

A Railway Mania.

To the Editor of the Mercury.

Sir,—It seems to me that Western Canada is at present afflicted with a railway mania. Every little town and petty village appears to think that if they succeed in saddling themselves with debt in the shape of bonuses, and secure the services of half a dozen railways to carry their few tons of overplus produce, they will eventually burst the shell and emerge into full fledged cities. The mania is not confined to these alone, for we find steady-going townships within 12 miles of our cities and towns granting \$80,000 and even \$40,000 to a railway, which, however low its freight rates may be, will never benefit them one cent in the increase of prices for grain, because the farmers in these townships will still drive their produce to the city themselves, for there they can both sell and buy to greater advantage than in the small villages at home.

Another phase of the infection is the building or proposed building of railways through districts of country which are already sufficiently provided with railway accommodation. Take for instance the Credit Valley R. R., which appears to wind about in inextricable confusion between, along, and across pre-existing railways, and seems to be in imminent jeopardy of total annihilation from its frequent collisions with the Narrow Gauge, G. T. R., W., G. and B. R. R., and W. R. R.

In conclusion, I would remark that bubble-blowing is a very pleasing amusement as long as the bubble remains intact, and retains its gorgeous prismatic coloring, but they are very liable to explode and leave nothing but a strong infusion of soap-suds in the deluded operator's eyes. The connection is obvious.

Yours, &c.,

PAIDENCE.

Waterloo Township, May 2, 1874.

How Paper Collars and Kid Gloves are Made.

Both of these necessities are extensively manufactured in this town by Messrs. Young & Spiers at their establishment on North Water Street. The 'cloth paper' as it is called, i. e. clear white paper faced with linen, is imported from the other side in sheets of say about 2 feet long by 18 inches broad. A girl takes from a dozen to twenty of these sheets in a bunch, lays on them near the one end a die of the exact shape of the collar to be made, and then slips the whole under a perpendicular press which works up and down with great force. This press descending upon the die forces it through the paper, and thus at each stroke or revolution, probably 20 collars are cut, which constitutes the first part of the process. The cut collars are next taken in charge of by a second girl who feeds them as rapidly as she can to another press, in construction not very unlike a 'Gordon' jobber, which stamps the 'stitching' beautifully around them, and at the same time indents them along the 'line of folding'. A third then with another machine cuts out the button holes; a fourth doubles the collars along the line of indentation and slips them in this folded manner through a fourth machine, when they are ready to be boxed. Boxing and labelling are the 'exclusive work of one hand, and the manufacture of boxes of another. It thus requires six different processes and as many different hands to manufacture a collar from the prepared material, and fit it for the market.

The Kid Glove Factory is on a ground floor close by the other building. The process of cutting out the gloves is very similar to its counterpart in the collar factory, the only difference being that the glove dies are forced through the pelts by blows from a heavy wooden maul. Linings are cut in the same manner, and then the whole are removed upstairs where they receive the close attention and deft manipulation of half-a-dozen sewing machine girls who ply their avocation with credit, for we understand that the gloves as well as the collars manufactured at the establishment of Messrs. Young & Spiers are deservedly celebrated for their finish and durability.—Galt Reformer.

Great Western Railway.

The semi-annual report of the Great Western Railway Directors, issued in London on the 15th April, reached this city yesterday.

In the Wellington, Grey and Bruce account a profit for the half year of £157 17s. 6d. is shown. For maintenance of way, locomotive service, wages, &c., £18,268 19s. 7d. is charged. The receipts from passenger and freight traffic were £26,324 1s. 8d. Less 30 per cent, written off to credit of W. G. and B. Railway, 30 per cent of earnings' account, £7,897 4s. 7d., leaving the small balance noted above. The London and Port Stanley working account shows on the debtor side for maintenance of way, locomotive and car service, wages, &c., £7,764 11s. 2d. On the credit side, for passenger and freight traffic, \$8,608 0s. 10d., leaving a balance profit to net reserve account of £243 9s. 8d.

The aggregate traffic receipts on the main line and branches (exclusive of those of the Galt and Guelph, the W., G. and B., and the L. and Pt. S. Ry.) exhibit a gross increase of £29,870 2s. 7d.

The passenger earnings show a decrease of £6,773 15s. 5d., solely due to this cause, but although this branch of traffic was falling off, it was found impossible to reduce the number of trains. The through freight business as well as the local Canadian traffic, was also for four months of the half-year, from the same cause, very materially reduced, an almost complete stagnation of trade having been the result of the panic.

In order to show in figures the effect of this reduction in rates, the Directors may state that the amount received for through traffic carried in the last half-year was £276,160, but had the tonnage which produced this been carried even at the low rates obtained in the corresponding half year of 1873, the Company would have received £306,950, or £30,790 more for performing the same amount of work.

The Directors also regret to have to notice the continued increase in ordinary working expenses, the prices of labor and materials having again been high.

FACTS AND FIGURES ABOUT HAMILTON.

—The Assessor's returns show the value of real and personal property and income to be \$14,119,662, a total increase over last year of \$1,171,652. The total population is 31,957, or 1,756 more than last year, and 5,241 in advance of the returns for 1871, at which time the population was 26,716. The Times thinks the figures will represent 45,000 citizens by the time the next census is taken.



Grand Display of Millinery

—AT—

GEORGE JEFFREY'S.

