Subscribers will [illegible] favor by notifying us of any irregularity in the delivery of their papers.

Geo. P. Rowell & Co., 40 Park Row, and S. M. Pettengill & Co., 37 Park Row, are our only authorized Advertising Agents in New York.

We shall be glad at all times to receive items of local news, reports of meetings, accidents, or any incident of interest either in the County where it occurs or in the country at large. Such matter may be written on the back of our card per G. P. mailed Printer's Copy and not postal. To ensure publication in any particular issue it should reach the office not later than Monday evening.

Grand Trunk Railway.

Tickets for sale, for all points in Canada and the U. S., at the Depot.

TRAINS WILL LEAVE GODERICH AS FOLLOWS:

No. 1 Express, 7.00 a. m., for Toronto, London and Buffalo.
No. 7 Mixed, 10.00 a. m., for Stratford.
No. 3 Mail Express 12.45 p. m., for Toronto, Buffalo and Detroit.
No. 9 Mixed, 3.30 p. m., for Brantford and London.

TRAINS WILL ARRIVE AS FOLLOWS:

No. 8 Mixed, 9.45 a. m., from Stratford.
No. 2 Mail Express 2.00 p. m., from Buffalo and Detroit.
No. 10 Mixed, 7.00 p. m., from Stratford
No. 4 Express, 10.00 p. m., from Buffalo

BUILDERS.

TENDERS will be received up to Dec. 15th for building a first class family residence. Plans for inspection at the Signal Office.

Goderich, Nov. 19th, 1874. 1464-b

Huron Signal.

GODERICH, Dec. 9, 1874.

Fair Assessments.

One of the bones of contention in municipal government is the assessment. During the past year we have experienced this fact, in the trial of the equalization appeal instituted through the injustice done to certain of the municipalities. Jealousy extends beyond individual cases, and when it becomes sectional, as it undoubtedly has in many cases, its effects are more annoying and injurious. This state of affairs exists in our County, but not altogether to this fact is the late appeal the consequence, for the politic custom of municipal officers of instructing their assessors on their duties in such a way as to secure favor with the ratepayers, has tended more to create the inequalities of assessment than any other reason. Notwithstanding that the assessor binds himself by oath to perform his duties correctly, we seldom meet with a case of a strict recognition of duty, and the mere of an oath seems to be completely metamorphosed by this officer in the execution of his office. The necessity of legislation to remedy the difficulties resulting from such dereliction of duty becomes obvious, particularly when, notwithstanding the penalties incurred and warnings given, the state of affairs is but little altered, and the public are averse to prosecuting the delinquents. There are many responsible cases implicated with the assessor in his subdivision, and for this reason the legal provisions in the case are winked at and [illegible]. While thus encouraged the assessor protests; but it is not to be supposed that those who instruct him do not desire a reform—it is a simple matter of sectional jealousy, to remedy which a united action is the only and simple remedy. To do this, the appointment of assessors is to be taken from the township, village and town officials to be made by the body which rules the municipality as a whole—the County Council.

During the last sittings of the County Council it was moved by Mr. Garrow, seconded by Mr. Messer, that it is desirable to secure some ready equal and fair assessment of the property within the County for the purposes of equitable equalization of the rolls, and that a committee of five members be appointed to consider the best means of securing such equal and fair assessment and report at next meeting. The mover, in proposing the motion, remarked upon the unfair state of the existing assessments and the desirability of an amendment. The plan which suggested itself to him as the most feasible was the appointment by ballot of five assessors, by the County Council, through which means all sectional influences would be overcome and all partiality obviated, and by such appointment any delinquency on the part of the assessor could be better proceeded against. Owing to the short time left the Council to take action on the matter it was deemed useless to press the motion, and it was withdrawn, although the tenor of the members was generally in favor of the proposition.

At a meeting of Wardens' address he announced with satisfaction the result of the Hullett assessor's efforts, who had increased the assessment of that township about one million dollars, after valuing the property at a fair figure. A great many will be apt to consider that the people of Hullett are deserving of sympathy in thus feeling the weight of one man's faithfulness, but their high status in the market and the character of wealthy superiority which their higher assessment naturally gives them will manifest itself to their benefit very soon. It is no satisfaction in itself to see the other townships around relieved of their fair share of the public burden, and it may complain with all justice. In some of the townships it has been the custom to use the rolls of previous years in making their assessment, without respect of improvement or increase of wealth, and this plan has doubtless been pursued for the purpose of humoring the ratepayers and securing favor at elections. Now, herein exists a grave injustice; and of two evils shall we choose the easiest to overcome. It would be easy to do moral justice to Hullett, but justice to the whole people of the County, and for the universal benefit, requires a reform that shall set each municipality upon an even footing, and requiring the performance of the share of duty which is justly demanded of it. The appointing of competent assessors by the County Council obviates to a great extent the difficulties which now exist and cause so great a disparity in the assessment rolls. The assessing becomes then a County interest, and the assessor's work extends throughout the County as a single field of labor.

