Huron Signal.

GODERICH JULY 11, 1877.

THE PREMIER'S VISIT.

AN ENTHUSIASTIC RECEPTION, ADDRESSES BY THE COUNCIL AND REFORM ASSOCIATION.

Hon. Alex. Mackenzie's tour through Ontario has been marked by a gratifying degree of popular enthusiasm, and his reception at every important place on his route has been warm and kindly. On Wednesday he, in company with Mr. Huntington left Toronto for Goderich. Although his approach was known but a few minutes beforehand, yet, at Guelph, Berlin, Stratford, Seaforth and Clinton, goodly numbers of Reformers were on hand to greet him. Until Monday of last week it was not definitely known that he would arrive by the afternoon train of Wednesday, but even on this short notice over 500 assembled at the station, the vicinity of which presented an animated appearance with the numbers of people of both sexes and the numerous carriages. The Mayor and Town Council drove to the station, and after a few minutes waiting the train arrived. Mr. Mackenzie and Mr. Huntington were greeted with loud cheers, the band playing an appropriate air, and as their stopping in the platform, His Worship Mayor Finlay stepped forward and read the following address :

To the Honorable Alexander Mackenzie, Premier and Minister of Public Works of the Dominion of Canada:

The Council of the Corporation of the Town of Goderich are pleased at having this opportunity of welcoming a gentleman so distinguished, and occupying so high a position in the Council of State as yourself, and we trust that your visit, which is, we understand, your first to Goderich, may prove both interesting and pleasant. Goderich is not a commercial, nor yet an industrial centre. It is, however, the head-quarters of the salt manufacturing interest of this Province, an interest, we regret to say, which has long been, and is now in a languishing condition from causes not easily removed, chief among which is the limited market which the restrictive policy of the United States, our natural market, confines us to. Goderich is also the county town of the County of Huron, one of the largest in point populous, and progressive of the divisions of this Province. As a lakeport it is also the most important on the eastern shore of Lake Huron, situated apparently upon the natural highway from west to east over the waters of the upper lakes. This important circumstance, coupled with the judicious expenditure of public moneys in enlarging and improving our harbor commenced by your official predecessor, and effectively continued by yourself, leads us to hope that in the near future our shipping interests may become of much greater importance to ourselves and the country than at present. The town has also, as we perhaps too fondly flatter ourselves, some advantages as a cool and healthy summer resort. Our most constant summer visitors are those who have known us longest, thus indicating that the town improves upon acquaintance. Your engagements do not permit us to hope that you will personally test this indication, yet without hoping we may be permitted to wish that you would.

In conclusion, permit us without desiring to trench upon the forbidden ground of party politics to express the hope concurred in, we feel assured, by the large majority of the thoughtful Canadians, that those like yourself high in authority may ever make the country's welfare and progress as a whole the first consideration, leaving in the background, as a means merely to the end the various exigencies and devices of mere party, and that the bitterness of feeling which sometimes unfortunately characterize political utterances and contests may be gradually ameliorated and forgotten in the higher aim of building up and advancing to the proper position among the nations this young and hopeful and hope-inspiring Canada of ours.

On behalf of the Council,

J. H. FINLAY, Mayor.

Mr. Mackenzie replied that although he had known something of the extent of the business, yet this was the first time he witnessed the process of manufacture. He had seen enough of salt in the previous few minutes to preserve any government. He considered that he would be only discharging the duties of his office in doing all he could in the interests of the country, and all that Mr. Hayes had remarked would be fairly considered. He returned thanks for the enthusiastic manner in which the toast had been drunk.

Mr. Huntington added his thanks to those of his esteemed colleague.

Mr. Hayes said that, in justice to the present government, he must say, although a Conservative himself, that the present condition of the tariff was the result of the Washington Treaty. The duty of 20 per cent. was then taken off by Canadians, on the consideration that a similar concession would be made by the United States. The latter had failed in their part of the compact. The present condition of the tariff in this respect was due to events entirely beyond the control of the present Government which was not blamable. (Cheers).

The party then entered a small car, which conveyed them down the incline from the works to the pier, where the tug Minnie Walker, under the management of Capt. John Morgan, was in waiting to convey the party to inspect the harbor. As the tug moved off, the workmen on the pier and the crowd on the bank above cheered heartily. The new breakwater, piers and works generally of the harbor were inspected, Mr. Mackenzie being very active in examining everything. Capt. Dancy guided the party in this inspection. Mr. Mackenzie commended Capt. Dancy's idea of dredging out a broad channel about the island in the harbor, instead of removing it altogether, putting some crib work about it, and leaving it there as a sort of a dock and it would sometime become very valuable as a site for an elevator.

The Harbor Mills and Salt Works in connection were next inspected, Mr. M. Hutchison acting as cicerone.

The carriages were again entered, and the two distinguished visitors were driven to the residence of Mr. Cameron, whose guests they were during their stay.

