Huron Signal.

GODERICH, DEC. 16, 1876.

[illegible]

[illegible]

WE SAY, a short time ago, that only in one instance in Prince Edward county had an attempt been made to sell liquor under the "five gallon" clause of the Dunkin Act, and that attempt was punished. Our town contemporary appears to prove this statement false, by declaring that liquor is still sold in that County. We don't doubt that it is sold clandestinely, but that does not prove that the Dunkin Act with accompanying legislation is not prohibitory. We might have sold our community a solution to an error it consists in assuming that because only a few gallons of intoxicating liquors were sold on the Continental grounds and numbers of barrels were opened, yet a drunken man was not to be seen. The truth is that no intoxicating liquors were sold on the premises, consequently the attention is a mere fabrication.

LAST WEEK the judges trying the contested (Local) election in Lincoln unseated the respondent Robert, on the ground of extensive bribery by his agents. The counter charge of bribery preferred against Captain Nelson could not be sustained, and was therefore withdrawn. When this decision was given, the scrutiny of votes had given Captain Nelson a majority of thirteen votes. The scrutiny was continued, but the probabilities are that the latter will secure the seat. Mr. Rykert's reputation, as well as that of his friends in Lincoln, is being sadly mutilated through association with election contests.

THE petition to submit the Dunkin Act in Perth was thrown out by the County Council last week, by a vote of 7 to 12. Oxford Council, after once rejecting it, has agreed to submit it. Kent and Wellington also refused to submit the bill, and in Brant the Council without hold its decision until the result was heard from Huron, when the petition was thrown out on a vote by two of a majority.

County Council.

The Council met on the 5th inst.—Present, the Warden in the chair, Messrs. Webster, Lane, Connor, Oldboy, Young, Buchanan, Hodgson, Garvey, Wilson, Ford, Elliott, Strachan, Shannon, Brown, Geiger, Kane, Wilson, Monteith, Warwick, Hays, Malone, Proctor, Simpson, Castle, Hopkins, Beatty, Cresswell, Walker, Black, Hoar, Hunter, Miller, Taylor, Potter, Girvin, Grant, Davis and Gibson.

The Warden addressed the Council upon the Grand Bend bridge, the repairs to the gaol, the satisfactory sale of our debentures in England, the progress of his report of the death of Mr. Campaigne, Governor of the Gaol, who was an efficient public officer.

Letter from the County Treasurer in reference to the sale of the debentures, was read and referred to the Finance Committee.

Moved by Mr. Simpson, seconded by Mr. Taylor, that the thanks of this Council be tendered to A. M. Ross, Esq., Treasurer of this County, for the able manner in which he transacted the business of this Council while in England negotiating the sale of the debentures.

Circular from the Municipal Council of the city of Toronto, requesting the co-operation of this Council to obtain certain amendments to the assessment act, was read and referred to the special committee.

WEDNESDAY.

All members present except Mr. D. D. Wilson.

Mr. Garrow presented the petition of 4076 electors of the County, requesting the Council to pass a by-law and submit it to the electors in the terms of the Temperance Act of 1864.

Moved by Mr. Young, seconded by Mr. Proctor, that said petition be submitted to the special committee, and that they be requested to report on it not later than Friday morning—Carried.

At his request, Mr. Garrow was granted leave to be present at the sittings of said special committee, which consisted of Messrs. Watson, Brown, Monteith, Kelly, Girvin, Davis, Gibson and Cresswell.

Circular from the County Council of Waterloo requesting the co-operation of this Council to obtain amendments to the Ontario Medical Act, referred to the special committee.

A number of accounts were sent to Finance.

Circular from D. D. Hay, M. P. P., asking the Council to express themselves regarding certain amendments to the Municipal Act; referred to the special committee.

Tenders for cordwood for the Jail and Court House, were referred to the Jail and Court House committee.

Moved by Mr. Garrow, seconded by Mr. Watson, "that this Council desires to express its deep regret at the great loss which this community has recently sustained in the death of Mr. Edward Campaigne, late Jailer of the County jail, and to convey to his widow and family such condolence as we can offer in their affliction. This Council further desires to express its belief that Mr. Campaigne was one of the most efficient of public officers, and feels assured that with his devotion to duty and kindness in the performance of it, will be long held in remembrance by all who knew him, and that the chairman of the Jail Committee be requested to convey the effect of this resolution to Mrs. Campaigne"—Carried.

Moved by Mr. Gibson, seconded by Mr. Monteith, that the sum of $200 be granted to the widow and family of the late Mr. Campaigne, as a testimonial of appreciation of his services and personal worth—Carried.

THURSDAY.

The petition of 2040 electors, presented by Mr. Cresswell, praying that the Council do not pass a by-law under the provisions of the Temperance Act of 1864, was sent to the special committee.

Mr. Cresswell requested the Council to take a broad and liberal view of this matter. He said that many of the signers of the petition presented were temperate men, and that the Council should take it for granted that both parties were acting in good faith with pure motives; that the Dunkin Act was not pure prohibition, but on the contrary merchants and others could sell in quantities of not less than five gallons. (Mr. Cresswell must be ignorant of the License and Crook's Acts or he would not make such a statement as the latter.—Ed.)