This is a reform for the consideration of our Local Legislature, as many—we might say every—county experiences the same inconveniences to which we have been subjected, and a plan that would satisfy every demand of justice in assessments would be a general source of satisfaction.

A special despatch to the *Times*, from Calcutta, says the Government is satisfied that the Cheveliar prisoner is not Nana Sahib. The same despatch states that Yahool Bey is in close confinement at Cabul.

Our Finances.

"We were not a little surprised to read an item in the London *Advertiser* which announced the indebtedness of Goderich at £121,000 and that of London as £96,000, from which items they drew a consoling reflection and extended as sympathy in the expression "poor Goderich." This information was gleaned from the bill to amend the Municipal Loan Fund Act, recently presented in the House, which gives a list of the indebtedness of the various municipalities. Through an error on the part of the legislative printers, the total amount of our indebtedness was made as above instead of £12,100, as it should have been. Our London contemporary did not exercise its 'usual' erudition, or by simply counting up the amount of the debentures or exercising a little thought they would have detected the error themselves. As no harm has been done, the mistake is to be regarded as an ordinary circumstance.

When the Municipal Loan Fund Act came into force our indebtedness was somewhere about $128,000, but this sum was reduced to the present figures $56,922.22, by the governments relieving us of the rest of our liabilities. Since that period nothing has been added to the sum, nor any reduction been made. The first of the debentures issued to meet this debt falls due 31st Dec., 1874, and the last one of £3,000 sterling is payable on the 31st August, 1893. The policy of our Town Council of late has kept our finances in a healthy condition, and whenever an item of expense could be avoided without detriment it was done. Economy was the motto, and without being penurious or unmanlyl of [illegible] profession with credit. The carrying out of the Huron & Quebec Railway scheme will call for an issue of debentures to the extent of $100,000, but there is no positive evidence of the necessity for issuing debentures in the coming year that item may be considered an expense of the future. The expense in keeping up the schools is the chief item of the year's outlay, as has been for years, making about half our expenditure; and in the coming year this expense is to be increased by the salaries of teachers. This item is one which no one will find fault with, for the excellent quality, convenience and beauty of our schools are sufficient compensation to the public.

Among the list of municipal indebtedness, Goderich stands tenth. The debt of London is £99,600, united counties of Northumbland and Durham £45,800, St. Catherines £32,000, Brantford £29,800, county of Perth £38,400, Chatham £21,200, Port Hope £19,000, Peterborough £14,800, Cobourg £14,200. "Misery loves company," and feeling for a friend, our London contemporary no doubt turned to the mistaken figures for consolation. It is our place to comfort "Poor London."

The L. H. & B.

A judgment adverse to the stand taken by the Townships of Goderich, Stanley and East Wawanosh, with regard to the payment of the bonuses voted by them, has been obtained by the London, Huron & Bruce Railway Company. Disgusted with the manner in which the company had behaved themselves these townships refused the promised aid, and a suit was entered to force them which has succeeded. Knowing how dilatory they have proved themselves, and how utterly hopeless has seemed the prospect of building the road, it is no wonder that the townships acted as they did. The action of the company in thus pressing the case is significant, however, although it still seems doubtful if they will carry out their project. In the papers of last Wednesday appeared a paragraph announcing an arrangement between the of the company and Mr. Childers, chairman and representative of the great Western Railway Board of Directors, for taking the enterprise of their hands altogether and constructing it as an integral part of the Great Western Railway. The whole line it was announced would be ready for opening by the 1st of January, 1876. The London *Advertiser* makes the following explanation, which has more of the savor of correctness;

"We were in hopes that our information of yesterday concerning the transfer of the London, Huron and Bruce Railway was correct. To-day we learn that Mr. Childers has not authorized to anything specific regarding the London, Huron and Bruce. He says the Directors of that company had to offer, and he has taken a few days to consider their proposals before stating what he will be willing to consent to. On some points both parties are agreed. For instance, the London, Huron and Bruce Directors, we understand, consent to be wiped out of existence; the road is not to be leased to, but to become the absolute property of the Great Western, who will build and equip it, and take over the stock held in it by private individuals, and the Great Western will reimburse the present Directors for their outlay. There are other and very material and vital points upon which the two companies are not yet agreed, and until these are satisfactorily settled no agreement can be executed between them. Members of the London, Huron and Bruce Board were to-day obtaining the consent of stockholders to transfer their house to the Great Western, as a preparatory measure, but there are serious obstacles yet in the way of a perfect understanding between the two Boards before an agreement can be made which will be acceptable to the bonus giving municipalities."

The Protest.

The appeal against the decision in the South Huron election trial was heard before Judge Haggarty, in Toronto on the 1st. We clip the following from the *Globe*:

Re South Huron Election.—Appeal. Mr. Harrison, Q. C., for appellant, who seeks by the appeal to disqualify the late member, urged his case on three grounds. 1. That there had been corrupt expenditure to such an extent as to find the respondent with guilty knowledge.