In the evening about 3,000 people, of whom a good number were ladies, assembled about the band stand. The band discoursed excellent music until the arrival of the Premier and Mr. Huntington, who were accompanied by Messrs. Horton, Cameron, Ross, Garrow, Squier, and a large number of the Reform Association members. On mounting the band stand rousing cheers were given for the two distinguished gentlemen. On quiet being restored, Mr. W. R. Squier, President of the Goderich Reform Association, read the following address :

To the Honorable Alexander Mackenzie, Premier, and Minister of Public Works for the Dominion of Canada :

On behalf of the Reform Association of the Town of Goderich, we offer you and your distinguished colleague a cordial welcome to our town. We feel under deep obligations to both of you, that, amidst the pressure of burdensome public duties, you have found it possible to give the residents of this County an opportunity of hearing your exposition of the motives which have actuated the Reform party, and of the principles which have enabled them under your guidance, to attain to their present proud position.

We, in common with all good citizens of this country, whose opinions and judgments have not been fashioned by party animosity and political rancour, recognise the ability and unswerving integrity which have so rapidly carried you to the foremost place among Canadian statesmen, and which have established you so firmly in the esteem and affection of the Canadian people. We desire to congratulate you, and through you your able colleagues, upon your strict adhesion to Reform principles, and upon the signal success which has attended your efforts to embody them in the legislation of this country since you entered public life, and especially since you attained the high position of First Minister of the Crown. Having been called to office at a time when public affairs had become deranged by the efforts of a demoralized party to retain power; when the country had been recklessly committed to impracticable and impossible public undertakings, and the public credit pledged for their accomplishment, when were first felt and discovered the signs of a commercial depression which has since paralyzed the trade of the world, and when the public mind had been debauched by the shameful transaction of 1872, you have, with the able assistance of your colleagues, by a wise and prudent administration of public affairs, succeeded in keeping the public faith without increasing the burdens of the people; in fostering the industrial interests of the country without violating the economical basis by which they are governed, and in so purifying the parliamentary atmosphere that corruption can no longer win the place and the applause which properly belonged to political integrity.

In thus practically elucidating the principles which govern the Reform party, and in accomplishing such important results you and the party which has the honor of serving under your distinguished leadership have been pursued by your opponents with unceasing malevolence, and have been called to answer all the random accusations which envy and disappointed ambition could suggest. We are glad, however, to know that those accusations have been and are being fully answered, as from time to time you and the Hon. Mr. Mowat and your able colleagues have the opportunity of addressing the electors in the different parts of the Dominion.

As being deeply interested in the success of the Reform party, and the firm establishment of Reform principles in the whole Dominion, we are pleased to learn that you are about to form a closer personal acquaintance with the Reformers of the Maratime Provinces, to whom through you we send our greeting and our heartiest wishes for their future prosperity.

Ontario, foremost among the Provinces in population and material wealth, is also foremost in her adhesion to Reform principles, and in her support of the Reform governments. Her pre-eminence among the provinces has been due not merely to the intelligence and industry of her people, but to the wisdom of her legislators, most prominent among whom in later years is the Hon. the Attorney-General, by whose prudent administration the resources of the country have been conserved, and the happiness and prosperity of the people greatly promoted.

While thanking you and the Hon. Mr. Huntington for the visit you have kindly undertaken to this town and county, and wishing you every pleasure in your intercourse with the people here and elsewhere, we beg to re-assure you of our loyalty to yourself as the leader of the Reform sentiment of Canada, and we trust that the day is very far distant when other hands than yours shall guide the destinies and administer the affairs of this country.

W. R. SQUIER,
President.

Mr. Mackenzie expressed great pleasure in thus standing before the people of Goderich. He would be cold and callous indeed if he did not feel the liveliest gratitude for the reception tendered him. As leader of the Liberal party he was bound to use all his influence to further those same principles that had established in this country civil and religious liberty. The establishment of a stringent election law and the purification of the electorate was due to Reformers. He was glad to visit the harbor here, in which his opponents took so peculiar an interest.—(Laughter.) If they could find no more heinous offence than was alleged to have been done by the Government in respect to the Goderich harbor, but which was never done, the present Government had little to fear in the next election. He would have spoken to the constituency of Canada instead of to the counties had not the Conservatives circulated their slanders and compelled him to answer them. This system of platform-mud flinging, the swearing had subsided highly creditable addresses were presented to Mr. Mackenzie and Mr. Mowat, both of which he responded in short remarks, and then the real business of the day was entered upon.