Report of Mr. Bay, County Engineer, was read and referred to the Road and Bridge committee.

Letter from the County Treasurer referred to the Finance committee.

A number of accounts were referred to the Finance committee.

Reports of Mr. Small as to repairs on the Registry office, and of Mr. Langmuir upon the Jail were referred.

Moved by Mr. Strachan, seconded by Mr. Shannon, that the County Engineer be instructed to have a bridge erected on the boundary line between the townships of Grey and Elma on the first concession, near Molesworth, the public being put to great inconvenience from the want of such bridge, providing the County of Perth bears one-half of the expense—Referred to the Road and Bridge committee.

Moved by Mr. Strachan, seconded by Mr. Hayes, that the sum of $27.50 be recouped to the township of Grey, having paid that amount to build the approaches to the Henryn bridge—Referred to Finance, along with the account of Thomas Fox.

FRIDAY.

Communication from Mr. Bay requesting the Council to purchase a pile driver, was granted.

A few accounts were sent to Finance.

The report of the Finance committee was adopted.

Report of the special committee upon the Temperance Act was read, when the Council went into committee of the whole, Mr. Walker in the chair. Mr. Garrow moved, seconded by Mr. Black in amendment to the report of the special committee upon the Dunkin Act, that, in view of the large number of ratepayers who have petitioned this Council that the said Act be submitted for the vote of the people and the great excitement and attention evidently given to the subject, which must occasion a loss of time from their ordinary avocations, and prevent their views upon the matter, this Council do submit the necessary by-law in the terms of the prayer of the petitioners.

Mr. Garrow said the special committee expected this amendment to be found back with the report of said committee, as they gave no reason for the conclusion arrived at. Their action was arbitrary, and proves that they merely exhibit their choice to the case of other Acts and that would not in issue the course in the case that will not be exercised this year, for all that they were called on for was a simple report without attempting to decide the matter but leave that to the vote of the Council—He thought it should be submitted now, as to submitting the matter to the people, that so large a petition had been presented for that purpose but many conditions were personally opposed to temperance in itself and used all sorts of silly arguments to shirk the matter. Some were openly in opposition and others would say that they were satisfied to leave it in the hands of God. But do these men expect God to do everything and leave nothing for us to do? And how can a man argue against a restrictive legislation when he must know that in hundreds of other matters we have much less density on our statute books? Gibson (Brant) stands alone in his belief on this point. The feeling in favor of temperance legislation is becoming universal, while at the same time moral education is being prosecuted, but the people feel that the evil is too great and that restrictive legislation is needed to suppress the evil and assist the efforts of moral education, by more directly affecting the class of hard drinkers who are likely beyond any good influence. He believes if the matter be submitted to the people it would carry. It was argued that the License law was no advance in the desired way, but the fact is that it has been the means of closing up one-half of the liquor bars, and the present movement would close them all. People who say down the Dunkin Act must therefore do so because they hate it, they hate temperance and those who advocate such principles. The Act is now submitted does away with all public drinking and leaves no opportunity for the drunkard to obtain liquor unless he chooses to purchase five gallons and take it to his own house, where no man who is possessed of the smallest spark of manhood would have the heart to take it; men are not so abandoned that they would bring liquor into their homes where the evil influences might be the means of ruin to their families. The opponents of the Act argue that it is interfered with vested rights; but what is the fact? The hotel keeper receives a license for one year only at the end of which this so called vested right ends! this right only stands for a year at a time and how can any sensible thinking man stand up for vested rights? Temperance men are not aiming at the destruction of hotels as has been laid to their charge, but merely endeavoring to take away the right to sell liquor. By thus cutting off this traffic the standard of hotel keepers will be raised, and we will find men in that business of as high a stamp as any of our merchants and other business men, and their houses will also be of a higher order and the conduct and accommodation better. This question is essentially one for the people and sooner or later it must go to the people, and if this Council refuses to do what a majority of the people ask, the people will naturally conclude that the councillors thus refusing are friends of the Licensed Victuallers' Association and not of the people. He would not like to see this matter brought into the municipal elections, as it would result in turning otherwise good men out of the Council, but as a large and most respectable number of the ratepayers had asked for the submission of the by-law he hoped the Council would see it to be their duty to grant this request; any other course would be a great outrage on the people. The opposition in the matter comes from the Licensed Victuallers' Association, who actually had some hardships to complain of and if he (Mr. Garrow) saw these hardships could be remedied he would be glad to apply the needed remedy. But that Association comprises a small class of the community and as the members of Council were there to represent the people he hoped they would see that in no way could they fairly perform that duty but by obeying the demand of the majority of the people before them in the petition. He appealed to the Council in the interests of christianity and morality, in the interests of the women and children of our county to submit the by-law; some contended that it would be an error to do this but he thought even granting such for the sake of argument that it was well to err on the side of morality and virtue. Other counties are submitting this by-law where the petitions are not half so large as the one before this Council. He could see no excuse for standing back and refusing to submit said by-law except that the opponents were afraid to go to the polls.