2. That on the evidence of R. Miller the respondent had been directly proved guilty of bribery.

3. That certain subscriptions to churches were corrupt personal acts.

Mr. Bethune, contra, answered these grounds, and urged further that this case could not be appealed, as the personal disqualification was a matter to be settled by the single judge at the trial, and reported on by him; the only appeal allowed was as to the proper judgment, and he was not required to give a judgment as to this point. Reserved.

Arguments on the writ of Habeas Corpus granted Wm. M. Tweed, were heard in New York on the 24, before Judge Barrett. The prisoner being ill, was not brought to Court. District Attorney Phelps made a motion to quash the writ on the grounds that there was no question as to the Court which condemned the prisoner being properly organized, and having inherent jurisdiction in criminal cases, and it was not for the Judge of no higher jurisdiction to review its proceedings.

Private Correspondence.

Toronto, Dec. 4th, 1874.

The anniversary of Scotia's patron saint has been celebrated here without any attempt at outward display, yet nevertheless with all the true hearted loyalty so characteristic of the Scot. On Sunday evening the Rev. D. J. Macdonnell, one of the chaplains of St. Andrew's Society, preached the anniversary sermon to a crowded congregation, choosing as his subject the life of St. Andrew as found in the New Testament scriptures. The discourse, was clear forcible and acceptable and listened to with attention and interest throughout. On the following evening a concert was given by the Society in Mr. Morrison's grand Opera House, the proceeds of which were devoted to some of our city charities. The affair proved a most decided success, the audience being one of the finest, most select and appreciative assembled here during the present season.

As our volunteers throughout the country take much interest in the general welfare of the force, we think it will be no bad idea for the information of the force who are readers of the SIGNAL, to make a passing reference to the condition of the organization bill. It will no doubt be both a matter of news and surprise to many of them to learn that their "twenty-to-learns" here in the Provincial Metropolis are, and have been since 1867, without either drill-shed or armories, but incredible as it may appear such is nevertheless the fact. The consequence is as might be expected, that the efficiency of our city corps is far from what it should be and from what in fact it was in '65 and '66, when they had a drill-shed. On Saturday last three companies of the Queen's Own Rifles were inspected by Col. Durie, D. A. G., this being the last inspection for the present season. The Colonel while highly complimenting officers, non-commissioned officers and men on the general tidiness, steadiness and soldierly appearance of the corps, remarked, that while noticing a decided deficiency in drill as compared with that which he had formerly witnessed in the regiment, he could not be so unjust as to find faults, knowing as he did the circumstances under which they had laboured; he was, he said, only surprised they had acquired even their present degree of proficiency. A move in the right direction has at last been made, in the offer of the city to furnish a suitable site provided the Government would erect thereon the necessary buildings. But we have had during the past few years so many similar promises that little confidence is placed in the result of the present movement.

The Minister of Militia has been advertising for tenders to supply new uniforms, this we trust is indicative of greater interest being taken by the head of the department not only in the thorough equipment, but also in the general efficiency of this branch of the service, if so, better and brighter times are "in store" for our brave defenders.

In our last we expressed doubt that Mr. Samuel Platt could be induced to run in the Conservative interest for the representation of East Toronto in the House of Commons, but since then he has yielded to the urgent solicitation of certain parties who hope through his great personal popularity to be able to defeat our late representative, Mr. O'Donohoe, it being well known that on strict party lines no candidate the Conservatives might bring forward would be able to meet Mr. O'Donohoe with any reasonable hope of success. In the House the passing of the supplies raised considerable discussion, but as the arguments made use of by members on both sides, differed very little from those made use of by them when the Budget was under consideration, little interest was taken in the debate. On Tuesday evening, however, a really excellent piece of sensation (as the Opposition press appear to think) was got up by Hon. Cameron's moving for a select committee to enquire into the truth of certain statements concerning the past working of the Agricultural College at Guelph made by Professor McCandless and others. Mr. Cameron's apparent object was no doubt to make an investigation of those charges in the interest of the country. But surely the language and argument made use of to accomplish that object was to use the mildest terms, most *unnecessarily indecent*. No, there is no use in going about the bush; the real object was to stab the reputation of the minister of agriculture. What else made it necessary to make those indecent insinuations respecting the conduct of Mr. McKellar and that of the matron of the institution? The fact is, it is but another attempt to *fix McKellar*. It is really very and to observe the blunting effect which Mr. Cameron's hatred of Mr. McKellar has upon his own sense of honor and fairness. In order to qualify this revengeful spirit he is ready to wade knee deep in mire and filth, and then to smite his adversary beneath the fifth rib. We now see the effect of his keeping such company as the other members of the quartette. Evil communications are sure to corrupt good manners sooner or later. A committee having been appointed it would be premature to enter to particulars at present.

As the Rykert investigation progresses it becomes more and more apparent that there is much need of legislation to prevent members assuming the duties of Counsel and Legislator simultaneously.

But we find we have already exceeded the space allotted to us at this busy time close for the present.

Sons of Temperance Convention.

(From our own Correspondent.)

Goderich, Dec. 4th, 1874.

