The Toronto World.

TUESDAY MORNING, JUNE 6, 1882.

THE EDUCATIONAL DIFFICULTY IN MONTREAL.

Yesterday's Mail contained a highly sensational announcement that the public schools of Montreal were about to be closed. It is too early in the day to construe a mere threat into a certainty. The facts of this case are that the school board wants an increased grant from the legislature which the latter declines to vote, on the ground of extravagant expenditure on the part of the school board, who it seems refuse to allow their proceedings to be reported by the press. A change in the management of the Montreal school system is no doubt desirable, less clerical influence and more publicity, especially as to accounts.

THE AMERICAN CHURCH ON MISSIONARIES.

The convention of the Presbyterian, Baptist and other churches met last week at New York and had much interesting discussion as to the practical result of foreign missionary work. It was declared with much jubilation that great efforts are being made to convert the Indians, Chinamen, Negroes, Mormons, Mexicans, Canadian French (!), Scandinavians and Germans. Of late years the general public have largely lost faith in foreign missions, the result of which seem so much out of proportion to the expenditure. The only successful missions on a large scale was when in the age of miracles. This is the age of money, and each heathen convert has to be converted at a large discount for missionaries, their wives and children, secretaries, public meetings and advertisements. It would be a more remunerative speculation, speaking of it, from a mere business point of view to convert the heathen in the raw material, of which we are likely soon to have a large supply.

GREAT WEATHER CHANGES.

Both in Washington and Toronto, the clever men who make up the "probabilities" for us have proved wonderfully successful in predicting the weather for twenty-four hours ahead. Mr. Vennor, setting himself the more ambitious task of foretelling the seasons months in advance, has had varying, but on the whole, remarkable success. Though frequently astray he has proved that his predictions are no mere random guesses, but that they are made on something like a system, which must have under it a considerable basis of scientific truth. The question appears to be a practical one—could not our wise men of the observatories in both Washington and Toronto do something better for us than they are doing, if they tried? Were they to apply their skill to the predicting of great weather changes as well as of small ones, might they not do so with reasonable success. For instanee, in November, 1880, there was a sudden and rather early freezing up of the St. Lawrence and the lakes, with many and heavy marine lossess as the consequences. Here was a great change, the actual and unexpected setting in of the Canadian winter, without a word of warning from any weather office. The Washington office did this much good, it warned the sugar planters in the South of impending frost, and so prevented serious losses that would otherwise have ensued. But the setting in of winter in the North, certainly one of the most important weather events of the year, was not as much as hinted at. Another great weather change is that from a wet to a dry season, or vice versa. For instance, last year was on the whole, a year of drought, with but a slight fall of rain and snow together. The streams have not for many years been as low as they were last fall, and the extensive forest fires of the year will not soon be forgotton. During the winter so little snow fell that a large portion of the season's cut of logs still lies on the banks of the streams waiting the next rise of the waters. As between wet years and dry years the average is obtained in the long run, we may be sure that some time, before very long, the dry time will be followed by a protracted time of wet. This inevitable change from dry to wet is one of the great weather changes. We know that it must come; are any of our weather prophets able to foresee its coming, and to say when? We candidly think that the effort should not be wholly beyond the skill of the Washington and Toronto weather officers, with all their array of records and scientific appliances. To the ordinary observer it looks very much as if the decided change from the long dry spell a long wet spell were upon us now, even at the doors. Are our professed men of weather science able to enlighten us on this point, and to tell us something more than what we know already? Are the gentlemen of the weather office too proud, or too cautious to enter the lists and compete with Vennor in this respect? We really think thaf it would not be at all compromising to their dignity were they to make the attempt. What are the indications for the present summer season, as well as for the next twenty-four hours? The recent floods in the west, over the whole of the great Mississippi and Red river valley, stretching from the Gulf of Mexico to Hudson's bay, seem to indicate a weather change of vast extent, from dry to wet. Regarding a change of such magnitude our men of weather science ought to be able to give us something longer reach than predictions for twenty-four hours only.