Mr. Cresswell said the question was before the Council to vote upon and he would have no objections to state his reasons for opposing the submission of the by-law. He thought the proper way to look at the matter was, first, as to whether or not the License law has had a fair trial; secondly, is the Dunkin Act an efficient measure and suitable to the times, and, third, whether prohibition is calculated to be for the general good. His main objection to the Dunkin Act was that the License Act had not been fairly tested; the Dunkin Act had been tried in townships and proved a failure; he believed, however, that in the county of Prince Edward it was a success to some extent but that was the only instance. [And that is the only county where the act has been in force long enough to test the matter.—ED.] He considered the Act a farce from the fact of not proving of much or any use in the townships where tried. He said that there was a great deal of drinking in unlicensed houses, and this would continue under the Dunkin Act. He did not believe that any man of good sense or feeling would demand so far as to take advantage of the five gallon clause and keep liquor in his own house where its evil influences would affect his family; he felt sure the day would never come that intoxicating liquor would not be used as a beverage; he admitted that it was not used as much in good society as in days gone by, that drinking was looked upon as a disgrace now, whereas it used to be a custom in best society to get drunk; the pulpit and press were doing a good work in the country by educating the people in purity of morals; the tone of society was being elevated steadily and surely, but he defied any one to prove it possible to do away entirely with intoxicating liquor. He desired all to have free expression of thought and not be dictated to as to what they are to drink or what not; he considered such a law as the Dunkin Act would be arbitrary. If temperance men wish to do good let them plead with the men who keep unlicensed houses to give up selling liquor, and let temperance men assist such men to do so by giving them their custom so that they can live without being forced to break the law. He looked upon the present movement as tyrannical towards the class who have their capital invested in liquor and hotel property. (The speaker quoted in support of this assertion Byron's "Sonnet on Chillon," and a more unfortunate comparison for the cause he supported he could not have found; indeed throughout he was playing a game of "ten pins" with himself by advancing arguments to support the liquor cause, and then by some unfortunate admission completely demolishing his own argument.

Mr. Black was under the impression when he came to the Council that the petition asking for the submission of the by-law would be only from some 1500 ratepayers, but he found that it was signed by a large majority of the best men in the county and he could not say no to the request of the people; he admitted that the Dunkin Act had been a failure where adopted in single townships where adopted in single townships but such was not the case where it was tried in two or three counties and generally near that other counties are taking action in the matter, and he considered this an additional reason why the Act would, if adopted by a union of counties, be a success; he felt it his duty to his constituents, to the petitioners who make the request, to the county at large and to drunkards who asked that they might be saved from the broken promise of the License Act by submitting such by-law to the people; he recommend a terrible evil in drink and attempt to abolish it and if he could not do so at once he would favor the law that would do something towards that end, and he believed the Dunkin Act was such a law; he pointed to the talented men of our County who have been brought down to drunkards graves through the evils of the vanted going out. The last speaker wanted conservative men to act more enlightened before in order that the intelligent of such houses could make a living without selling liquor against law, but he would like to ask that speaker if those honorable law abiding men offered to support the Scott Act or other Act by which they had destroyed with drink? He did not expect to find acts of parliament perfect, nor did he expect that any prohibitory law would entirely sweep the evil away; we have a law prohibiting stealing and murder but still men continue to steal and murder, but still anyone agree that hence the law is of no avail? He appealed to others to take advantage of the present movement and vote for a law that will tend to banish one of the greatest evils to humanity, one of the greatest evils that ever afflicted humanity. Mr. Gibson never experienced so much difficulty in any matter during his experience in Council, as the present; he feared the Dunkin Act would not do any good, indeed his opinion of it was that it was a delusion; his position in this matter might appear to be in antagonism to the temperance cause, but he had a warm heart for the cause and had for many years been a total abstainer himself; the Act he had voted against himself, and he could adopt no course but to vote for the submission of the by-law; he believed moral suasion was the only cure for drunkenness; so long as the appetite for drink exists no good can be accomplished by prohibitory legislation.

Mr. Davis contended that the passing of the Dunkin Act would be an injustice to those in the liquor business, and besides it would cost the County money to carry out the law; the result would be the means of forcing men to become liars, smuggler and thieves; it would interfere with the commerce of the country; people must have liquor and if they can't get it legally they will get it illegally; he was opposed to total abstinence and in favor of moderate drinking, he considered it a birthright door to him. [It was really refreshing to observe the evident satisfaction of this speaker when throwing the public over the good he felt of his white horse birthright.]