The session of the Grand Division of the Sons of Temperance was opened at 2 o'clock p. m., the 1st instant, the meeting being opened by Grand Worthy Patriarch G. M. Ross of Lucknow.

After the usual opening ceremonies of our order, the first report of committee was taken up and disposed of in a short interval, the new officers were duly initiated.

The G. W. P. then read his address. He commenced by congratulating the representatives on the prosperity of our noble order, both numerically and financially, and [illegible] in thanking the Divine Ruler of the Universe for the blessings showered down upon the Order during the year. He expressed his pleasure at the progress our undertakings in the West Riding are making, in glowing terms he referred to the prosperity of our neighbouring orders in other parts of the Dominion, and the civilized world, concluding this part of his address in a proper manner by stating that it was his fervent prayer that "that children yet unborn might rise up and bless the noble sixteen who met in Washington City, U. S., and the noble sixteen who met in the upper room in the city of New York, on the 29th, 30th, 1842, and organized the Order of Sons of Temperance." He then spoke of the encouraging manner in which our prohibitory petitions had been received by Parliament, and the appointment of a committee to wait over which our esteemed brother G. M. Ross and the Hon. Alex. Vidal presided; and the great good these committees had done by presenting very favorable reports bearing on the subject of total prohibition. He also congratulated the Division on the appointment of a delegation to Maine and other States of the Union. After kindly references to our agents, lecturers and D. G. W. P., a special commendation of the Grand Scribe, Bro. Wm. Woodcock, and a glowing eulogium on a departed brother, the G. W. P. concluded by hoping that the present session would be a profitable one, and that we would return to our several homes refreshed and strengthened, and with a firm determination to do all in our power to save our fellow man from intemperance, and thus help to bring in the promised "good time coming."

The Grand Scribe then read his report. It was a lengthy one, dealing with every branch of our order, and foreshadowing a series of brilliant successes, if we only train up the young in the school of total abstinence.

A number of communications were read from those who could not attend the session, among them one from Bro. G. W. Ross, M. P., stating that he could not possibly attend. After the reading, it was moved, seconded and carried that a special committee be appointed to draft a suitable address to this brother for his untiring and talented efforts in advancing the cause of prohibition. The G. W. P. appointed representatives in W. F. Ball, Goderich, Rev. J. V. Manning, Exeter, and J. McMillan, Cobourg, a committee for this purpose.

An address in accordance with the above motion was then presented and adopted by a standing vote.

The next work was the nomination and election of officers, the following being the result:

G. W. P.—J. M. T. Hannum, Ottawa;
G. W. A. Jas. Dilworth, Toronto;
Scribe, Thos. Webster, Brantford;
Treasurer, Rev. T. Finch, Whitevale;
Chaplain, J. T. Dowling, Uxbridge;
Conductor, Angus McKay, Orillia;
Sentinel, H. W. Ball, Goderich.

The Grand Division adjourned.

On reassembling, it was resolved that we recommend members of the Order and all friends of temperance to discountenance by all lawful means the sale of intoxicating drinks in connection with Groceries. A petition to the Postmaster General was, on motion ordered to be presented, with reference to the inadvisability of having post officers in buildings wherein liquors are sold.

The next annual session was on motion ordered to be held at Brantford, and the semi-annual at St. Marys. The Division again adjourned.

On reassembling, the Division proceeded to install its newly elected officers. After the installation, the several officers were called on to address the Division, to which they complied. These addresses were chiefly thanks for the honor conferred, and promises of hard work during the ensuing year. Advancing the cause of temperance. A deputation was then received from the British Templers, conveying the fraternal greetings of that body to the Division. The members composing the deputation spoke cheerfully of the future prospects of temperance and bade all "Sons" to multiply their efforts.

In the evening, we had a very successful meeting in the Methodist Church. The attendance was large, and the addresses delivered were fully appreciated. The speakers on this occasion were the Rev. J. W. Manning, Rev. Mr. Livingston and Rev Mr. Larke. May great good follow their noble efforts.

The remainder of the session was devoted to routine business, and the good of the order. One hundred and eight representatives were present during the session, and from the letters taken in our work by them, I feel convinced that every village, town, village and township of our Province there will be a glorious revival of temperance work.

May the coming year be signalized by the enlistment of male and female warriors, to fight in the army commanded by General Prohibition. We offer to all a commission to fight under the banner of "Sons, Purety and Fidelity," and we would ask that all who wish for a reign of universal happiness, would lend a hand in placing the top stone in the position, and so work that at life's close, their star go not down behind the darkened west, but melt away in the brightness of Heaven.

LINTEN REGARD.

LOCAL NEWS.

Y. M. C. A. monthly meeting on Friday evening next. The quartette choir will sing a number of selections.

THANKS.—Mr. J. Bond has our thanks for a bottle of his "Pulmonic Syrup" which has completely cured our cold.

GROCERIES.—Proudfoot & Pennington are ready to supply all comers in first class groceries &c. See adv.

CHRISTMAS GIFTS.—Mr. Wolsey offers extra inducements in jewelry this month. See adv.

