

The Huron and General

DEVOTED TO COUNTY NEWS AND GENERAL INTELLIGENCE

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GODERICH, ONT., FRIDAY, MAY 25, 1888.

(D. McGILLICUDDY, PUBLISHER.
\$1.50 A YEAR IN ADVANCE)

OUR SALT.

Leads the World for Cheese and Butter Making.

The Value of Ontario's Saline Products—Goderich Yields Fully One-fourth of the Total Output—What Reciprocity should do for the Canadian Salt Industry—A Wider Market a Necessity.

It is now twenty-three years since the late Samuel Platt struck the first brine in Ontario and the Huron tract became famous among the salt producing regions of the North American continent. The result is a matter of history—and of dearly bought experience, too, to many of our readers.

SPECULATION RAN RIFE.

Derricks, those obelisks which precede the boring and the gush of the mineral fluids stored in the bosom of patient Mother Earth, sprang up by the dozen, and salt companies, with their flamboyant prospectuses, radiant with promises of quick returns and sure profits, were formed in hot haste. Many of these deserted derricks and dismantled salt blocks are to be seen in this district today, monuments of man's energy or folly, push or greed, just as the reader acquainted with that stirring period in the town's history may regard it.

A VALUABLE INDUSTRY.

At present the annual product of the salt wells of Ontario is valued at about a quarter of a million of dollars. It is computed that the entire output of the wells of the three counties embraced in the saline region—Huron, Bruce and Lambton—amounts to nearly 450,000 barrels, or some 120,000,000 lbs. yearly. Over one-fourth of this yield, say 31,000,000 lbs., is made in this town, representing an annual value to our trade of about \$70,000. About 280 persons were engaged in the manufacture of Ontario salt in 1886, of whom fully 100 were employed in Goderich. Boys and girls working in the dairy salt mills are of course included in the foregoing estimate. Kindred ranks next to Goderich as a salt producing town, and is closely followed by Seaford.

ROCK BED PRICES.

During the past few years there has been a great depression in the trade. Prices got away down, often selling, barrel and all, below 50c. The evils of a restricted market, with keen competition from powerful English makers, have crippled the salt industry to an extent little dreamed of by those not brought directly in contact with the question. Canadian salt manufacturers have been terribly handicapped in the contest for commercial success, although the stamp of expert approbation has been officially placed upon the product of our Huron wells. Goderich dairy salt has no superior, if indeed it has an equal, among the rival brands of the United States or Great Britain.

RECIPROcity IN SALT WANTED.

The prospect of reciprocity with the United States in natural products, including salt, is hailed with joy by the salt men of Ontario. It means to them that with a trifling addition to their present running expenses, the output can be doubled or trebled annually, and that at last manufacturers will get what they have not had for many years—profits on the large capital invested and a return for the labor and close personal attention required to run the business. Free trade in salt means to Ontario makers the cutting off of a small portion of the Canadian trade (that of the eastern ports of Lake Ontario, perhaps), and the opening up of an almost illimitable market in the north-western states for our Huron and Bruce brine product. It is no small wonder, then, that our salt dealers are shouting themselves hoarse for reciprocity, and we join in the chorus most heartily.

OUR COMING SALT MARKET.

There can be no doubt that a great market awaits Canadian salt in that region in around and beyond Chicago. Every year Mr. Rightmayer, the leading salt maker of Kincardine, sends 40,000 barrels from his works to Chicago, chiefly to Armour & Co., the great meat packers. He has repeatedly declared that with free trade in salt he could easily double or treble his export to the United States, with but a slight increase in his working expenses. It is only reasonable to suppose that with reciprocity in salt our harbor would quickly have a revival of trade, with vessels carrying Goderich salt to Chicago, Milwaukee

and other American ports. We venture the prediction that two or three years after the introduction of reciprocity in that article the out-put of our Goderich wells would be doubled if not quadrupled, and wealth would be circulating as freely as in the wells of this district.

THE BEST CHEESE SALT.

In his valuable pamphlet "Short Hints on Cheese Making," Prof. J. W. Robertson, of the Ontario Agricultural College, an expert both in making and buying cheese for the leading Old Country markets, says:

"The results of the tests made last season (1886) for the Western Ontario Dairyman's Association, indicate that Canadian salt is better for cheese-making purposes than English salt."

This, too, be it remembered, was arranged by men who were wanting the best cheese to be sold in the leading British markets.

The same pamphlet contains the following interesting report of an official test of Canadian and English salt, in which the average merit of the Canadian salt was ranked above that of the trans-Atlantic article:

TESTS OF SALT IN BUTTER MAKING.

