficial result ensuing from such intervention, by foreign powers, are but slender, it may well be thought that, in the common interests of humanity, Great Britain and France would be fully justified, while maintaining their neutrality towards the belligerents, in offering their service to effect a reconciliation of the conflicting interests of the contending States. Even, if rejected, such an offer ought not to be taken in bad part by the Government at Washington; and if by the Government we cannot be sanguine accepted, and believe that the matters in dispute admit of no settlement short of the absolute supremacy of the principles of freedom, and the consequent abandonment of the "institution" of slavery throughout the entire continent, it is certainly possible that some mode—short of their military struggle—might be suggested by which the Slave States would be reconciled to that, in our opinion, inevitable termination of the struggle which they have themselves provoked."

The New York Evening Post asserts that the Northern soldiers are further from Richmond to-day than they were two weeks or two months ago; that McClellan's general advance is suggested by the military struggle which they have themselves provoked.

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