THE temperance societies of the town are preparing a grand entertainment to take place shortly after Christmas.

COUNCIL MEETING.—There will be a meeting of the Town Council on Tuesday evening next.

PERSONAL.—Mr. A. M. Polly is making a trip through the Southern and Western states, combining pleasure with business.

BANK CHANGE.—Mr. A. A. McKidd of this town takes the place of J. P. LePan in the Bank of Commerce. Mr. Le Pan has gone to Thorold as teller.

OWEN SOUND ACADEMY.—We would direct attention to the advertisement of this institution in another column, as worthy the attention of young gentlemen and ladies, desiring to perfect themselves.

NEW OFFICES.—The Dominion Telegraph Co. have opened offices during the past week at Brussels, Ethel, Listowell, Palmerston and Trowbridge, and this week offices will be opened at Teeswater and Winthrope.

GOOD SHIRTS.—Their is nothing so conducive to male happiness as a neat fitting shirt. Mrs. Leller, on Hamilton Street, is manufacturing shirts at wholesale and retail rates and in good style. See advt.

POSTPONED.—The Brussels Good Templars have postponed their concert and festival until New Year's night, to enable them to have some of the best talent in the county present. Success is now guaranteed.

NEW HOSE.—Three hundred feet of new hose has been received for the use of the town. This makes 300 feet of new rubber hose and about 200 feet of old.

COUNTY COURT.—The sittings of this court opened on Tuesday before Judge Toms. There were ten civil cases on the docket, out of which none disposed of by consent. The jury entered the jury in the afternoon.

RUNAWAY.—On Saturday morning Mr. Jas. Doyle's team became frightened at the station, and made a stampede through the town. They were captured after having [illegible] streets, none the worse for the run.

H. & G. RAILWAY.—The by-law granting a bonus of $100,000 from the town of Berth to the Huron and Quebec Railway, was carried by a Majority of 120 votes, on the 5th. The polling stood at the close 137 for and 11 against the by-law.

JEANIE WATSON.—This celebrated lady, who met with a severe accident whilst in this neighborhood, has entirely recovered and is giving a successful series of concerts throughout the Province.

PICTURES.—We are in receipt of four beautiful chromos—from Mr. J. J. Ryder, 292 Superior St. Cleveland, Ohio. This gentleman is the publisher of the celebrated chromos "Fleck No. 1, 2, 3," and the ones now on our table are equal in mechanical exception to these famous pictures.

RETURNED.—Mr. Jos. Whitehead returned to Clinton on Tuesday after noon, looking hale and hearty. He speaks in glowing terms of the country in which he has been at work. About six miles of the Plimbim Railway have been graded already under his enterprising efforts.

FOOT CUT.—On Wednesday morning, Mr. Gordon Young of Colborne cut his foot whilst chopping wood. The wound was inflicted in the hollow of the left foot, and bled profusely. The bleeding was stopped after some difficulty, and the wound is rapidly healing.

CONNECTION.—In our report of the Town Council in last issue we should have said that the total amount of expenditure for the year, as stated in the report of the Street Inspector, was $2967.04; from which ought to be deducted about $400 for work ordered by the Council of 1873, which reduces the actual expenditure of 1874 to $2567.04.

BURGOOIN.—The famous cartoonist of *Grip* appeared in the Oddfellow's Hall on Tuesday evening to a fair audience. Mr. Bengough's great attraction is his faculty for caricaturing, which for outstripping his lecturing abilities. His caricatures of prominent local and prominent public men were excellent, and showed what quick perceptive wit he is possessed of.

MASONIC.—On Friday evening next the Deputy District Grand Master will, at an emergency meeting of Star Lodge, A. F. & A. M., Smith's Hills, Colborne, dedicate the hall and install the officers. The installation will take place at 4 o'clock, and at 7 o'clock an entertainment will commence. A cordial invitation has been extended to the Brethren throughout the county, and quite a number will leave Goderich to attend.

TAX SALE.—The sale of lands for arrears of taxes took place at the Court House on Wednesday last. The attendance was not large. The bidding was pretty brisk, especially on Lots in Brussels, Wroxeter and Francesfown. No lots were sold in the town of Goderich, none offered having arisen to whether the town or county treasurer had the authority to sell them. The sale was adjourned until 5:30 in the evening and then further adjourned until the 28th of January, 1875.

WOOD.—Mr. Alex. Nairn, who purchased wood so largely at Rockwood, has removed to Toronto where all material for him along the Grand Trunk Railway will be delivered. He is purchasing wood as extensively as ever. We would take this opportunity of reminding those who have arranged to pay their subscription to this paper in wood that we would be obliged to them if they would hurry up.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS.—At a regular communication of Goderich Lodge No. 53, G. R. C. of A. F. and A. M. the following brethren were elected officers for the ensuing year: Bro. Henry H. Smith, W. M.; Bro. James Craigie, S. W.; Bro. Harry Bolton, J. W.; Bro. Stephen Yates, Chaplin; Bro. Samuel Sloan, Tyler; Bro. William Dickson, Secretary. The installation will take place on the evening of the 28th inst., to which brethren are cordially invited.