That the influence of salt on the quality of the butter to which it is added is not confined to the imparting of a salt flavor, has long been admitted. A few tests were undertaken during the season of 1886, at the Agricultural College Creamery, from which it was expected that conclusions useful for the guidance of butter-makers could be drawn; but little steady light is thrown by them on the disputed point as to which salt is the best for preserving butter. Many defects in quality, recognized after the lapse of time and which have been attributed to the use of unstable salt, will have to be laid at the door of some other condition or cause.

On August 21 several lots of butter were weighed from one churning and salted with salt of as many different brands, at the rate of one ounce per pound of butter.

On August 31 the same was done with the butter from another churning.

On August 15 and 21 two tests were prepared for, in a like manner, with the use of three-quarters of an ounce per pound of butter.

On August 29 and September 3 a rate of half an ounce of salt per pound of butter was applied in the same way.

From four to six lots of butter were weighed from the same churn, on each of these six occasions.

The butter was packed in tin-lined tubs and kept in a cellar where the temperature was purposely made to fluctuate from 40° to 55° Fahr., to try its keeping qualities.

The Canadian makes of salt used were Coleman's (Seaford), Kidd's (Goderich), Rice's (Goderich) and Roger's (Brussels); the English makes used were Ashton's and Higgins'.

At the convention of the Ontario Creameries Association held in Toronto in March, 1887, F. W. Fearman, Esq., Hamilton, James Park, Esq., and Thos. Johnston, Esq., Toronto, were appointed a Committee of Examination. The judging was deferred till 22nd and 23rd March. The different lots were known to the judges by numbers only, there being no indication on the tubs as to the kind or quantity of salt used. The object of the judging was, to arrange in the order of their merit the different tubs in each lot from the one churning.

There was the widest difference of opinion in some cases among the judges as to the relative merits of the different tubs in the same lot. Some butter salted with every one of the different brands of salt was awarded by merit the first place in at least one of the several comparisons. No one kind showed such superiority over the others, on the average of the tests, as to deserve special mention. The average merit of the Canadian salt was slightly higher than that of the English, but the average loss of weight by the addition of salt and working was slightly in favor of the English article.

WHAT'S UP?

Things That Are Happening Around Us.

The Railway Boom is Right in Front of Goderich—The Waterworks Arrangements are Wrong End Foremost—What It Cost to Provide Electric Light at the Fair Grounds Last Year.

—After waiting and watching and anxiously hoping and yearning lying in wait for many, many years it almost looks as if Goderich is likely to once more move in the procession of real life, snappy, energetic, pushing, go-ahead towns, and carve out for itself a history big with promise and fulfillment in the near future. Yes, sirree; there's music in the air, and fire in the hearth, and no more bugs on the potato-vines so far as our town is concerned financially, commercially and railroad-ally, if I may be allowed the term. The march of events, the progress of Old Father Time, and the necessities of the case call for more railroad competition, and the chairman of the citizens' railroad committee told me, on his return from the recent deputation to Montreal that the coming of the road is a foregone conclusion. Gentlemen, the day of the Big Bug is at hand, and all that is wanted is what my old friend Hon. John Carleton would say, "a long pull, a strong pull, and a pull all together!"

—But while big licks are ahead of us in the matter of new railroads we mustn't forget that we are buying ourselves rich in the matter of waterworks. At the last meeting of the town council, I'm told, we let contracts for over \$300,000 worth of work in the excavation, pipe-laying, boiler making, &c. We paid Peter McEwan \$726 the other day, so I'm to told, for sinking the well on the harbor site. Before that we had expended \$1050 in the purchase of the lot and getting it registered. Before that we had punched holes in the municipal treasury by sinking a well on East street when Wallace Bell had the contract. And the fun of the thing is that up to present I haven't been able to find a member of the waterworks committee who can tell me when the water supply is to come from or where they are likely to get it. When I was on the farm and a water course had to be diverted or some ditching had to be done or a well of ditching was wanted down at the swale at the end of the lot, I always knew what end of the job should be taken in hand at first; but things are different with the big-bugs in town. They are willing to tackle a waterworks scheme that has no beginning, is a go-as-you-please concern, and is warranted to haul money out of the ratepayers after a fashion that will make them stare in the not dim and distant future. I am glad my old friend Thomas Kydd has thrown himself into the breach with me to let the taxpayers know that ducks and drakes are being made of their duats. If we only had our mutual friend, Ebenezer Woodcock back from beneath the canopy of the Star Spangled Banner, we three would hold the bridge like the brave Horatius of old, and his co-laborers in fighting back the cohorts of Lazz Porsens—or, I should say, the Goderich waterworks committee.