Hon. T. D. Pardee was the first speaker. He said this was the largest gathering which had yet taken place. His speech dealt with the Ontario Government, against which Hon. Wm. McDougall a few weeks ago charged that they had introduced no new reforms, and compared it disparagingly with Sandfield Macdonald's government. The latter person evidently did not like to refer to his sale for that reason; but he was compelled to ask what measure did he give us! He would not say he had not passed some great measures, for he passed one very great measure at any rate, and that in direct violation of the principles of good government—when he appropriated a million and a half of the public funds for railways, without admitting the right of the people to say what particular railways should receive it. The old Family Compact never passed a law more Tory in its character than that. (Hear, hear.) Reformers say the Parliament should have control of the public funds; that they shall be expended for only such things as they see the country demands, and which he considered the better way of the two. Mr. Macdougall had failed to see any reform measures placed on the statute books by the present government. Mr. Macdougall may be a good lawyer, but he was not a good judge of reform measures. Any measure calculated to remove an evil and confer a benefit upon the people is to reform measures. Any measure calculated to extend the franchise and give a large number of people a voice in the affairs of the country hitherto deprived of that privilege is looked upon as a good reform measure, and with one or two exceptions all measures of this kind have been passed by the Reform Government. An income franchise Act had been introduced. This enfranchised a large class of people in the cities and towns, and it had been said that the rural districts were not equally privileged. Such was the case, but at last Parliament a bill was introduced enfranchising the farmers' sons. That law, one would think, would commend itself to both parties; but both Macdougall and Cameron opposed it, and because they were afraid it would give votes to more Reform farmers' sons than to Conservative farmers' sons. (Hear; hear.) These Conservatives were always going to do something. If Reformers passed a good measure, they were just agoing and endeavored by abuse to lower his opponents to the grade of moral turpitude as he himself occupied. That party had adopted the name of Liberal as a deodorizer. They had always accused their opponents of disloyalty and annexation tendencies. (Voice—you are an annexationist), Mr. Huntington replied that whoever said that he was an annexationist or that he had ever discussed the question of annexation in a partizan sense, whoever stated this, if he were a party leader, uttered a falsehood, and if he were not a leader who uttered it he had been made a fool of and was an abject follower of those who knew better. He concluded with wishes for the prosperity of Goderich.

Rousing cheers were then given for both the speakers and the Queen, and the Conservatives present shouted lustily for their famous but unworthy knight. A magnificent torchlight procession was then formed, composed altogether of young Reformers headed by Mr. John McQuarrie, who deserves great credit for the manner in which he carried out this part of the programme. Preceded by the band, the torch bearers —100 in number—escorted the speakers and their friends about the Square, along West St. to Victoria St., up Victoria to Hamilton, thence to Church St., and along it to Nelson, thence back to Victoria St. and to the station to receive the Hon. O. Mowat. The sight was a very pretty one, and the large crowd which witnessed it manifested their appreciation in frequent expressions of pleasure. Mr. Mowat, on his arrival, was loudly cheered, and entering the carriage with Mr. Mackenzie, was escorted to the residence of Col. Ross. Here cheer after cheer again rent the air, and then the torch-bearers, who conducted themselves very creditably and marched with great precision, repaired to Mr. Saunders', returned their torches and disbanded. They were subsequently entertained with refreshments by their captain, Mr. McQuarrie. Thus ended the most successful, and brilliant public reception which has ever been witnessed in this vicinity.

The Clinton Demonstration.

ABOUT 15,000 PEOPLE PRESENT.

ELEVEN BANDS OF MUSIC.

The Largest Gathering Yet!

The Clinton picnic takes precedence, in point of attendance and the quality of the speeches, in the list of its fellows. No such large crowd ever visited that place as did on Thursday last, and the greeting given to the able statesmen was a magnificent and enthusiastic one. Fully 15,000 people were on the ground, many of whom were ladies, and the sprinkling of Conservatives was fair. Several of the latter expressed themselves as under conviction, and were evidently resolved on renouncing the faith of Toryism, after hearing the speeches. The town was crowded with people, and from all the principal buildings floated flags and streamers. Excursion trains from north, south, east and west brought their quota at an early hour, and teams arrived in large numbers by all the leading roads. At noon a large party left Goderich, in company with the Premier, Hon. O. Mowat and Hon. L. S. Huntington, by the mail train. A large concourse was in waiting at Clinton station to welcome the visitors, and cheer after cheer greeted their arrival. On alighting from the train they were met by S. Malcolmson, Esq., Mayor of Clinton, who presented the following address to the Premier and the Attorney-General:

HON. SIRS,—On behalf of the citizens of Clinton, I beg to welcome you to our inland town, which, although comparatively a young corporation, will compare favorably in commercial prosperity with any municipality of its population in Ontario. Situated as we are in the centre of one of the finest agricultural centres in Canada, at the intersection of two of the leading railways on the continent, and surrounded by valuable mineral deposits, we feel we may safely look forward to a prosperous future.

We are happy to have had the pleasure of a visit from gentlemen holding the high position you do in our country, and we hope you may bear away with you pleasant recollections of the town of Clinton.