REVISION COURT.—The adjourned court for the revision of the voters' list for the township of Howick was held at Wroxeter, on the 26th ult., before Judge Toms. Mr. Daniel McDonald of Brussels, appeared for the Reform party. There was a great scene of consternation and excitement in court, the Conservative party having lost the original subpœna, and therefore had to abandon all their appeals, not having struck off a vote. The Reformers made a net gain of forty-four in the Township.

TEA MEETING.—The annual tea meeting of St. Andrew's Church will take place on the evening of 21st Dec., when an interesting programme will be furnished for the delectation of the public. A class meeting of Smitha Hill's Presbyterian church will take place on the following evening, 22d. Special service on previous Sabbath. Fuller particulars will be given next week, when the bills will be circulated.

TRACT DISTRIBUTION.—The adjourned meeting of those interested in the organization of a branch tract society here, took place at Y. M. C. A. rooms, on Monday evening, Rev. C. Fletcher presiding. A report was submitted of the draft of the town into districts, and volunteers were asked for. Quite a number of those who presented themselves were allotted districts. The plan of the town may be seen at Mr. Fletcher's residence. There are still some volunteers needed, and the committee will be glad to hear from any desirous of assisting in the good work.

ACCIDENT.—On Monday afternoon, whilst Mrs. McDonald and her son were out driving, and whilst turning the bend in the Bayfield Road near Mr. Gibbon's residence, the cutter struck some obstruction in swinging, and upset, throwing the occupants to the ground. Mrs McDonald only was hurt, having her right shoulder dislocated. She was able to proceed to Mrs. McKay's residence, where Dr. Chaffey soon attended and reduced the dislocation. The horses took fright at the accident and ran away, but was stopped in Mr. Cattle's yard, the cutter being badly smashed.

SCHOOL OPENING.—The opening of the new school house in Exeter took place on Wednesday evening, Dec. 2d, with great *eclat*. A grand musical entertainment was given by the scholars and others, and about 600 people were present. The programme was rendered in excellent style, and comprised vocal and instrumental music and an address by Mr. J. R. Miller, Inspector. Altogether the affair was an immense success, and will long be remembered by the people of Exeter. The new building is a handsome one of brick, commodious, and complete in all its arrangements. There will be seven teachers.

PRESENTATION.—On the evening of Monday, the 30th ult., the Rev. Mr. Sieveright had an agreeable surprise and welcome visit from the neighborhood of Leeburn, Colborne Township. The rev. gentleman was presented by his visitors with a purse, together with other substantial tokens of esteem and gratitude, in recognition of his valuable services at the above named place, which he has given for some years gratuitously at stated intervals, and often at the cost of much self denial. Attentions of this sort do much to strengthen and sweeten the relation between pastor and people; and all who know Mr. Sieveright and are cognizant of the effectiveness, multiplicity and unobtrusiveness of his labors in the Master's vineyard, will admit that he merits to the fullest extent the

[illegible], Lockie, Greenway, Cresswell and Porter.

A. S. Ross, Esq., presented documents relating the matter at discussion between Huron and Bruce. In his opinion [illegible] the correspondence [illegible] taking steps to test the claim of the County to the [illegible] per cent interest claimed [illegible] allowance under the [illegible] Act, as also the legality [illegible] made by government [illegible] to Huron and given [illegible] he took advice from [illegible] Moss, and C. Robinson [illegible] The case as therein [illegible] submitted to the two last [illegible] and their opinion was that the first allotment of the railway allowance on the basis of the proportion [illegible] assessed by each county on [illegible] was correct; they are also of opinion that the legislature did not intend by the statute to authorize the Lt. [illegible] to make corrections which [illegible] the adoption of a different basis from that sanctioned by the [illegible], but they do not think the [illegible] feel at liberty to revise the [illegible] of the Governor in Council. Mr. Ross, in company with Messrs Gibbon and Bishop, interviewed the Governor General to endeavour to get his Excellency's amicable reference to the [illegible] what we were entitled to under the resolutions and act. Nothing definite was heard until a note from Mr. Ross informed him that he thought the bonus would be denied. On writing Mr. Mowat, the appeal asked was refused. The Government having distinctly declined the reference to the courts there is nothing for the council but to submit unless, as suggested by Messrs. Robinson and Moss, redress can be had from parliament, which he did not think likely.

Moved by Mr. Garrow, seconded by Mr. Smith, that the County engineer be instructed to cause the droppings from the floor of the Court House to be carried by drain to the tank at the head of West Street, Goderich. Referred to Finance Committee, together with a number of accounts.

Moved by Mr. Messer, seconded by Mr. Taylor, that the county engineer be instructed to examine and report upon the condition of Graham's bridge on the road between Turnberry and Wawanosh. Referred to Road and Bridge Committee.

Moved by Mr. Scott, seconded by Mr. Strachan, that the Clerk instruct Mr. Bay to have the toll houses and gate posts removed at once.