THE WORLD has frequently called the attention of its readers to the absurd waste of the public funds of this province in maintaining a lieut.-governor at the cost of $10,000 a year in addition to a costly mansion occupied by that most useless functionary. That the independent press in the rovince of Quebec are of the same mind appears from an able article in the Montreal Star, showing that the cost of the lieut.-governor of Quebec besides the $10,000 salary is made up by perquisites to the enormous sum of $17,037.35. Some of their perquisites consist of such items as "books $315.25." We do not know whether the lieut.-governor of Ontario has any allowance for "books," he certainly has never shown any desire to encourage Canadian literature. Another item in the Quebec expenditure is "newspaper subscriptions $314.27. In addition to all this there is a charge of over $1000 for a visit of his honor to Montreal, and to wind up the absurd catalogue the A.D.C.'s uniform is paid for by the public at a cost of $348.69. Dr. Wild in his optimism preaches that mosquitoes are a positive benefit since their bite prevents fever. These blood-suckers of a tax laden people cannot be defended by the most pious paradox.

SOME GLANCES AT THE ELECTIONS

BY R. W. PHIPPS.

The electoral contest, now at its height, absorbs and overshadows all other interests in Toronto. Let us see what they are doing. Observe Sir John at the amphitheatre, behind him and in front a sea of dim faces and shining eyes, half showing, half obscured by the partial glare of numerous great and smoky lamps. Men are there by the thousand to listen, and many a voice to shout, but not all. You hear not again the universal acclamation of 1878—the great murmur of confident belief which then at every pause arose. Distrust, mockery, (though not contempt, for the man is a strong man) appear on many a countenance. They know the thanks he gave to those who procured him power. They may be interested in the cause; they cannot be enthusiastic for Sir John. In the eyes of the multitude, ingratitude kills all. Yet the old politician fights his battle vigorously. Turning to every side, raising his arms in every attitude of appeal, his face expressive of the strongest belief in all he utters; now placidly turned towards his audience in admirable imitation of assurance that they likewise believe; now impassionately raised for confirmation heavenwards; now he is the furious orator addressing the excited mob; now, but always clear-voiced, always turning, always watching, he is the quiet gentleman telling an amusing anecdote; he pours out that succession of argument, of wit, of joke and of story, many of them old, of flashes of thought, many of them new and bright, of political reminiscence and political fact, rambling yet not unconnected, and always bearing straight on the point, which has, for many a long year past, among Canadian populace or in Canadian legislature, been more powerful than the vcice of other living man. I look on him, facing this way and that, imagining, declaiming, striving, and think of Praed's Sir Nicholas:

"The gallant knight is fighting hard, his steel cap clove in twain,
His good buff jerkin' crimsoned deep with many a gory stain.
And now he wards a roundhead's pike, and now he hums a stave,
And now he quotes a stage-play, and now he fells a knave."

A tough old fellow. Yet we do not see him at his best. In days gone by, when alone with him, or with but a few around, and wine had given exhilaration, I have known him evince a readiness, a brilliance, a power of broadening the scene, changing the metaphor, and presenting the subject in a new and different light, which I had not before found in conversation, and seldom in books, except in the pages of Burke. This, and no affectation, and much plain old-farmer-like common sense. I have ever considered him a powerful man determined on power, able to be a statesman, but who has never been one. Why? Because, if he tried such a trick, the peculiar description of supporters we send him would incontinently throw him out of office. We reverse the Egyptian tyranny; we demand that the bricks for our national pyramid shall be made of nothing but straw. I could name you a good many constituencies where we—no, we have no voice, our wire-pullers—have chosen so exclusively this material that the returning officers might as well cry out: "Gentlemen, for which bundle do you vote?"

Let us leave him there in the distance, the lights blazing, the mob around, the clamor; gesticulating still, swimming as it were for life, breasting the popular billows as he may, the great polypi Boundary and Gerrymander trying hard to drag him down; but the life-buoy of the national policy bearing him up and carrying all along. A good life-buoy, considering how it was come by. Let us go.