On behalf of the citizens,

S. MALCOLMSON, Mayor.

Both these gentlemen and Mr. Huntington responded in a few remarks, after which they entered carriages in waiting, a procession was formed and proceeded by way of the principal streets to the grove. The procession was headed by the bands, eleven in number, as follows: 7th Batt. band of London, Goderich, Clinton, Seaforth, Mitch. H. Lucknow, Brussels, Wroxeter, Exeter, Zurich and Teeswater. After these followed a line, fully half a mile long, of carriages. Besides the three distinguished gentlemen mentioned were Hon. A. R. Pardee, H. Horton, M. P., Thos. Greenway, M. P., Col. Ross M. P. P., Thos. Gibson M. P. P., A. Bishop M. P. P., M. C. Cameron Q. C., G. R. Patullo, S. Malcolmson, Dr. Worthington, H. Seidl, A. Farrow, C. Girvin, Wm. Young, John Washington, Jas. Somerville, A. S. Fisher, R. Gallander, and many others. The streets along which the procession moved were lined on both sides with people, and the crowd became very dense on reaching the cool and shady grounds. Here the party was greeted by a piper—Mr. Henry Ross, of Lucknow—playing the "Camp-

and others that day. With regard to steel rails he felt anxious that the head of the Government, should explain how he came to make that purchase. It had been represented that a great many thousands of millions of dollars (uproarious laughter,) had been spent very foolishly when the market was at the highest point ever known. (Oh, oh, and renewed laughter.) At this time when the market was higher than ever before (more laughter) the Minister of Public Works, who, as a working man, ought to have known better, and who it was supposed was better fitted for the position than any other person who ever filled it, went in and purchased all these steel rails, paying the highest price (laughter) and buying when the rails were not needed. (Renewed laughter and ironical cheers.) He wanted to know why that purchase was made at such a time, and why it was that these rails were lying rusting, scattered along the way from Manitoba to Halifax, so that the country had to be put to the expense of buying paint to prevent them from becoming useless. (Great laughter.) Why gentlemen, this great Minister of Public Works who was supposed to know so much purchased rails enough to lay six hundred miles of railway before there was an inch of railway ready, and there they are rusting and rotting from Manitoba to Halifax, and we have to buy paint to keep them from becoming useless. I tell you, gentlemen — here the audience clamored (for Mr. Johnston to confine himself to his questions. Mr. Mackenzie asked him if he had asked all he intended to ask and if so, not to take up the people's time with a speech. It was growing late, and he had a great deal to say that would take all the time at his disposal. (Hear, hear, and applause.) Mr. Johnston said he had nothing more to ask, but he wanted to explain himself fully. (Loud cries of "That's enough!" and calls for Mackenzie.) Mr. Johnston then withdrew.