The council adjourned until 4 o'clock.

THURSDAY, 4 P. M.

Council met pursuant to adjournment.

A number of accounts referred to Finance Committee.

The County Engineer presented his report. In accordance with instructions he examined the boundary line and other bridges throughout the county. The bridge between the county of Bruce and the township of Ashfield is too low, in a bad state and requires to be rebuilt. The bridges on the north boundary of West Wawanosh were recommended to be rebuilt, to be shorter that the old ones. Some repairs had been made on them, sufficient to make them serviceable during the winter. A twenty-five foot bridge is needed between the townships of Howick and Wallace, in place of the primitive one now existing. There is no bridge on the ninth concession of Grey, and it will be expensive to bridge the stream as the banks of the stream are high and the road crosses diagonally. The bridge proposed at 8th and 9th cons. would no doubt answer the purpose of Grey. If when the town line is opened as a public road the county of Perth may want a bridge; meet, or share in the bridge on this line that will be available. As no provision has been made by Perth for boundary bridges nothing has been done on the two small bridges between McKillop and Logan. Only one of the three small bridges between Hullett and McKillop is long enough to come under county jurisdiction, which has been repaired. Four new stringers, floor and [illegible] were put on the bridge between Morris, Hullett and McKillop. The long bridge crossing the Maitland at Ben Miller has been repaired sufficient to keep it in its place for the winter. The approach to the bridge between Grey and Howick is unsafe. New bridges were erected at Turner's mill on the Bayfield river, on the Sauble river between Osborne and Hibbert (common to Perth), between Grey and Howick branch of Maitland, and on the Bayfield river between Tuckersmith and Hibbert, which latter is not yet finished. There have been a great number of bridges repaired during the year. The following were rebuilt:—Bannockburn, on the road between Seaforth and Bayfield; at Clinton, on London road, 200 feet long; combination truss bridge at Wingham 90 feet long, at 18 Mile river on Lake Shore road, and at Brussels, about which latter bridge there has been considerable trouble.

On motion of Mr. Girvin, seconded by Mr. Gaunt, Messrs. Lockie, Cresswell, Callander, Girvin and Garrow were appointed a committee to take into consideration [the amount of the County indebtedness that the village of Lucknow should assume on account of that portion of Lucknow formerly in Huron and now attached to the County of Bruce—Carried.

Moved by Mr. Monteith, seconded by Mr. Taylor, that the engineer be and is hereby instructed to examine the bridge on the boundary road between Hullett and East Wawanosh opposite lot 35 of Hullett, and report at next meeting of Council.—Carried.

Moved by Mr. Gibson, seconded by Mr. Perkins, that the Clerk be authorized to prepare a by-law appropriating the sum of $200 to build a bridge between Howick and Perth, the county of Perth having declined to take action in the matter, and the bridge being unsafe; and that the Clerk be authorized to serve a copy of the by-law on the Clerk of the county of Perth.—Carried.

Account of H. Hudson and others, boundary line appraisement Hay, referred to Finance Committee.

The report of the School Committee was presented with reference to the petition from School Section No. 10, Howick, stating that as a previously appointed committee had done the best they could, the present committee did not see that they had power to take further action.

Council adjourned.

FRIDAY, 10, A. M.

The Council met pursuant to adjournment.

The report of the special committee on County House of Refuge read as follows:—Your committee appointed to consider the propriety of establishing a House of Refuge or Industrial farm for the county, beg leave to report that they have made such enquiries and obtained such information as satisfies them in believing that the county would gain by having such an institution for its poor. The only instance of practical use in Ontario to which the committee's attention has been directed is that of the county of Waterloo, where for several years an institution of the kind has been in operation, with, as we are assured, entire satisfaction. We are of opinion, though, as the matter is of great importance, that our information is yet too incomplete to enable us to make a full report recommending this Council to undertake the establishment of such an institution. Before doing so, we would like to obtain, and we think it absolutely necessary to obtain, as nearly as possible, the exact statistics, say for the last ten years, of the amounts expended by the various municipalities within the county for relief, and we would also deem it advisable for your committee to have an opportunity of a full personal inspection of one or more similar institutions, and particularly of that of Waterloo. For the present, therefore, we would suggest that the Clerk be instructed to procure as full information as possible as to the amounts expended within the county for the past ten years for the relief of the poor, to be laid before the Council at its January session, with a view to more definate action in the premises.

Moved by Mr. Perkins, seconded by Mr. Wilson, that all correspondence between A. S. Ross, Esq., and the government, with the opinions of counsel consulted in reference to claim of Huron to a further portion of Municipal Loan Fund, on the settlement between Huron and Bruce, be printed in the minutes. Carried.

Council adjourned.

FRIDAY, 4 P. M.

Council met pursuant to adjournment.

Moved by Mr. Weir, seconded by Mr. Gibson, that resolution No. 79 of the minutes of December 16th be referred to the allowing of a fee to the Clerk of the Peace for checking accounts passing through that office be rescinded, and that the clerk notify that official of the action of the council. Carried.