—But aside from the waterworks business our municipal funds are being frittered away in great shape on other lines, and to give you an idea of how the oracle is worked, I will relate back to last year. When the Great North-Western Fair and Queen's Jubilee Exposition was arranged to be held at Goderich last fall, it was determined to have the building and grounds illuminated by the electric light. At that time two companies—the Royal, of Montreal, and the Ball Electric Light Co., of Toronto—were each anxious to have the contract for placing the system in Goderich, and it was suggested that they should furnish the lighting of the Exhibition grounds and hall as a sort of competitive scheme. The mayor worked hard to get the companies in rivalry on this line, I'm told, and we were all informed that a final arrangement was come to whereby the two companies would send us a man and a dynamo to furnish the necessary light on condition that an engine was got by the agricultural society to provide the power. And every thing was lovely, and we thought we had what is generally known as "a soft snap." But as the late Robert Burns

FROM THE CAPITAL.

Latest Political and General News from Ottawa.

Closing up the Session Matters in the House—New Handicapped Preparing for Public Speeches—Hatching Fish—Anti-combines Bill—The Gossip of the Gallery.

From our own Correspondent.

Ottawa, May 22.
Prorogation is fixed for today and Lord Lansdowne for the last time dismisses the national legislature. At the same time the address of farewell from both Houses of Parliament was presented to him by members of the Privy Council. His Excellency leaves Ottawa tomorrow en route to England. Lord Stanley, of Preston, will leave England for Ottawa about the time his predecessor arrives, on May 31. His Excellency the new will bring bluer blood, more of the caste of Vera de Vere, but he has not the inherited qualities of statesmanship possessed by Lansdowne, though we will hope that he has as keen an appreciation of the duties of the head of a system of responsible democratic government. The cries will now be "Good bye, Lansdowne," "Welcome to Stanley."

IN THE HOUSE.

A great deal of business and some lively scenes marked the last week of the session. Several government bills were dropped including all clauses of the Franchise bill except the one supplanting the revision of the voters' lists another year. This leaves the lists of 1885 still in force. By a majority of 21 the Government rejected Mr. Laurier's amendment to conduct controversial elections on the latest lists, which was the smallest Government majority of the session, the largest going above 50.

Friday night in committee of supply on the public works estimates Mr. Mulock endeavored to raise several amendments with the view of showing that two men employed on the Lachine canal had been dismissed at the instance of Mr. Curran, M.P., against whom they voted. Chairman Colby presided and when Sir Hector Langevin took the point of order that this did not belong to the item under discussion he ruled the point well taken. Mr. Mulock wanted to argue the point but the chairman told him to sit down. Mr. Mulock, however, kept his feet amid loud cries of "cha!" from the Ministerialists when Mr. Lister got up and said: "I move that the committee rise. You can't bulldoze us like that." Mr. Mulock proceeded to read the affidavit, the Premier appealing to him to bring the matter up later, but Mr. Mulock coaxingly said, "You'd better let me go on now," and the chairman laughing said, "go on," and Mulock went on.

On Saturday the faceted member from Grey, Mr. Landerkin took advantage of the items of the greenhouse on the grounds of Parliament square to say that he had dropped in and asked the gardener for a flower, but was told that the flowers were only for the tables of the Minister. He delivered a notable address to know how much they cost the country. Sir John said he had to complain of his colleagues for he could say none of the flowers found their way to his table and he did not therefore get his share. "You take your share out in cash here," called out Mr. Mills. "Well," replied the Premier, "I'm an old man and my house is a good piece away, and I'm afraid so long as I remain in office the taxpayers will have to pay me a share." All this occasioned good natured laughter from both sides of the House.

THE GOVERNOR GENERAL'S SPEECH.

I don't suppose I will be suspected for betraying a state secret if I tell how His Excellency prepares his public speeches. He delivered a notable one at the Russell House banquet the other day. It filled four long columns of the newspapers and was delivered off hand by the Governor General in reply to the toast of his health. But in the recess of his study at Rideau Hall, His Excellency had spent many hours over that speech carefully composed it and then wrote out word for word and line for line. But he didn't speak from manuscript, you say. No for he had carefully counted every line and learned off every word, and if you compare the delivered speech with the manuscript handed to the reporters before it was delivered you will find that he did not forget a single word. This has been the practice of former Governors, and seems to have become a precedent for each occupant of Rideau Hall.

HATCHING FISH.

It came out in a discussion in the House on Saturday that the breeding of salmon was a success in Canada up to the time the little fish were allowed to swim away in the open waters. That is the last that is heard of them. Some think that they are gobbled up by the bigger fish. At all events there is no doubt they are left to do for themselves too young and ought to be kept in ponds and fed for another year or so.

ANTI-COMBINES BILL.

The result of the investigation by a special committee has been the introduction of a bill by Mr. Wallace. It makes illegal combinations to favor any association, for unreasonably advancing the price of any article, for lessening or limiting production or competition. An

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