Here is the Grand opera house—its floor, its first, its second, galleries, crowded to suffocation. There is violent applause; but watch closely, it is not nearly so general as violent; the greater part of that assemblage are as suspicious and as critical as those of the other we have left. There is a growing intensity of feeling in Canada that on both sides the politicians are but actors, their newspapers but *claqueurs*, which is likely to grow yet more rapidly, and ere long to bear harsh and bitter fruit. The star of the evening, Mr. Blake, is there, and his attendant twinklers of the Local and Dominion houses, his candidates and their nominators, form an applauding half-circle round, and a useful one, for when the vast crowd observes some forty or fifty well-dressed gentlemen most vehemently excited by some perhaps not over clever hit or not too convincing argument, it is rather apt to condemn its own want of attention to some excellent thing which has *not* been said, and to apologize by applauding considerably itself. This is a good speaker, it is Mr. Blake. Let us notice.

None of Sir John's attitudinizing, his swaying figure, his appealing hands. Here we have a tall, solidly-built man, who seems in the energy of his utterance to grow yet more tall and solid, who gesticulates little and speaks right to the front. Not rigidly, however, his eye takes in the house, and his countenance—one of great expressive power—can command its attention even during a pause. This is peculiarly noticeable in sarcasm, when at will the whole face is lighted up with a comicality almost irresistible. Here now, you shall see him reciting, in sarcastic reference to his opponent, who certainly has grounds of action against his ancestors for nomenclature, the well-known rhyme.

"Bye-by, baby Bunting,
Father's gone a-hunting,
To get a little rabbit skin
To wrap his baby Bunting in."

It was but, after all, the commonplace application of a very commonplace verse. Of wit or of humor there was absolutely none. Yet the great audience absolutely went into such convulsions of laughter, as if this were the first joke they had ever heard, and that they were never to be allowed to hear another. The look was all. Couldock was one of the best Falstaffs on the boards; his laugh when found out in the buckram scene his best point in his best piece. Mr. Blake, when he chooses has it exactly, or its superior. Add to this a voice which seems to reach you just as it left the speaker, though far away; a power, possessed equally by no other Canadian, of framing and of clearly delivering in long succession impromptu sentences, always grammatical, often magnificent, and always in perfection conveying the idea; add to this a peculiar assuredness of expression and manner, and you have the leader of the opposition delivering an address.

But when we come to the matter of the speeches, there is more to be said. The speech of every speaker before Mr. Blake might almost be summed up as "Horrid outrage!" and to those who had come to hear Mr. Blake, and were kept in that atmosphere till nearly ten before he commenced, they were. But the outrage the speakers meant was the delay of the boundary award. Mr. Blake declared it wrong. Sir John gave his efforts towards proving it right. But I fancy that both parties were talking clever nonsense, and knew it, and had to do it. It is ten years since this award business was commenced. Both parties have since long been in power. Either could have long ago settled it. Neither settled it. When it is plain the arguments on both sides are nonsense, it is plain there is something concealed. French influence, it is probable, delayed it in Mr. Blake's term, and is delaying it now.

The redistribution bill is another tribute to French influence. It was to give Ontario five votes. But if at least so many be secured tory, it may well, judging by the past, give Quebec ten instead.

What is really desirable, in these matters, is to gain the confidence of our French neighbors. But our politicians do not, I think you will agree with me, live by allaying differences, but rather seem to expect their best harvest from setting people by the ears. There is the need of independent men—independent representatives — independent newspapers. But till the people themselves comprehend and stop the evil work there is no hope. The party cliques never will. What are they doing now? Read their calls "To arms!" "Fall into line!" "Hostile camps!" Read their so-called "patriotic" songs. Is their patriotism directed against any common enemy, or against our fellow colonists, our nearest neighbors, and who might be (and once were, when the enemy was no imaginary one) our best friends. Let some master-mind, if such we have, speak. Let him, by fair show of quiet reason, demonstrate the right, and he will have on his side each honest man from sea to sea, and after that, no parliament is likely to infringe. But if such spoke, would his words be reproduced by a one-sided, a garbling, or a falsifying press? Assuredly not. What then is the remedy? A very simple one. Support, whenever you can, the independent press. If you desire your children to respect the truth, keep the party journals out of your houses.