Mr. Strachan said this matter was one deserving the most careful consideration that councillors could bestow, as it was of the utmost importance to the county, and indeed, the country at large; he believed that upon the whole the Dunkin Act would be productive of some good; it was a burd for men to stand up and declare it a sham before they gave it a fair trial; temperance men were earnest and anxious to be paid that they are personal gain, for instead of that they are evidently spending both time and money in the good cause. The Dunkin Act is not without objection, nor can we find any Statute on the books without some objectionable point. Old men who have formed the habit of drinking cannot be reformed so easily, indeed in anything the old are hard to prevail upon to leave their accustomed rut; but the young are awake to the grand temperance reform, and their course and conduct in this matter should put their seniors to the blush.—We find all the rising generation in favor of temperance, all our ministers; also, and our wisest and best men our judges, who have every opportunity of knowing the evils arising out of the traffic, advise us to do away with it, they frequently refer to it as the parent of crime and the curse of our country.—The Dunkin Act will not make a clean sweep of liquor, it would be absurd to expect any law to do this any more than a law against murder to abolish the commission of that crime; but to a great extent we will find the evils removed; no respectable man would sneak, and lie and thieve as a former speaker feelingly remarked, because of the removal of liquor. In the face of such a large petition he hoped the Council would act like good and true men and grant the request of the petitioners.

On division the Council refused to submit the by-law to the people by the following vote:—

YEA—Messrs. Monteith, Kaine, Ford, Webster, Taylor, Warwick, Gibson, Girvin, Black, Hogarth, Garrow, Buchanan, Hennings, Lane, Strachan, Lane—16.

NAY—Messrs. Brown, Castle, Kelley, Wilson, Connor, Elliott, Davis, Potter, Hunter, Hodgson, Geiger, Young, Cresswell, Miller, Yearly, Simpson, Grant, Watson, Proctor, Hays, Malone, Childley, Shannon—23.

The chairman, Mr. Walker, did not vote, but it was understood that he would have voted among the nays.

The report was adopted then.

Moved by Mr. Cresswell, seconded by Mr. Young, that the sum of $700 be granted to A. M. Ross, M. P. P., treasurer of the County in payment of his expenses while in England negotiating the sale of County debentures, and as a slight acknowledgement of his services in the matter—Carried.

Report of the Road and Bridge committee read and adopted.

Supplementary report of the Finance committee read and adopted.

Mr. Hays moved in amendment to the report, seconded by Mr. Davis, that Mr. Fox be paid the sum of $26 for extra masonry—Lost on a division.

Report of the Jail and Court House committee was read.

Moved by Mr. Kelley, seconded by Mr. Hunter, in amendment to the report that the person now in jail committed as a vagrant from Wroxeter at the termination of her sentence, she be sent back to Hewick for the Council of that municipality to send her to some proper house of refuge—Carried and report amended.

SATURDAY.

Moved by Mr. Kelley, seconded by Mr. Connor, that the Clerk be instructed to procure one pair of handcuffs for each municipality in the County—Carried.

Supplementary report of the Finance committee was read and adopted.

Council then adjourned.

REPORTS.

The jail and Court House Committee reported that they had given the tender for wood to John Gilders, Edward Mc-Manus and Wm. Oke. Also recommended several repairs to the Jail, as well as calling attention again to the presence of a poor woman from Wroxeter in the jail, who should be admitted to the Hospital for Incurables.

The Special Committee reported that, although being fully sensible of the evils of intemperance they could not recommend that the Dunkin Act be submitted to the people. They recommended that the petition from Toronto with references to tax exemptions be supported except as regards Municipal and Government buildings.

The Road and Bridge committee recommended that the suggestions contained in the Engineer's report be carried out as follows: Repairing bridge at Hall's, on Bayfield and Goderich road, driving piles at south approach of Blyth bridge to prevent bank from washing away, and repairing bridge at 2d con, Stanley, It was recommended that the tender of L. J. Brace for Jamestown bridge, at $1750, be accepted.

The Engineer reported as to the condition of the bridges. He reported that new bridges had been erected at Henfryn, Benmiller, Egmondville, on the Colborne gravel road, one on the north-are gravel road between Ashfield and Wawanosh, two between Wawanosh and the Bruce boundary, one at Hinghurst, and one on Pedlar's creek, Kinloss. About 30 culverts were repaired.

The Finance Committee reported on a large number of accounts, also that the Treasurer had laid before them all the debentures of the old issue, amounting to $50,300 sterling, amounting six which are missing, but which have been cancelled. The rates of the sinking debentures are $50,000. The Treasurer has received from Bonnycastle & Co. shows that these debentures are genuine. All the other debentures were burned by committee. It was further recommended that the Treasurer get the sinking debentures if possible.