GEORGE JEFFREY has much pleasure in informing his numerous friends and the public generally that his Show Room is now open, and is prepared to show

**One of the Best Assortments of Millinery and Mantles
EVER EXHIBITED IN GUELPH.**

As the stock is all new, Ladies will have no trouble in selecting the newest goods at reasonable prices.

GEORGE JEFFREY, GUELPH
Direct Importer, Guelph.

Wanted, in addition to our lately increased staff, 6 first-class Salesmen. None need apply but pushing, thorough-going men, who can get through an immense amount of work.

TREMENDOUS SALE

—OF—

CLAYTON'S (CASH STORE) BANKRUPT STOCK

AT THE LION



AT THE LION

Having bought from the Creditors the whole stock at little over half price, it will be rushed off at the same as room must be had for our heavy weekly arrivals from Britain.

Over \$2000 worth of the Wet Goods from the Thorold Mills sold in ten days. Those who have not yet secured any of them had better do so at once, as three or four days will clear the lot out.

Golden Lion, Wyndham Street, Guelph.

J. D. WILLIAMSON.

A LARGE STOCK OF NEW

**China, Crockery,
and Glassware,**

NOW OPENED AT

No. 2, DAY'S BLOCK,

and will be sold Cheap for Cash.

J. E. McELDERY

2 DAY'S BLOCK,

THE NOTED TEA HOUSE.

R. MacGREGOR & Co.

(Successors to W. D. Hepburn & Co.)

BOOTS AND SHOES

MADE TO ORDER

This Branch of our Business is receiving our Special attention, and we are getting up Goods second to none in the Dominion.

We Use the Very Best of Material

Employ First-class Workmen ONLY, and guarantee perfect satisfaction to our Customers.

R. MacGregor & Co.

GUELPH, APR. 25, 1874.

Co-Operative Store.

DIVISION OF PROFITS

We are now paying our Customers 3 cents on the dollar in cash, on their purchases for the past quarter.

SPECIAL CHEAP LINES!

A PRETTY DRESS OF 15 YARDS FOR \$1.50
UNION TWEEDS (purchased at auction) ONLY 35 CTS PER YARD.
A SPLENDID LINE OF FELT HATS, ONLY 75 CENTS EACH
BOYS' LINEN FACE COLLARS FIVE CENTS PER BOX
DUNDAS COTTONS 10c. BLEACHED COTTONS 9c.
DARK FANCY PRINTS 10c. LIGHT FANCY PRINTS 10c.
CALF SLIPPERS 50c PER PAIR PRUNELLA BOOTS 75c PER PAIR
A BOX OF 75 CENT TEA, TEN LBS., FOR SIX DOLLARS.

CLOTHING MADE TO ORDER.

J. C. MACKLIN & Co.

GUELPH, April 19, 1874

GUELPH CLOTH HALL.

SHAW & MURTON

OUR SPRING STOCK

Is now fully assorted in every department.

**CLOTHS,
HATS AND CAPS,
GENTS' FURNISHINGS,
READY-MADE CLOTHING.**

We would inform our customers and the public in general that we never before offered such a complete and handsome assortment of Goods for Gent's Wear.

Shaw & Murton,

MERCHANT TAILORS.

GUELPH, March 21, 1874

ALE AND PORTER

In Prime Condition,

ALE AND PORTER

In Bottle and in Wood.

HUGH WALKER,

Wyndham-st., Guelph.

Guelph Apr. 13, 1874.

JUST COME IN !

GUELPH TEA DEPOT

E. O'DONNELL & Co.

Are putting up to-day

320 caddies best dollar Young Hyson Tea for 80c. per lb.
600 caddies of the best 75 cent Tea for 50c per lb.
95 caddies of nice Sweet Tea at 40c per lb.
120 caddies of Japan Tea worth 75c, for 50c.
A few packages of Black Tea for 35c per lb.
10 hogsheds of Good Bright Sugar, 12lb. for \$1.
50 Ingersoll Cheese, very choice.

A very large stock of Groceries of all kinds always on hand Cheap.

Terms—Strictly Cash.

E. O'DONNELL & CO

William Stewart

HAS

NOW OPENED

THE

**First Lot's New Goods
for Spring !**

Piles of Plain Lustres,

Lots of Striped Dress Goods,

Fancy Goods

The Newest Colors and Patterns.

THE

Print Department

IS CROWDED

With the Latest Productions in Colours and Styles, and at

LOWER PRICES THAN LAST YEAR

WM. STEWART.

Guelph, March 23, 1874

HART & SPIERS,

Conveyancers, Land, Loan, Insurance, and General Agents, 4 Day's Block, Guelph.

In reference to the above, Wm. Hart begs to inform his friends and the public that he has entered into partnership with Mr. Jas. S. Spiers in the above business, and while expressing his grateful acknowledgments for the liberal share of patronage bestowed upon him for the past three years, would respectfully solicit a continuance of the same to the new firm.

All business entrusted to us will receive prompt and strict attention.

Deeds, Mortgages, Wills, Leases, etc. etc. neatly and correctly prepared.

Money always on hand in sums to suit borrowers, on mortgages or good personal security. No delay or extravagant charges.

Our list of Town and Farm Property is large and varied, and parties in want of real estate of any kind should call on us before purchasing elsewhere.

Agents for the Commercial Union Assurance Company of London, England.

HART & SPIERS.

4 Day's Block, Guelph, Ont.