We have wandered from our speakers. So long as the discussion is confined to the old issues which are unfairly represented as new ones, (for what are boundary and gerrymander but the old representation by population and French domination cry which we have squabbled over as long as we can remember, under a new phase and new name?) Mr. Blake has in the contest a decided advantage, with Ontario hearers at least. On the northwest he is not so strong, for people, knowing his record, are doubtful if he would better the work. But on the great and living subject of the national policy he is lamentably weak. Ready to destroy the sources of independent strength, to play into the hands of the foreign manufacturer, he can be no leader for the young and ardent spirits of the growing north. As I have before said, he appears unable to appreciate the result of the injury he proposes to work. Knowingly, I do not believe he would advocate it. But at present give him command of the good ship National Policy, and he summons the master, "Your shrouds to leeward, master, are duties on coarse goods, prime necessaries and raw material, I see. I do not approve of them. Pipe all hands. Cut them away!"

"Why, bless my eyes, cut away the shrouds to looward, sir!" says the old salt, "every mast 'll go by the board!"

"Your opinion is inaccurate," returns Mr. Blake. "You will observe that the pressure of the wind can in no degree affect the safety of the masts, as it comes from the other quarter, and the masts are supported by the shrouds on that side."

"But blow me tight! Your honor! Sir!" cries the veteran, the picture of dismay. "What 'll happen when we tacks?"

"You do not," says Mr. Blake, solidly, "enjoy the confidence of the reform party, and cannot, therefore, understand fiscal navigation. Cut away the shrouds!"

To drop metaphor, the fiscal reforms suggested by Mr. Blake would just as surely destroy any Canadian system of protective finance. They would work, too, precisely the opposite to what he appears to think. Instead of improving the present system, they would prevent its improvement. He might, with favoring gales, after the crash, work along slowly under the jury-masts of incidental protection. But they could never claw us off the lee shore, and he would bring the ship—just where he had it in '77.

I cannot, probably, conclude this article better than by correcting some false idea concerning the sources of the increased prosperity of Canada during the last two or three years. Now I want my readers to follow me, and if I introduce some little arithmetic, not to skip it, but to scan it closely, criticize it, see if it be not true, and if it will not furnish something sound to decide the above vexed question. People say the better times are owing to our having had better crops and having had a good foreign demand for them, for lumber and for cattle. Will you read this little table? It is only five lines, and gives the whole exports from the Dominion of farm products, animals and lumber, for these years, up to June 30 of each, each year's statement giving, of course, the value of the crops, cattle and lumber of the year before, and exported to that date, being the produce of Canada:—

1877	$51,000,000
1878	51,000,000
1879	46,000,000
1880	55,000,000
1881	66,000,000

The three first years may be considered before protection—they average 49 millions of exports of these things. The two last average 60, giving 11 millions yearly more sold to the foreigner, or about three dollars each to our people. Now we know we have paid, increased tariffs and increased prices for some manufactures—to judge by the Globe complaints we must have each paid far more—but let us say only two dollars each. That will reduce our extra crop prosperity to one dollar a head. Now, the country has prospered far more than one dollar a head a year would give. Whence came the rest? Not from the crop or lumber sold abroad. Whence then? I leave who will to answer the question. The statement is being made that our increased prosperity is owing to our good crops sold abroad. I have distinctly shown that it is not.

SEASONABLE NOTES.

One of the commonest expressions in the language of the people is that, this, that or the other one is "a man of brains." What an absurdity is that! What would a man do without brains? Every ass that shoots himself through the head is reported as having blown out his brains. No credit then in being a man of brains. The force of the expression is different by application. A political boss chooses his henchman from the veriest dolts he can find. He selects them for qualities that are despised in slaves, and places them in high offices because they have neither minds nor souls of their own. Yet he calls them men of brains. The fact of the matter is all men have brains, so have calves (vide bills of fare), scoundrels and monkeys. What this country wants in men is character and probity.

* * *

Mothers, maiden aunts and schoolmarms are great believers in the efficacy of sulphur and molasses to compete with humors in the blood. Of course, humors in the blood are always bad humors, and these are generally supposed to show themselves in spring. Therefore, the dames of the household prepare the mixture and administer it to the children in liberal doses. They cannot put it down the throats of the adults, or their husbands and fathers. If they only could, how readily and allopathically would they do so, to drive out the bad humor that so frequently keeps the home and the ladies in hot water.