General Session

The December sittings of the General Sessions opened on Tuesday, before His Honor Judge Toms. J. Kerr-Ingham, Esq., Q. C., of Goderich, also occupied the Bench with His Honor. No cases of murder, rape or other of the graver offences were brought before the Court. There were 19 civil cases on the docket, and 7 criminal cases, four of which were carried from the last term of court. The following are the names of the grand jurors, and petit jurors, the latter being drawn from the list of jurors:

John Brown, Exeter; Jas. Douglas, Grey; John Parrish, Ashfield; Jas. Garry, Brussels; Thos. Gledhill, Colborne; John Higginbotham, W. Wawanosh; Wm. Kay, Goderich; John McOrmitt, Ashfield; John Reid, Goderich; Gustavus Eaton, Tuckersmith; Wm. Gibson, Howick; J. Cook, Colborne; John C. Gillbitt, Stephen; John Dunn, Hullett; Gabriel Elliott, Goderich; Robt. Greenlees, McKillop; John R. Miller, Morris; Alex. Ross, Tuckersmith; Jas. Armstrong, Colborne; Hugh Stevenson, Stanley; Chas. Broome, Clinton; Thos. B. Ambrose, Worcester; Thos. Webster, Ashfield.

Legal Notes.

NOT YET HEARD.—The case of Regina vs. Shaw, referred to the Queens Bench, was heard on Thursday last. Judgment was reserved.

JUDGE'S COURT.—On Saturday John Walker, who stole some clothing from John Keatings, of Wroxeter, was brought before Judge Toms and convicted. Prisoner conducted his own defence, and did so with considerable ingenuity. He will be sentenced on Saturday.

Jonathan Barber pleaded guilty to stealing some fish from Mr. D. Ferguson, and was on Tuesday sentenced to two weeks' imprisonment in the jail.

VAGRANCY.—Mayor Finlay, on Monday, committed Jos. Williamson—"big Joe"—as a vagrant, to three months imprisonment in the jail.

ASSAULT.—Last week a young girl, aged about 16 years, was committed to jail for 21 days, by Justice of Peace Harris, of Brussels, for assaulting her aunt.

Book Notices.

NEW DOMINION MONTHLY.—The December number of this excellent family magazine is to hand, and constitutes a very readable holiday number. A portrait of Tecumseh forms the frontispiece, and a sketch of his life is given. The young folks' department is interesting. John Dougall & Son, publishers, Montreal.

CANADIAN MONTHLY.—The December number of this worthy magazine is to hand. The contents are more than ordinarily interesting including a paper on "Our public indebtedness," an interesting one on "Christmas Carols," a personal sketch of the late Cardinal Antonelli, a racy holiday sketch entitled "How I sailed the Flying Scud," a paper on "Pagan Rites and Christian Festivals" together with well considered notes on current topics. The "annals of Canada" are brought to the year 1867. Adam, Stevenson & Co, Toronto.

CANADIAN METHODIST MAGAZINE.—The December number is to hand, completing the fourth volume. The prospectus of the Fifth Volume promises great things. Among the contents will be a steel portrait and sketch of the Rev. Gervase Smith, M. A.; a charming serial story, entitled "The Days of Wesley"; Sketches of the Heroes of Early Methodism, by the editor; Papers by Dr. Wm. Cooke, solving the mysterious problem of the Great Pyramid; Religious and Missionary Biography; valuable Essays and Sketches by the leading minds and skilled writers of the Methodist Church; Book Reviews; Papers on Popular Science; Articles on Practical Religion and the Higher Christian Life; a page of choice music with each number, and many other valuable articles. This is the only Magazine in Canada giving steel engravings. This is a remarkable bill of fare for the low price of $2.00. Methodist families, at least, should support this vigorous Connexional Monthly. The January number will be ready for Christmas. S. Rose, Toronto, publisher.

MAITLANDVILLE.

ENTERTAINMENT.—A grand entertainment will take place in the new temperance hall in Maitlandville, on Thursday evening next. Addresses and readings will be given by Revs. Dr. Ure, W. C. Henderson, M. A., J. Sieveright and F. H. Sanderson. Messrs. J. R. Miller, H. I. Strang and J. T. Garrow. Music will be furnished by a joint choir from the choirs of Knox and North Street Methodist churches. Chair to be taken at 7.30 p. m.; refreshments to be served at 9. Tickets 25 cents, children 15 cents. The proceeds will be devoted to paying off the debt on the hall. Let there be a large attendance.

GODERICH TOWNSHIP.

SOLD.—Mr. James Hendry has sold his store and business at Porter's Hill, to Mr. John Cox, for the sum of $1200.

HURRAH FOR GODERICH.—On Friday last two farmers took a load of pigs each to Clinton market. Not getting a price to suit them, they drove to Goderich, and realized ten cents per hundred more. Goderich must be the best market.

PERISHED.—During the severe storm of last week, an aged horse that was wandering on the Bayfield Road, died on the roadside through hunger and exposure.