Mr. Mackenzie took his position again amid loud cheers. He said there was nothing like bringing those people to the mark with their charges and nailing them on the spot. (Cheers.) He knew that no one of them could open his mouth without putting his foot in it.—(Loud laughter.) He was asked why the Government had bought this great quantity of rails, costing a fabulous amount of money (laughter) when they were not required and at a time when the market was higher than ever before! That was the question. (Hear, hear.) What would the gentleman who put that question say and what would his friends and sympathizers say—for he was doubtless put forward to represent the belief of others—what would they say when he told them that these rails were bought for $54.60 per ton at a time when the Government was receiving six thousand tons of rails purchased by Sir John Macdonald's Government at $85.60. (Loud cheers.) Here is a man who tells the people with apparent honesty and sincerity that rails at $54.60 per ton were the highest ever bought, while he (Mackenzie) had the documents to show that his leaders paid $31 per ton higher.—(Cheers.) He would ask him to get Tory leaders to refund the surplus. (Cheers.) We bought by public competition, by tenders, giving the contract to six or seven of the lowest tenderers. They bought six thousand tons without tender. (Cheers.) More than that, they gave a commission of 2½ per cent. on the purchase to a brother-in-law of one of the Ministers, and he charged besides £10,000 more than was paid to the manufacturers. (Loud cheers.) He told them nothing that could not be proved from the records. To make sure of this particular piece of rascality, suit was brought in the Exchequer Courts against the brother-in-law for the recovery of the overcharge, and one judgment for £5,000 had been secured and another for a similar amount was progressing to execution. That any one of these people could have the hardihood to mention street rails, much less to charge others with wrong doing in connection with them, furnished one of the most convincing proofs of the doctrine taught him in his infancy, that man by nature was totally depraved. (Cheers and laughter.) This person says that these steel rails are all lying rusting from Manitoba to Halifax, and that the Government had to purchase paint to preserve them. That was the first he had heard of the paint part of the story. (Laughter.) That was a new element in the affair. (Laughter.) When this steel rail snow ball reaches the end of its journey, goodness knows what will be attached to its tail. (Cheers and laughter.) The Government bought fifty thousand tons of these rails, of which fifteen thousand were laid. They had now under construction two hundred miles, which would be almost finished within nine months. It would take them all their time to get the rails delivered where they were required. They were purchased on the advice of the Chief Engineer, who said there was no time to be lost and that advantage should be taken of the market at a time when it was believed it had touched bottom as to prices; they bought at the lowest price ever paid since steel rails were made up to that period, instead of at the highest, as his friend had alleged, and he had the documents in his possession to show that they were never bought at as low a figure till he bought them. (Great cheering.) But suppose the fact that had been alleged was all true; that they had purchased the rails too soon and that the market price at the time was high, it would only have been an error of judgment on their part. But he denied that it was even an error of judgment. When he went into office he found a gentleman, a member of Parliament, who held a contract for delivering spikes on the Intercolonial at $96 per ton. A few months afterwards he (Mackenzie) made a contract to deliver the same articles at $64. (Cheers.) He found the same gentleman supplying iron nails, without having obtained the contract by competition, at $6.50 per keg. He got the same article for $3.10. He found the Macdonald Government paying for ordinary iron on the Intercolonial, without tender, 4½c. to 6½c. per lb.; he purchased it at 3½c (Hear, hear.) They bought steel springs without tender at 21c, he bought at 7½c. (Cheers.) And yet these parties had the audacity to impeach the policy and honors of Ministers of the Crown. (Cheers.) He challenged them to move for a committee of the House to investigate any of those subjects which were made the grounds of attack in their picnic speeches. Did they accept? (Loud cheers and cries of "No.") What course did his honorable friend, Mr. Huntington pursue when he had a charge to make against the Government? Did he go to some Tory driving park at Gorrie and insinuate that so-and-so was the case, and such-and-such had occurred? No! (Cheers.) He went before Parliament and stated that he had reason to believe that the Government had been guilty of certain dishonorable acts and he asked for a committee to investigate the charges. (Hear, hear.) The Government refused to grant a committee, but instead appointed a commission of three judges to hear the evidence; and the accused appeared before the commission as counsel, prisoner and judge. (Laughter and cheers.) They all remembered the famous cartoon in *Grip* in which Sir John was seen seated in the judge's bench, another Sir John was standing up as counsel appealing to the judge, and a third Sir John, with demure and humble look, occupying the place of the prisoner in the dock. (Laughter.) This was a very fair representation of the nature of the tribunal which had been nominated to hear the charges made by Mr. Huntington. (Hear, hear.) We do not move in these circles. If we are wrong, or any wrong is charged against us, we are willing to be judged fairly and openly. (Cheers.) The only motion ever brought before the House in regard to these steel rails was one that declared that the purchase had been prematurely made, and it was defeated by the largest majority the Government received during the session of 1876. (Cheers.) It was now doing duty as a stalking horse throughout the country. He would submit the matter to the honest Conservatives, and ask them if they are prepared to convict either himself or his administration of wrong-doing in connection with the purchase of rails. (Cheers.) Mr. Mackenzie then proceeded to the views which he entertained in the year 1870 on John Howland, Macdougall and a few private roads a tonic of the country promising the "no-party" Government and crying out for "union and progress." He tossed up their subsequent acts and showed that as soon as they had done duty at the polls, the Tory leaders lost no time in returning to party tides. Macdougall, the last of the old Reform element in the Cabinet, was got rid of, under the pretence of making him a Lieut.-Governor, and Mr. Morris, one of the most inveterate Tories in Parliament, was selected to represent the Liberal party in the Government. In 1872 they openly hoisted the party flag, and "union and progress" were cast adrift. The sole object of the Conservative party at present is, not to perfect the system of Government, but to oust the present Administration and place themselves in power. Some of those present had, no doubt, heard Dr. Tupper and Sir John, and some had possibly even heard Mr. Farrow (laughter), and they had nothing to offer in the way of a policy, nothing to recommend for the good of the country, but they show an intense anxiety and longing to return to office. (Hear, hear.) What aroused had they for aspiring to office? In England it was not an uncommon thing for a Ministry to resign, and for the Opposition to decline to accept office, feeling that they had nothing in the way of a policy that would justify them in assuming power. Here, the first question with the Opposition now is to get into office and then trust to chance or circumstances to overcome the obstacles that might present themselves. (Hear, hear.) He pointed out that for twenty years the Liberal party in Canada remained out of office rather than accept it at the cost of abandoning one iota of their principles, and he recalled the circumstances attending the defeat of the last Macdonald administration before Confederation showing that Sir John had swallowed his principles, accepted what he had condemned the day before, and agreed to carry out all that the Liberals demanded in the way of Confederation and the control of local affairs by the Provinces, solely on condition that he should be permitted to retain office. Mr. Mackenzie referred to the violent denunciations of himself and his colleagues which formed the burden of the speeches of Opposition leaders. Notwithstanding all this and all that had been said against them; though it appeared to be the aim of the Tory leaders to drag every public man down to their own level by misrepresentation and slander, he was proud to know that there was such a thing as honest mindedness in public life. (Cheers.) The only question that had affected him personally among all this outpouring of slanders, had been first afloat by an impudent journalist, who dared to make charges of a direct personal nature affecting his official honesty. He had dealt with that person through the law courts, and he would do the same about the steel rails slander if it was placed in a similar light. (Cheers.) Referring to the "resolution" cry, he was glad to say that he saw no evidences of it, except that the "reaction" was working in favor of the Liberal party. He referred to the election of Mr. Flynn in Gaspe; to Mr. Anglin's return in Gloucester, and to the several elections in Charlevoix. The Liberals had carried so many doubtful seats during the last general election that it was not surprising that they should lose a few of them. The elections since then showed that they had lost thirteen and the Opposition had lost four, leaving a net gain to the Opposition of only 9. If there was any difference in the political situation in Ontario it was because the Conservative party determined to reunite on their old leader, no matter what his sins, hoping that through his personal popularity and great ability they might regain the position they once held. He was not disposed to admit that they would succeed. He had entire