* * *

Some of the ministers and elders in churches indulge in long, very long, prayers. Young people cannot stand them. Their reverence and veneration of holy things lapse into lesser beatific feelings under the pressure of long supplications in summer time. In the family circle the petitions should be shortened morning and night in the hot weather, so as not to weary the little ones and render them dissatisfied with things holy. Short services in the churches would be brightly and more beneficial to minds that wander to parks, green fields, shady groves, cool beeches and Arcadian scenes in the spring and summer than tedious and over-ceremonious rituals. The ministers and brethren might abbreviate their rhetoric and points for the benefit of the church and the congregation.

* * *

At this time of the year everybody is anxious to leave the city and get either to the country or seaside. The average man and woman want fresh air and fish. The people regard these things as inseparable. Even mountaineers fish, prairie men hanker after it and city folks eat it whenever they can get it. Fish is designated as brain food. But we know some persons who would still be without brains if they eat a sea of fish.

MANITOBA NEWS.

A biscuit factory has been launched in Portage la Prairie.

Herbert Marlatt has sold his half section at Oak river for $7000 cash.

Three new freight clerks have been appointed at the C. P. R. depot, Emerson.

Work has been commenced on the telegraph line between Brandon and Rapid City.

Rapid City is now seeking incorporation. The assessment of Rapid City amounts to $370,553 and that of Minnedosa to $147,794.

A horse valued at $1500 died at Shoal lake recently. It was imported from Ontario this spring, and had only just arrived in the country.

A poll was held in the Portage to allow the people to vote on by-law No. 37, granting $100,000 to the P., W. & N. W. railway, and resulted in the by-law being carried by a majority of 53.

The Irish Race.

They are of middle stature, strong of body, of a hotter and moister nature than any other nation of wonderful soft skin, and, by reason of the tenderness of their muscles, they excel in nimbleness and the flexibility of all parts of the body; along the western coasts they are chiefly black-haired, but in the east and interior red and lighter shades predominate; they are of a quick wit, prodigal of their lives, enduring beyond others travel, cold and hunger, kind and courteous to strangers, constant in love, impatient of abuse or injury, in enmity implacable, and in all affections most vehement and passionate.

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FEATHERS AND MATTRASS RENOVATORS,

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All orders promptly attended to. New feather beds and pillows for sale; also a quantity of new mattrasses. CHEAP. 246

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FOR THE SEASON OF 1882

will run via the line of

Credit Valley & Canada Southern Railways,

and leaving Union Depot, Toronto, 12:30 noon June 6th and 21st for Fargo, Grand Forks Winnipeg, Portage la Prairie, Brandon and all points Northwest. Freight shipments made weekly For rates, tickets tnd full information apply to D. A. HOLBROOK & CO., Northwest Emigration, Real Estate, and Ticket agents, for Credit Valley and Canada Southern railways, 62 King-st E, Toronto. 135

Great Western Railway

SPECIAL COLONIST TRAINS FOR

ST. VINCENT, EMERSON, WINNIPEG, BRANDON And the North-West

will leave the line of this Railway on

TUESDAY, JUNE 6, 1882.

For full particulars, maps, time-tables, etc., apply to the Company's station-masters and Agents.

WM. EDGAR, Gen. Pass. Agent. F. BROUGHTON, Gen. Manager. 5610612

Great Western Rail'y

Sleeping Car Arrangements Between Toronto and Chicago.

COMMENCING MONDAY, MAY 1, 1882, AN elegant Wagner sleeping car will be attached daily, (except Sundays) to train leaving Toronto at 11.45 p. m., arriving at Detroit at 9.25 a. m., and Chicago at 7.40 p.m. the following day. Returning will leave Chicago daily (except Saturdays) at 9.10 p m, arriving at Toronto at 6.40 p. m.

Passengers leaving Toronto will be able to take sleepers after 9 p m, at Yonge street depot.

For railway passage, tickets and sleeping car accommodation, apply to T. W. JONES, 23 York street; CHAS. E. MORGAN, 64 Yonge street, and at Ticket offices at the Union and Yonge street depots.

WM. EDGAR, General Passenger Agent. F. BROUGHTON, General Manager.

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The undersigned will be pleased to attend to the purchase and sale of property in Manitoba and the Northwest. Correspondence solicited and promptly answered.