COUNCIL MEETING.—Council met at Holmesville on the 6th inst, members all present. This being the last meeting in the year, the accounts against the corporation were gone into. Moved, seconded and carried, that the following accounts be paid, viz.: A. Kennedy, $21; Clerk, registering births, marriages and deaths, and one year's postage, $21; Wm. Stirling, $2, Arch. McDougall, $5; Thomas Elliott, gravel, $5; Francis Hillock, $8.75; John Porter, $9.75; Mr. Parks, $5.13; Thos. Slattery, $6.50; H. Young, $2; Wm. Blair, $12, Wm. McLeod, $20; Isaac Salkuld, $3.50; Wm. Doak, $2 56; John Robinson, scraper, $10; Hugh Dunlop, $1; Wm. Steep. $16.50, Walter Dodsworth, $3; Lawson Moore, B. L. M., $54; Mr. Meyers, $5; Alex. Osbaldistone, $8; Wm. Ford, $2; Jas. Fair, $5, Henry Cole, $20; John Rudd, $13.64; Wm. Barkwell, $1; Wm. Connolly, gravel, $4; Fred. Tibbett, $10; John Calbeck, gravel, $13.60; Thos. Cottle, $7.40; Henry Cole, $1; John Calbeck, gravel, $9.36; Robert Elliott, $41.20; James Elliott, gravel, $18.40; George Pentlon, $8; Samuel Ostram, $3; John McCartney, gravel, $6; S. G. Plummer, gravel, $18.12; Wm. Jarvis, $1; Agent Canada Company, for gravel, $50; Arch. Kennedy, $3; Ed. Acheson, gravel, $2; Jos. Rutledge, $1; John Elliott, $10. Clerk and Treasurer's salaries were paid. Wm. Collins was granted $25. Moved, seconded and carried that the Councillors' fees be the same as last year. This concluded the business of the year.

JAMES PATTON, Clerk.

—The East Ashfield Presbyterian church will be opened on Sabbath the 24th inst. The Rev Mr Solveright of Goderich will officiate at the afternoon service. A tea meeting will be held in the church on Christmas evening.

Local News.

ABOUT TOWN.

LAUNCHING GOODS.—The landing lights at the harbor were lit on Friday night for the last time this season.

HURON MILLS.—The shipments last week were as follows: 4410 bags of flour, 900 bags of bran and 440 bags of shorts.

LUMBER SHIPMENTS.—The shipments of lumber last week were as follows: Bennet, Cummins & Co., 5 cars; Williams & Murray, 3 cars.

FISH SHIPMENTS.—The shipments of cured fish last week were as follows: Wm. Lee, 11,500 lbs; Jas. Mitchell, 3,970 lbs; W. Stitt, 1,350 lbs.

PERSONAL.—Rev Mr. Carmichael, of Montreal, conducted service in the English church last Sabbath, and preached this morning to large congregations.

CROWDED OUT.—A lengthy and well written article from "Pro Bono Publico" is crowded out of this issue, owing to the press of local news. It will appear next week.

THE WEATHER.—Sunday and Monday last were considered exceedingly cold days, but the thermometer sunk on the first day only 2° above zero, and on the latter 3° above.

DUNLOP HOUSE.—Last week Mr. S. Andrews shipped averaged 91 hogs at an average weight of 319 lbs each. Mr. Robt. McLean also shipped 110 dressed hogs weighing in the aggregate 20,000 lbs.

GROCERIES.—Mr. R. Proudfoot, at his store on East street, is showing a fine assortment of groceries, including flour and feed. A fine lot of goods suitable to the holiday season may also be found here. Give him a call.

WOOD.—Mr. J. A. McKinnon is buying wood for the Grand Trunk Co., and is desirous of securing 3,000 cords. He will be found at the store in Stable's block, corner of Kingston St. and Market Square, by any whisper to sell their wood.

AUCTION SALE.—On Saturday, Dec. 16, at 1 and 7 p. m., there will be sold a large stock of goods, consisting of glassware, crockery, looking-glasses, bureaus, sideboards, cupboards and stands, also an assortment of dry goods and ready made clothing, &c., &c. JOHN SEWART.

GENERAL SHIPMENTS.—Among the shipments from the station last week, were the following: Kirkpatrick Bros. & Co., 7 rolls leather; W. G. Smith, 2 rolls French calf skin; Gottfried Maedel, 1633 lbs wool; S. Platt, 70 bbls salt; Foundry Co., 9,150 lbs castings, &c., including an engine and gearing for Coleman & Govenlock of Seaforth.

BALL AND SUPPER.—A ball and supper will be given in the Oddfellows' Hall, on Friday evening next, under the auspices of the Silver Cornet Band. Tickets, admitting lady and gentleman, $1.25. A pleasant affair may be anticipated as elaborate preparations are being made. Dancing will commence at 9 p. m. Mr. J. Vivian prepares the supper.

WHY IS IT?—No time tables of the L. H. & B. Railway are posted at the Grand Trunk station here, and no information of the running of trains on that road can be there obtained. At the stations along the line of that road, Grand Trunk time-tables are posted up, and the question is why don't the Grand Trunk Co. reciprocate.

ANOTHER SUPPER.—On Friday evening the anti-Dunkinites entertained the 23 councillors who befriended them in the council, at a grand oyster feed in the British Exchange Hotel. The company was large, and the supper was pronounced excellent, but further than this we know nothing, as we were of course, not invited to be present.

JEWELRY.—Now is the time when paper and water families, as well as the young man who dreams and thinks daily of "the best of girls," are bothering their brains in the effort to think of the most suitable Christmas gift for the ones they love. Any who may be in this state of uncertainty should visit W. T. Welsh's jewelry store, and they cannot fail to find something to relieve their anxiety. Mr. Welsh has a very fine collection of jewelry in stock.