confidence in the people of his native Province. (Cheers.) He next alluded to the commercial depression that had settled on the country. He pointed out that the unusual prosperity that prevailed in previous years was occasioned by the enormous expenditure on railways, seventeen million having been expended on the Intercolonial and twenty millions on railways in Ontario, and that the stoppage of that vast outlay had brought about a reaction that fell heavily upon the entire country. The Government was blamed for this, but it was beyond the power of a government to meet or alleviate. He pointed to the United States, where protectionist theories prevail, and showed that during the period of high protective tariffs wages rose 60 per cent., while the price of the necessaries of life, clothing, etc., increased 92 per cent., so that the workingmen had to pay 32 per cent. more for all they consumed than they did under the old system. In Philadelphia there was no difficulty in securing laborers at 90c. per day in greenbacks, when at the same time they were paying laborers in Ottawa $1.25 in gold. The Government was told that the remedy for this depression was "protection" to manufacturers. These manufacturers asserted that protection would not only benefit them but benefit the farmers. (Laughter.) That it would cultivate a home market for farmers. It was a delusion to suppose that the price of produce would be raised here unless it raised in the markets of the world, and those were controlled by England. He went on to show that the farmers in the United States had to pay higher prices for their implements, their clothing, etc., than farmers here, owing to protective tariffs, and yet the price of wheat in Iowa was 80c in greenbacks, while here it was $1.30. We get 40 per cent. more for our cattle; they find it so unprofitable to raise stock that they had ceased to purchase it. So it is with clothing, with agricultural machinery, with everything that had to be purchased and everything that had to be sold. Under protection you had to buy dear and sell cheap. Produce could realize nothing higher and you had to pay 50 per cent. more for everything that had to be bought. He appealed to the farmers to reject the absurd doctrines the Opposition endeavored to get them to consent to. He went on to show the fallacy of expecting to increase the prosperity of a nation by adding to its taxation, adducing many instances of the ruinous effect of the system upon trade, commerce, manufactures and agriculture in the States. He believed that the true road to national wealth, for the farmer, the mechanic and the manufacturer, was to remove all the restrictions on trade. (Cheers.) Some of his political opponents claim to be the "farmers' friend." Mr. Farrow is a "farmers' friend," and Dr. Orton is a farmers' friend, *par excellence*. (Laughter.) Their pretensions reminded him of a story of the candidate on the other side of the lakes who made a similar claim in his canvass. Addressing an audience of farmers, he said his father was a farmer, his grandfather was a farmer, and he had, he might almost say, been raised between two rows of corn. At this a voice in the crowd shouted out "a pumpkin, by thunder!" (Immense laughter.) Well, they could apply the simile to Mr. Farrow and Dr. Orton, only he was afraid that they would find on examination that they were a very poor sort of pumpkin, indeed. (Renewed laughter). It was sought to make the farmers believe that protection would give them control of the market in the Maritime Provinces who now dealt largely with the United States for flour in return for their sales of fish; the fishermen bringing back the flour in ballast after disposing of their own cargoes. But before Nova Scotia would agree to a duty on flour, Ontario must consent to a duty on coal, so that the Nova Scotians could control the market here by excluding American coal. The result of this would be that in Goderich, for instance, people would be obliged to buy Nova Scotia coal at $7 per ton, while now they get the American article at $3. And so it would go. As soon as you begin a system of protection every interest must be considered and the result would be that we would be much worse off in the end. (Hear, hear.) Reference was next made to Sir John's statement at a recent picnic that not one of his colleagues had ever accepted office while a member of the Cabinet. He was amazed to see such a statement from Sir John must either have had a very short memory or he must think the people do not read or remember. He went over a list of Cabinet Ministers who, while colleagues of Sir John, since Confederation, had been provided with offices, including Macdougall, Howland, Archibald, Morris, Dunkin, Howe, Belleau, Hugh McDonald, Tilley, and Kenny—ten in five years, while during four years of Reform administration there were six appointments. There was no reason why a Cabinet Minister should not be selected to fill an important office, but his opponents choose to make a crime of it, and it was only right that they should be judged by their own standard. (Cheers.) But the appointment of Cabinet Ministers to office during Sir John's term as an administration was not confined to the period since Confederation. It was of older growth. He cited the appointments of Draper, Vankoughnet, Morrow, Morrison, Sherwood, and Spencer in proof of this. He then passed on to the claim set up by Sir John and Dr. Tupper that the Reform Government was governing the people with measures left in the pigeon holes by them when they retired from office. He denied that there was a single measure of any kind left in the pigeon holes by the late Administration. All they left there, and there was a good many of them, was appointments to office made after they had lost the confidence of the people. (Cheers.) They were found by the score and by the hundred, and appointments made the day after they gave up the ship were made to appear as if conferred the day before by altering the date in the latter book from the 7th to the 6th. (Cheers.) With a reference to the scandalous impropriety committed in the appointment of Messrs. Tilley and Hugh Macdonald while holding seats in the House, and the fact that they occupied their places during the Pacific Scandal debate and were ready to vote in favor of Sir John, while at the same time they had in their possession commissions to office which disqualified them from sitting in the House, Mr. Mackenzie passed on to show that the claims of Sir John to great industry in the framing and perfecting of laws was a mere sham. His criminal laws, of which he makes such frequent boasts, were mere copies of old Acts of the Province of Canada transcribed by clerks and printed as Dominion statues. His statement that the opposition factiously opposed the passage of these laws was utterly devoid of truth. He proved by actual figures that Mr. Blake had placed more laws on the statute book within an equal period than Sir John had done, the average number of acts compiled during Mr. Blake's term as compared with those during Sir John's being as 95 to 74½. Reference was made to the amended election law, showing that the first act passed was forced out of the Sir John administration, and was Mr. Blake's measure, which they had previously rejected, mutilated so that it was spoiled. Mr. Blake's first act was to amend it restoring its original features. Among other measures of reform carried through since their accession to office were the Act abolishing the Intercolonial Railway Commissions, the Acts establishing Military Colleges, Building Societies' Act, Shipping and Seamen's Act; the Supreme Court Act, which had been promised by Sir John several times in speeches from the throne, but which he was afraid to introduce, though he paid Mr Justice Strong $500 for drafting and preparing it. The Insolvent Act amendments were the work of the Reform Government, and so was the Act to govern contracts between employer and employed, which gave freedom and equality to the workingmen. (Cheers.) There was also the amended law to prevent corrupt practices at elections and the new Extradition Act which was the first complete Canadian Act of the kind ever in our possession. There were the questions of Marine Insurance, Life and Fire Insurances which had been dealt with and placed on a safer and more satisfactory footing. All these were complete measures and he was willing to submit them to a comparison with any on similar subjects passed by the Conservative administration. (Cheers.) Mr. Mackenzie next alluded to the foul aspersion cast upon Mr. Blake by the Tory leaders, who went so far in their hate of that gentleman as to heap abuse and slander upon his father, the late Mr. Chancellor Blake, a name revered by every Canadian Reformer. (Cheers.) He could only brand those who stooped to slander the dead and to vilify the absent, as they had done, as unparalleled cowards, and he did there brand them as such. (Loud cheers.) With a reference to the immense audience gathered to hear him and his friends speak on the public questions of the day, and an expression of his gratification at the enthusiasm displayed and the earnest attention given to the speakers, Mr. Mackenzie stated that he had no fear that when the time came they would rally to the assistance of those members who supported the Government, and that when the elections came off they would be triumphantly returned.—(Cheers.) The lateness of the hour prevented him from going into the financial policy of the Government. The Finance Minister would deal with that subject at Kennettles fully on Saturday. He would merely say that while the expenditure increased during the present Administration from thirteen millions to twenty three millions annually, the present Ministry had not increased it at all. (Cheers.) That is when they count entirely new service imposed upon the Government and deduct its cost from the annual outlay, and if they count it all it will be that they have absolutely governed an increased population and a larger number of Provinces at less cost than ever before. (Cheers.) Thanking the people again for their kindness and attention and wishing them abundant prosperity in the coming harvest Mr. Mackenzie drew his speech to a close amid loud and prolonged cheering.