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Correct and Confidental Valuations made of all property in Southern Manitoba towns and villages, and of farm property in Southern Manitoba.

Confidental Reports furnished owners and intending investors. Taxes paid for non-residents. Eight years in Red River country. Correspondence solicited Charges moderate. tf

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☞ Night soil removed from all parts of the city at reasonable rates. 246

SANITARY.

The Excelsior Odorless Excavating Company, with their new and improved apparatus (awarded First Prize at the Centennial Exhibition), are prepared to execute orders for removal of night soil in a more satisfactory manner than any other firm in the Dominion. Head office, 9 Adelaide street east. Yorkville office, J. Alberry, saddler, opposite Severn's Brewery. S. W. MARCHMENT & CO., 246 Authorized City Contractor.

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INSURANCE

SOLID GROWTH.

Another year having elapsed, we now furnish a statement of the business of 1881, compared with previous years, showing the increasing favour with which the operations of the ÆTNA LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY are regarded in the Dominion of Canada.

CANADIAN BUSINESS.	Premiums Received.	Insurance in Force.
Year ending December 31st, 1877	$279,701 79	$3,240,231 00
Year ending December 31st, 1878	284,165 10	3,760,199 00
Year ending December 31st, 1879	307,847 00	9,289,325 00
Year ending December 31st, 1880	347,256 30	10,204,283 00
Year ending December 31st, 1881	$403,507 00	$11,376,600 00
An increase in 1878 of	4,463 31 &	519,968 00
And in 1879 a further growth of	23,681 90 "	529,136 00
And in 1880 a further increase of	39,409 20 "	1,625,543 00
And now a further increase of	56,249 70 "	1,045,113 00

During 1881 this Company paid for Death Claims in Canada $70,645 85—a considerable decrease upon the previous year.

Also, during 1881, to living members, holding matured Endowment Bonds, $30,104—an increase of nearly Five Thousand Dollars.

Also, during 1881, in Cash dividends, or Profits, to Mutual Members, the large sum of $54,933—an increase of nearly Four Thousand Dollars.

SOLID PROGRESS DURING THE LAST SIXTEEN YEARS.

Years.	Assets.
1866	$ 2,036,823 05
1867	4,401,433 86
1868	7,536,612 35
1869	10,359,512 23
1870	13,281,594 21
1871	15,120,686 11
1872	16,840,786 34
1873	18,077,540 06
1874	19,482,415 88
1875	20,607,503 56
1876	22,092,734 32
1877	23,357,648 95
1878	24,141,175 70
1879	25,120,804 24
1880	$23,636,195 41
1881	26,403,440 66
1882	27,055,884 76

So productive are its Assets, and so carefully selected are its Lives, that the Interest Receipts alone more than defray the Death Losses, as the following figures for the past seven years will show:

Interest on funds, 1875 and 1876	$3,021,922 59
Death Claims paid, 1875 and 1876	2,548,561 65
Difference to the Good	$473,360 94
Interest on funds, 1877 and 1878	$3,145,072 61
Death Claims paid, 1877 and 1878	2,212,892 50
Difference to the Good	$932,179 09
Interest on funds, 1879, '80 and '81	$4,900,058 23
Death Claims paid, 1879, '80 and '81	3,744,903 42
Difference to the Good	$1,155,305 81

Policies issued in 1881, 4,753, insuring $8,297,220 00.

Policies now in force, 57,564, insuring $79,773,423.44.

☞ All policies Nonforfeitable after two annual payments on the Endowment Plans and after three annual payments on the Life plans.

Endowment Deposits received in sums of $10 and upwards, carrying insurance of from $500 to $15,000 on a single life, from the age of 16 and upwards. Reader, if you are in good health (for none others are admitted) make application at once through the undersigned.

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MEETINGS.

THE ADJOURNED GENERAL ANNUAL MEETING of the Canadian Steam Users' Insurance Association for the election of directors, and for other purposes will be held at the head office of the association in the Mechanics' Institute Toronto, on Tuesday the 16th day of May, 1882, a 12 o'clock noon, By order

A F. JONES, Secretary.

The above meeting is further adjourned till TUESDAY the 23rd inst., at the same hour and place.

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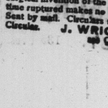

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