MASONIC.—The election of officers of Goderich Lodge, No. 33, A. F. & A. M. took place on Wednesday evening last and resulted as follows: Bro. Jos. Beck, W. M; Bro. Wm. Hood, S. W.; Bro. H. Cooke, J. W; Bro. S. Sloan, Treasurer; Bro. Wm. Dickson, Secretary (9th year); Bro. M. McPhail, Tyler. The installation will take place on the Festival of St. John the Evangelist, Dec. 27, after which a social entertainment for the members and their families will take place.

LECTURE.—Mr. Edward Carswell, who is styled by some the Canadian Gough, will deliver two of his interesting lectures on temperance, in the Temperance Hall, on Monday and Tuesday evenings next. Music will be furnished by one of the church choirs. Single tickets, 25 cents; tickets admitting lady and gent, 40 cents; single tickets for the course, 40 cents. All who have heard this lecturer will desire to hear him again, and to those who have not yet heard him we can promise them satisfaction if they visit the hall on either of the above evenings.

OYSTER SUPPER.—On Friday evening a few of the temperance men in town invited those members of the County Council who voted in favor of submitting the Dunkin Act by-law, to an oyster supper in Mr. F. Hutty's. At 10 o'clock a party numbering thirty-two persons sat down to supper, and afterwards adjourned upstairs, where they indulged in a social chat and each member of the Council present contributed towards the evening's entertainment by short addresses, touching the present temperance movement.

OBITUARY.—On Wednesday last Mr. Humphrey Fiddler died at his residence on Quebec Street, at the advanced age 77 years. The funeral on Friday was largely attended. Deceased was highly respected, and had many warm friends, who knew him as a genial, warm-hearted Irishman. He was fond of a joke, very humorous, and an enthusiastic follower of Isaak Walton, being fond of fishing. Mr. Fiddler was an old resident of Goderich, and for seventeen years was a keeper of the lighthouse, resigning that office in the beginning of 1873, on account of blindness, when he was placed on the list of superannuated lighthouse-keepers.

A WORD IN SEASON.—Prof. Tice, of St. Louis, a famous scientist declares that this winter will be the severest winter in 100 years, another says it is to be mild and our Canadian prophet strikes a medium between the two. The evidence of the past few days is sufficient however, to advise us of our duty to clothe ourselves warmly. Crofts & Johnston have the facilities for furnishing warm, as well as fashionable clothing. A visit to their establishment will repay everyone, for their stock of ladies' and gents winter goods, furs, overcoats, cloths, &c., is excellent and worth seeing. Articles suitable for Christmas presents are plentifully displayed.

LIFE ASSURANCE.—Mr. W. Hendry, the manager of the Ontario Life Assurance Co. of Waterloo, delivered a lecture to the policy holders of the Co. here on the 5th inst. in the Temperance hall. From an examination of the papers of the Co. and the very lucid and fair manner in which Mr. Hendry laid before the meeting the claims of his Co., we conclude that the Ontario stands second to no Co. doing business. Among advantages to be gained by insuring in the Ontario we remark the following, lowest rates, a purely provincial company, dividends every year, an endowment at the life rate, an equitable division of all the surplus over actual expenses to the policy holders, and many other features well worthy of the attention of insurers. Their security being ample and their management the most economical of any company now doing business, we have no hesitation in recommending every one who has not a policy to take one in the Ontario, and those who have not yet done their duty to their families and themselves should lose no time in securing a policy with the Ontario Mutual.

SKATING RINK.—The new skating rink will be opened to the public for the first time, on the 20th inst. Admission, 25 cents. The Silver Cornet Band will be present.

CHURCH.—We understand that the North St. Methodist S. S. are preparing to give a concert on the evening of Thursday, 28th Dec. Those who have attended the concerts heretofore given by the School, speak very highly of them.

TO FARMERS AND GROWERS.—In an advertisement, Mr. John McIntyre, Blackwith, Maitlandville, takes out contract to construct tenenons and chopping. This gentleman has established an excellent reputation as a blacksmith, and repairs old saws, making them as good as new. Read his card.

BIBLE SOCIETY.—The Rev. W. W. Ross, permanent agent of the U. C. Bible Society, will hold a public meeting in St. Andrew's Church, Monday evening, Dec. 18. A collection will be made in behalf of the funds of the society. Mr. Ross is an able speaker and deserving of a full house. The revd. gentleman will preach in Knox church on Sabbath next.

BUSINESS CHANGE.—Mr. W. M. Hillis has taken a partner into his business, and the new firm will be known as Hillis & Co. The business will now be conducted on a much larger scale than heretofore, and the city trained in order to meet the growing demands thereof. The firm has in stock a supply of fresh Indian meal, flour, and is selling cheap at wholesale.

