

OPENING OF THE BUFFALO AND BRANTFORD RAILROAD.

(From the Buffalo Express.)

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HURON SIGNAL. THURSDAY, JANUARY 26, 1854. COUNTY COUNCIL.

The Reeves of the Town of Goderich and of the several Townships in the United Counties of Huron and Bruce, assembled pursuant to statute in the Court Room, on Monday, January 23rd inst., Dr. Chalk the late Warden in the chair. The following gentlemen then presented certificates from the Clerks of their respective Townships of their election.

Messrs. Robert Hays, McKillop; John Holmes, Goderich Township; Nihan Woods, Stanley; John Hawkins, Ashford; William Young, Colborne; John Corbett, McMillan; David Kirk, Uxbridge; Samuel H. Rance, Hullett; William Chalk, Tuckersmith; John Strachan; Goderich Town; George Cromar, Greenock; Joseph Walker, Brant and Carrick; Richard Burford, Elderslie; John Hunter, Huron; Alexander McNab, Saugeen; Robert Walker, Stephen, and William Rastall, Kincardine.

The names of the several Reeves have been called over—It was moved by Dr. Woods, seconded by Mr. Hays, that Dr. Chalk be elected Warden for the present year. It was then moved by Mr. William Young, seconded by Mr. Hawkins, that John Strachan, Esq., be Warden for the United Counties for the current year. There voted for the ayes—Messrs. Young, Hawkins, Cromar, Walker, Strachan, Burford, Hunter, McNab, and Rastall, 9. For no motion—Messrs. Hays, Girvin, Holmes, Woods, Corbett, Kirk, Rance and R. Walker, 8. A committee was then appointed to consider the report of the Reeves, and to investigate the validity of the elections of the several Reeves.

The Council then adjourned to meet at the Huron Hotel at 10 o'clock the following morning. On Tuesday the Council again met with John Strachan, Esq., Warden in the chair. The following gentlemen were present—Messrs. Chalk, Young, Rastall, Cromar, McNab, Burford, R. Walker, J. Walker, Hawkins, Hunter, John, Hays, Rance, Woods, Atkinson, Corbett, Hays, Holmes, and Girvin. Mr. Strachan presented his oath of office certified by John Scott, Esq., County Judge. Mr. Johnson of Hay and Mr. John Atkinson of Biddulph presented certificates from their respective Townships of their election as Reeves, and took their seats. A large number of letters and petitions were then read by the Clerk. The report of the Committee appointed to investigate the elections of the several Reeves, was read and adopted. The Committee in their report having objected to Mr. Strachan taking his seat as Reeve on account of his having been paid a retaining fee for his services as Counsel to the County Council for the past year.

It was moved and seconded, that John Strachan, Esq., do leave the chair and that the Council do proceed to elect a Warden, as the Council have declared that they are legally of opinion that he is disqualified to hold that office. It was moved and seconded in amendment, that John Strachan, Esq., do keep his seat as Warden. Upon the question being submitted, There voted for the ayes—Messrs. Young, Rastall, Cromar, McNab, Burford, J. Walker, Hawkins, Hunter, 10. For no motion—Messrs. Chalk, R. Walker, Johnson, Rance, Woods, Atkinson, Girvin, Corbett, Hays and Holmes, 10. Moved by Mr. Woods, seconded by Mr. Holmes, that the Clerk be instructed to initiate the steps necessary to test the qualification of John Strachan, Esq., to take his seat in the Council, and bring the matter to issue as speedily as possible. Yeas—Messrs. Chalk, R. Walker, Corbett, Rance, Woods, Girvin, Corbett, McNab, and Holmes, 10. Nays—Messrs. Young, Rastall, Cromar, McNab, Burford, Brantford, Hawkins and Hunter, 8.

It having been suggested by Mr. Strachan that probably John Scott, Esq., the County Judge, would consent to arbitrate upon the question in dispute. It was moved by Mr. Chalk, seconded by Mr. Woods, that the committee of five

be appointed to wait upon the Judge of the County Court to request him to act as sole arbitrator in the matter of the validity of Mr. Strachan's election as Reeve—carried; and the committee appointed to consist of Messrs. Burford, Chalk, McNab, Rastall, Holmes and Rance. Several letters were then read, and Mr. Holmes, a member of the committee appointed to wait upon the Judge, having returned into the Council Room, stated that his honor the County Judge had decided that Mr. Strachan was duly returned as Reeve. The following committees were formed, on Finance—Messrs. Holmes, McNab, Woods, Chalk, Cromar and Burford.

Roads and Bridges—Messrs. J. Walker, Woods, Hawkins, Hays, Atkinson, Corbett and Rance. Schools—Messrs. Hays, Rastall, Holmes, Hunter, Rance, Johnson and H. Walker. Suspension Bridge and Court House—Messrs. Chalk, Girvin, Woods, Hawkins, Holmes, Berford, and the Warden and Clerk.

An unusually large number of notices of motion were brought forward for grants of money for various local improvements which we cannot at present enumerate. The Council have adopted the plans of Mr. Percival for a Howe Patent Truss Bridge across the Maitland instead of the Wire Suspension Bridge formerly intended. The substitution may not be very acceptable to many individuals, but as the patience of those to whom the bridge is indispensable is nearly worn out, we presume they will be glad to see any structure of a substantial kind erected, provided that no further delay is allowed; to prevent this, the committee appointed to consider the Court House and Suspension Bridge is also formed into a building Committee to push forward those works with as much vigor as possible.