Excellent refreshments were furnished to the speakers, the committee and the reporters in an apartment adjoining the platform. Mr. Gallander presided, and extended hospitality to her guests in a most generous manner.

The day passed off very pleasantly, and little or no drunkenness was apparent. So far as we observed we did not see any drunken persons, although we "saw a man who saw" two slightly under the influence. One man on the ground was prostrated with sunstroke, but recovered shortly after.

The party from Goderich reached home by 8 p. m., having had to wait some little time for the train. Messrs. Mackenzie, Mowat and Huntington returned to town, Mr. Pardee going to Sarnia, and remained until Friday at noon when they took train for Guelph to attend the picnic at Kinattles on Saturday. Quite a large number assembled at the station to see them off, and three hearty cheers were given by way of farewell.

OUR town cotemporary is exercised over a so called trick, which it alleges was practiced by the Reformers of the town upon Mayor Finlay in order to induce him and the Council to receive the Premier. Had the author of the article attended the Council meeting on Tuesday night of last week he could not honestly uttered such a statement. The Mayor considered that he had been deceived previous to calling the meeting, but after hearing Mr. Garrow's statement, he and Messrs Hutchison and Johnston expressed full satisfaction therewith, and no further objection was made to making the arrangements for the reception, the latter gentlemen presents ing the necessary resolution. There was no attempt on the part of the Reform Association to steal a march on the Council, on the contrary they acted honorably and above board. Our cotemporary wishes to make capital out of the matter, but in doing so acts in anything but a fair spirit.