BAZAAR.—The ladies of the Methodist church purpose holding a Bazaar, on Wednesday and Thursday of next week. A fine collection of useful and fancy articles will be offered for sale at unusually low prices. The entertainment will contain many things suitable for holiday presents. Dinner will be served from 12 o'clock each day, and tea from 5.

MUNICIPAL REPRESENTATION.—The settlement for the time of the Dunkin Act question has given the people time to think of municipal matters, and rumor is busy with the names of probable candidates. For the coming year the town will be entitled to two Deputy Reeves, and Mr. Wm. Campbell is a candidate for the office of first Deputy, and Mr. Jas. Small for the second. Mr. J. T. Garrow is again a candidate for the Reeveship. These three gentlemen are favorable to the temperance movement. Mr. R. W. McKenzie is a candidate for Mr. Campbell's position in St. Patrick's Ward, and Mr. W. R. Robertson is most anxious as a candidate for Mr. Small's seat in St. David's. Mr. H. H. Smith is again in the field for St. George's. Mr. J. H. Finlay is again in the field for the Mayoralty. We have not yet heard of an opponent to him.

SEVERE GALE.—On Friday night and Saturday last a severe gale prevailed here, causing considerable damage. The schr. Jane McLeod and barges Muskoka and Waubashene, which were lying at the Grand Trunk dock, got loose and drifted about during the night, the Muskoka finally grounding on the island. The other two vessels were secured to the breakwater on Saturday, after being but slightly damaged. The schr. M. C. Cameron, which lay behind the breakwater, strained so much that she snapped an inch and a quarter chain and got loose. She drifted along the dock, and her bowsprit came in contact with the leg of Ogilvie & Hutchison's elevator and damaged it slightly, tearing off some of the brackets. The schr. lost some of her gearing, and was finally secured at the breakwater. During the continuance of the gale the large iron smoke-stacks of the mill were blown down, which accident will suspend operations at the mill this week.

SEAFORTH.

A skating rink has been established in town.

Mr. M. Y. McLean, of the *Expositor*, has consented to be a candidate for the Deputy-Reeveship.

ACCIDENT.—Wm. Blair, a young man employed with Malcolm Monroe, was thrown from his cutter, a few evenings ago, and had his shoulder dislocated.

SOME COPPERS.—Messrs. Duncan & Duncan of this town, a few days ago procured from the Receiver-General, at Toronto, one hundred dollars' worth of coppers. This batch weighed 137 pounds.

NILE.

RELIGIOUS.—The revival meetings held in connection with the Nile church for the last few weeks have been the means of adding many persons to membership. Up to the present, thirty-five have added their names to the church list. Rev. F. B. Sanderson preached a very impressive sermon on Monday evening last.

OFFICERS APPOINTED.—The officers of Nile Lodge No. 1052, L. O. A., for the next year are as follows: W. M., D. Johnston; D. M., T. Gardner; Treas., R. McIlwain; Secretary, R. E. Brown; Chaplain, J. Pentland.

CLINTON.

REVISION COURT.—The revision of the Hullet and Clinton voters' lists brought forth very few complaints. Judgment was reserved in most of the cases.

DEBENTURES SOLD.—We learn that the Mayor has disposed of $2,000 worth of the High School debentures, to the treasurer of Zorra at 96 cents. There still remains about $900 for sale.

BUTTER.—Mr. A. Megaw, of this place, has purchased and shipped, since May last, $34,000 worth of butter.—*New Era*.

COLBORNE.

NOMINATIONS.—The municipal nominations will take place on Friday, Dec. 22nd. See advertisement.

TEA MEETING.—A tea meeting will be held in the M. E. Church, Ben Muller, on Wednesday evening, 20th Dec., when Mr. E. Carswell, the well-known temperance orator, will deliver a lecture. Other speakers are expected, and good music will be provided. Tea served from 6 to 7 p. m.; lecture to commence at 7.30. Tickets, 30 cents. Proceeds to be devoted to paying off the debt on the shed.

DEBATE.—The following subject "Resolved, that the Dunkin Act will not be a benefit to the public at large," was debated by the Sons of Temperance, Div. 308, Benmiller, on Tuesday evening, Dec. 5th. The captains were: Affirmative, W. Robertson; Negative, Andrew Heddle. After a lengthy discussion the chairman, Mr. John Stewart, decided in favor of the negative.

EDUCATIONAL.—The following gives the result of the last monthly written review of the pupils of S. S. No. 2: Class IV, marks possible, 735—M. C. Potter, 638; Nettie Gledhill, 588; Geo. Stewart, 561; W. Maedel, 476. Class III, marks possible, 580—Melinda Fisher, 508; Leonard Stevens, 476; Minnie Maedel, 450; Mary Stevens, 383. Class II, marks possible, 415—Percy Walters, 380; Sarah Heddle, 362; Chas. Morrish, 347; Nettie Greer, 346. Class I, senr., marks possible, 300—Jacob Fisher, 279, Priscilla Fisher, 277; Chas. Fisher, 272; Jane Stewart, 268. Average No. present during review, 74.—COM.

CAUTION TO LOVERS.—Young men