It will be seen that the chief novelty in the construction of the present Council is the election of a new Warden and a large increase of the representation of the County of Bruce, which County now sends six Reeves instead of the one which it turned last year. The latter gives the Council which will enable them to carry out the most important measures for public improvement. We are much pleased with the appearance and intelligence of the Reeves from Bruce, they certainly bring great credit to that County which six years ago contained only about half a dozen white inhabitants, and which is now thought to contain over ten thousand. A bright future is in store for the flourishing County of Bruce. The other change relating to the office of Warden is worthy of notice. Dr. Chalk the late Warden has occupied that position for twenty years and seems to have a life interest, and generally speaking the Doctor was tolerably popular as Warden. The principal fault that has been found with his conduct was that he was not fast enough for the times, that he lacked energy to enable him to urge forward through the Council measures of public importance. And it was also believed that the Doctor was favorable to the chimera of a proposition of removing the Court House to Clinton, and that he allowed his judgment in this matter to be overruled by his desire to pander to the absurd wishes and speculations of his constituents. It was this belief which lost him his seat as Warden and elected Mr. Strachan the Reeve of Goderich, Warden in his stead. Mr. Strachan has considerable natural energy of character, which it is presumed he will use to carry out the more important and pressing matters involving the interests of the County, any advantage obtained. As both of the Gentlemen proposed for the office are opposed to us in politics we have no sympathy with either on that score, and we should be very sorry to throw our hat and banner for the re-establishment of a vice-royalty of Strachan's influence in the Counties.

It is not expected or presumed that Mr. Strachan will retain the office longer than one year, and we hope by that time a gentleman may be found to fill the office of Warden better calculated to give general satisfaction, than either of the opposing candidates upon the present occasion. It is pleasing to observe that both of the contending parties, even in the heat of debate, kept sight of the interests of their constituents sufficiently to prevent the Counties from being saddled with an expensive law-suit—the one party proposing and the other accepting a project for the immediate settlement of the dispute, by referring the matter to the arbitration of the County Judge, who kindly and promptly heard the case and gave his decision, supporting it by decisions in cases of an analogous nature. The Council is still sitting, and the question of the Court House is not finally settled. It is to be erected with as much dispatch as possible, but we believe the exact spot in the Town, upon which it is to be built is not yet determined, we hope the selected site will be as near the centre of the Town as possible, as a matter of public convenience, but that the Market Square will be reserved for the

creation of a Town Hall and the which we will immediately refer to the attention of our Government. We give a further account of the proceedings of the Council next week.

A public meeting will be held at the School House on Tuesday next, at 8 o'clock, A. M., for the purpose of considering the determination of the Board of Common Schools of the Town of Goderich, in relation to the proposed amalgamation of the Schools of the Town of Goderich with the Schools of the County of Bruce. This is a question of importance, and we hope to see considerable interest manifested by a large attendance upon the occasion. Our Schools are too much underrated by the majority of people, who if they do not seek to prevent their being useful, at least take very little pains to render them so. This is well attested by the slight interest manifested at the election of Trustees, as also by the thin attendance at meetings like the one under notice. It will be admitted that the educational interests of a community are of the first importance, but while this is the case, it is difficult to account for the apathy manifested by the public in the successful management of our Schools. Hence their failure, and frequent complaints of the unsuccessful working of the system as it is called. In fact the system is never carried out, and if the public are disappointed in the results, they have themselves to blame. The election of Trustees and the entire control of the Schools is in their own hands, but it is well known that there is seldom present more than the proposer and seceder at the election of a Trustee and if the public do not take some interest in the public School Meetings, we do not see how they can clear themselves of the responsibility in case of failure. We hope then, at the coming meeting, that there will be a large attendance of the inhabitants of the Town who are ready to take a part in the working of our Schools, and who will be ready to give their opinions, not merely on the best method of providing for the expenses of the Schools, but also on matters involving their general utility.

We are requested to state, that the quarterly Examination of the Common School (male department) takes place tomorrow, commencing at 9 o'clock. It is indeed very discouraging to the teacher that no one attends the Examinations.

The College Students—At the last meeting of the Council of the Royal College of Surgeons, Mr. John Lizars, of Edinburgh, was appointed student in Human and Comparative Anatomy, in the vacancy occasioned by the resignation of Mr. J. H. Sylvester who proceeds to India. So sharp was the competition for this honorable appointment, that the Council awarded to the next best candidate, Mr. H. R. Sylvester, of Clapham a set of Physiological Catalogues of the Anatomical Museum, with a suitable inscription in each volume. The above notice is taken from the London Lancet and is highly creditable to the gentleman mentioned, who is the third son of Daniel Lizars, Esq., our Clerk of the Peace, and Mr. John Lizars is now only about 21 years of age. His having attained so early, the valuable and honorable appointment conferred on him, gives evidence of superior energy and talents.

Lecture.—We are informed that Mr. Hangerford, who has attained considerable celebrity as an advocate of temperance, will lecture in the Temperance Hall, on Friday (tomorrow) evening at 8 o'clock, P. M. His lectures are both interesting and instructive and are delivered with much ability. He will no doubt have a very large attendance upon the occasion.

KILLED BY THE FALL OF A TREE.—A fatal accident from the fall of a tree, occurred at McKillop, on Wednesday, the 18th inst., by which Mr. Joseph Brown, of that Township, lost his life. The deceased in company with his son a boy of 16 years of age, was chopping and intended to throw down a tree by felling another against it, unfortunately the tree fell in a direction unexpected striking Mr. Brown upon the head killing him instantly. He was a native of the north of Ireland, a very intelligent and industrious man and leaves a wife and five children. It is not expected or presumed that Mr