The fee is 12½ cents, which is now saved the county.

Moved by Mr. Shannon, seconded by Mr. Scott, that a by-law be passed appropriating the sum of $150 for the purpose of having the bridges between McKillop and Perth rebuilt as soon as possible, and that a copy of said by-law be forwarded to the County Clerk of the county of Perth according to law; as Logan township and the county of Perth have refused to take any action in the matter. Carried.

The Census returns for Wroxeter were presented, accepted and ordered to be filed. The population was shown to be 754. By-law for incorporation was read and passed. Finance Report.

The Finance Committee reported as follows:—We recommend the account of Michel Sherry, damage to buggy through defective bridge at Exeter, $35; John Breckenridge, repairs on Court House over estimate, $74; and several other accounts be paid. The petition of Goderich Grammar School for $500 was recommended to be laid over to next meeting. George Ruddle's petition for indemnity for horse killed on Blyth road by which he lost $124, was recommended not to be paid. We would recommend that the Clerk be authorized to issue debentures for all appropriations for boundary line bridges, &c., that account for decorating Court House at time of Governor General's visit, $28.55, be paid; that the engineer be instructed to have the droppings from the Court House conducted into the tank at the head of West street; that Mr. Bay receive an addition to his salary of $200.

The Jail Committee presented their report to the effect that they found the jail in good condition; that it needed certain repairs to broken walls; and recommending that the insane man, John Morrow, be removed to the asylum as soon as possible.

Moved by Mr. Garrow, seconded by Mr. Callendar, that it is desirable to remove doubts as to the proper official to conduct sales of lands for taxes in towns not separated from counties, that an act be passed declaring that the county Treasurer is the proper official for such purpose, and to obtain such legislation, that a memorial to the above effect from this council to the government be placed in the hands of the local members by the clerk at the earliest moment, and that if legislation to the following effect cannot be secured, that the present assessment acts may be so amended as to remove the present doubts upon the subject; and to provide for the proper return to the Town Treasurer of lists of lands in arrears, if he is to be the official to make such sales. Carried.

Moved by Mr. Grant, seconded by Mr. Armstrong, that the amount of $20 auctioneer's licence taken out by F. S. White for the county of Huron, in March last, be refunded, as he has not used it, and his family is in destitute circumstances. Carried.

The report of the committee on the proportion of county indebtedness to be assumed by Lucknow was read, suggesting that the matter be left in the hands of the Warden, Treasurer and Clerk to settle, as the necessary calculation can be better arrived at by these officials than by your committee. Adopted.

Council adjourned.

Friday, 7 p.m.

Resumed according to adjournment.

Moved by Mr. Kelly, seconded by Mr. Stott, that Geo. Kirbee be refunded $10, amount of auctioneer's licence paid County Treasurer for the township of Morris and Grey before taking out County license for 1874. Carried.

Moved by Mr. Perkins, seconded by Mr. Willis that each member of the Council who attended the appeal against the equalization, on the 13th July, be paid the usual fee. The motion was carried on a division of 26 to 8.

It was resolved that a lamp be kept lighted in the hall of the Court House, during the sittings of the Court and Council.

The Road and Bridge Committee reported as followed:—With reference to the petition complaining of the County Engineer's conduct in letting the contract of the bridges at Brussels, Exeter and Clinton, having examined into the matter, they exonerate Mr. Bay from any blame in the matter. The matter of examining Graham's bridge they recommend to be laid over to next meeting of Council. The following recommendations were made—to repair bridge between Bruce and Ashfield; bridge between Bruce and West Wawanosh; bridge between Howick and Wallace; that the Council pass a by-law to pay one-half of expense in erecting bridge on 8th and 9th concessions of Grey and notify county of Perth of the same; repairs on bridge between West Wawanosh and Colborne; new superstructure in Exeter bridge; that Mr. Bay give fair value for work done on Brussels bridge; cutting down embankment at Turner's bridge and gravelling approach; erection of bridge between Howick and Wallace; two bridges between Grey and Elma at $350 and $800, one near Carrombrook between McKillop and Logan, and that the Clerk be instructed to prepare a by-law to that effect and notify the County Council of Perth.

The Council went into committee, Mr. Shannon in the chair.

Moved by Mr. Strachan, seconded by Mr. Slemmon, that the clause with reference to Mr. Bay be not adopted, but that a committee of five be appointed to meet in Seaforth to give an opportunity to those who have complained of the action of the County Engineer in letting the contract and building of Brussels, Exeter and Clinton bridges of being heard before the Council exonerate him from all blame. Such committee to have power to send for persons and papers.

The mover said that much dissatisfaction was felt in his neighborhood, with regard to Mr. Bay's conduct. The Council should not exonerate him, but make a thorough investigation of the case to the satisfaction of the people. The work had been done contrary to the specifications of the tender, and the work should not have been given to a person who would not abide by his tender.

Mr. Weir considered that Mr. Bay should be exonerated from blame by the Council, since the Road and Bridge committee had acc