MIDDLESEX EDUCATIONAL.

THE HONOR LIST.

On Friday last the teacher during examination of candidates who were present, with the exception of a few who were unavoidably absent. The attendance was not as large as on former occasions, many of their friends having gone over to the Centennial, Kirkton, Mitchell, &c., on that day. The examination was conducted by Mr. J. B. Miller, M. A., Inspector, assisted by Mr. J. E. Annis, B. A., Mr. W. R. Miller, Principal of the Model School, and by Mr. J. Tennant, Principal of the Strathroy Public School. The following is the honor list. Two prizes were awarded in each division to the scholars standing first and second in general proficiency, these prizes being the balance of the donation made by Col. Ross, M. P. P., for that purpose at Christmas. The list is as follows :—

ST ANDREW'S WARD—1ST DIVISION—Miss Longworth, Teacher.

No. on roll 43, present at examination 43. Promoted with credit 39%, 12. Total 12.

HONORS—Reading—1 K. McKay, 2 C. Heale, 3 J. MacDonald. Spelling—1 C. Black, C. Heale, 2 T. Brophey.—Writing—1 K. McKay, 2 A. Wilson, 3 A. Cornell; Class.—1 K. McKay, E. Moss, C. Black. Arith.—1 K. McKay, K. Armstrong, A. Wilson. Geo. Prof.—1 K. McKay, 2 G. Armstrong, 3 J. Sharman.

Promoted with credit in order of merit :—K. McKay, S. Armstrong, J. Sharman, C. Heale, E. Christian; J. Cornell, M. MacKenzie, C. Heale, W. Hoppet, C. Williams, A. McNeil, A. Wilson.

JUNIOR DIVISION—Miss Williams, Teacher.—Promoted to senior division : P. McCallum, J. Edwards, J. Hopton, C. Williams, F. Christian, M. Christian, G. McGuire, T. McKenzie, J. Wiginns, C. Reid, E. Reid, C. Christian, G. Fraser, M. Craig, A. McKay, R. Watt, K. McPhail, J. Darby, H. Wilkinson, R. Williams, M. Williams.

ST. DAVID'S WARD—1ST DIVISION—Miss McMahon, Teacher.

No. on roll 51, present at examination 51. Promoted with credit 60 % 17. Total 17.

HONORS—Reading—1 C. Archibald, 2 J. Williams, 3 J. Webb. Spelling—1 M. Moorhouse, C. Archibald, M. Ashton, equal. Writing—1 M. Moorhouse, 2 F. Weatherald, 3 C. Headley. Geog.—1 M. Moorhouse, 2 M. Elliott, 3 J. Williams. Arith.—1 R. Martin, E. Robertson, 2 F. Weatherald. Gen. Prof.—1 E. Robertson, 2 C. Archibald. 3 R. Martin.

Promoted with credit in order of merit:—R. Robertson, C. Archibald, R. Martin, F. Weatherald, J. Webb, J. Williams, M. Smith, M. Ashton, M. McKay, J. Crenshaw, M. Martin, R. Eliot, G. Logan, C. Goldwell, S. Specht, W. Young, A. Waddel.

JUNIOR DIVISION—Miss McQuarrie, Teacher—A. Humber, L. Robertson, G. Shankie, F. West, H. Cooke, W. J. Brooks, L. Mann, C. Brandon, D. Nairn.

ST. PATRICK'S WARD—1ST DIVISION—Miss Oliver, Teacher.

No. on roll 25, present at examination 23. Promoted with credit 90 % 9,—Total 9.

HONORS—Reading—1 J. Thompson, 2 H. Tomlinson, 3 M. Sinclair. Spelling—1 J Thompson, M. Sinclair and F. Worden equal. —Writing—1 J. Thompson, 2 H. Tomlinson, 3 J. Penrose.—Geog.—1 L McBrien, 2 F. Worden, 3 W. Downing. Arith.—1 H. Tomlinson, 2 H. Savage, 3 A. Hennings. Gen. Prof.—1 J. Thompson, 2 H. Tomlinson, 3 M. Sinclair.

Promoted with credit in order of merit:—J. Thompson, H. Tomlinson, M. Sinclair, F. Worden, K. Currie, J. Johnston, N. Nairn, L. McBrien, A. Hennings.

JUNIOR DIVISION—Miss Brackenridge, Teacher. Promoted to senior division : W. Johnson, M. Strachan, C. Yates, G. Campaigne.

SEVENTH DIVISION—Miss Yates, Teacher.

No. on roll 82, present at examination 81. Promoted with credit 80 % 23, without credit 75 % 21. Total 44.

HONORS.—Reading—1 K. Donald, 2 M. Yates, 3 J. Walker. Spelling—1 F. Humber, 2 M. Rusk, J. Christian.—Writing—1 K. Donald, 2 E. Acheson, 3 J. Christian. Geog.—1 K. Donald, 2 M. Yates, 3 A. Campaigne. Arith.—1 F. Wilson, 2 J. Nairn, 3