

NOTICE.—Hereafter local editorial business notices will be charged at the rate of ten cents per line in every edition of the Mercury.

The Volunteer Force of Ontario.

The following general order appeared in Saturday's Gazette: The Province of Ontario having, on the first day of October last, an excess of 3,500 volunteers over the proportion which, according to its population at the last census, is required to be furnished by that Province, it is ordered that such volunteer corps now organized in the Province of Ontario as shall fail to comply with the provisions of the law as regards organization, to enroll under the authority of the seventh section of cap. 40 of the Act of last session of Parliament, within three months from the 1st of October last, be removed from the list of volunteer militia—and if it then appears that the nominal strength of the force is in excess of the maximum for drill pay, a reduction of strength of several corps be made to such a number as will in the aggregate produce the required result.

Great Western Railway.

The business done on the above road at the present time is immense. The present working time-table has on its face twenty trains, and besides, there have been days during the past week, when as many as ten special freights have passed east and west, making the number up to thirty. Taking off the ten passenger trains, twenty freights are still left, and as each one of these freights average about twenty cars, it will be seen that four hundred cars pass daily along the line. A considerable portion of the freight passes east. The New York Central is taxed to its utmost to forward the cars delivered at the bridge, and we learn on good authority that difficulty is experienced in getting room to move trains in and out of the yard, so great is the number of cars lying at Suspension Bridge station. We also learn that hundreds of car loads are lying at Chicago, Juliet and other places west, awaiting shipments over this "Great Central Route," known as the Blue Line, of which the Great Western Railway is the principle connecting link. Notwithstanding the rush of business, the regular work of the road goes on like clock-work, and the regular passenger trains keep as good time as if they were the only ones on the road, which fact speaks for itself with respect to the excellent system adopted by the General Traffic Superintendents. We are also pleased to learn that in order to better facilitate the running of special trains, several telegraph offices are about to be opened along the line, and among them one at Princeton, which will be kept open both night and day. The time will soon come when our Great Western Road will require a double track to accommodate even the average business between the east and west.—Princeton Transcript.

Legislature of Ontario.

TORONTO, Dec. 16. The House met to-day at 11 o'clock, and continued in session until 12, when a recess was had till 2 o'clock. A few private Bills passed the second reading. At two o'clock His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor came down with his suite, escorted by a guard of honor, and gave his formal sanction to sixteen Bills which had passed the House. His Excellency then returned, and the House adjourned to meet again on the 6th of January next.

Among the Acts assented to were An Act to alter the Law of Dower, and to regulate proceedings in action for the recovery of Dower. The Law Reform Act of 1868. An Act to divide the Township of Garafraxa into two Municipalities. An Act to secure the independence of the Legislative Assembly. An Act for the better protection of Game in the Province of Ontario. An Act to amend the Registry Act, and to further provide as to the certificates of Married Women, touching their consent to the Execution of Deeds of Conveyance. An Act to amend Chap. 119 of the Consolidated Statutes of Upper Canada, so far as it relates to fees of Sheriffs.

Resignation of Dr. Ryerson.

We find the following in the Hamilton Spectator:—Dr. Egerton Ryerson, whose name has been familiar to Canadians for the past thirty years, and who, for nearly a quarter of a century, has held the important position of Chief Superintendent of Education for Upper Canada, is about to pass from the scene of his vast labours: not to enjoy a quiet and dignified retirement, but to become, as he says, the historian of the country, an object he has been aiming at all his life. He now simply holds office until a successor is appointed, but it is not yet known whether any one will be appointed to fill the vacancy, as the action of the government in the matter depends upon the progress made with the new School Bills, one of which has been read a second time, and the other has not yet been introduced. According to the proposed changes in the school system, the office of Chief Superintendent will be dispensed with, and the Educational Department placed under the control of a cabinet minister, who will be known as the Minister of Public Instruction.

The position which John Bright has accepted in the English Cabinet is that of President of the Board of Trade. Mr. Layard, who had previously been announced as filling that position, has been appointed Commissioner of Public Works.

Returns have been published indicating the popular vote incident to the Presidential election. It appears from these that 3,053,111 persons voted for Grant and 2,714,195 for Seymour; the total vote being 5,767,306. The majority in favour of Grant was therefore 338,916.

WHALEN.—To-day the judgment in the Court of Queen's Bench in the Queen vs. Whalen, for the murder of Thos. D'Arcy McGee, will be delivered.

SKATES.

Skates, skate straps, skate gimlets, skate screws, a large variety of skates suitable for ladies and gentlemen, quite cheap, at

JOHN HORSMANN'S,  
Hardware Merchant, Guelph

BY TELEGRAPH

PER ATLANTIC CABLE.  
Despatches to the Evening Mercury.

PARIS, Dec. 19.—The *Moniteur* to-day has the following details of the *Erosis* affair. The *Erosis* answered Hobart Pacha's signal with a shot and immediately sought refuge in the Island of Syra, where she was blockaded by vessels of the Turkish fleet. Hobart Pacha announced his willingness to abandon the blockade, on condition that the *Erosis* should be escorted to Athens by a Grecian frigate, there to await the result of judicial proceedings for outrage committed.

The following despatch has just been received, bearing date Constantinople, Dec. 19.—The Greek ambassador in this city to-day demanded of the guarantee powers the protection of Greek subjects in Constantinople. The French envoy, on the part of his Government, declined to meddle on the matter. The Sublime Porte demands the banishment of all Greeks from Bulgaria and Belgrade.

MADRID, Dec. 19.—The election for members of Cortes are proceeding in the incorporated cities. There has been no disorder, a large majority of those elected are favourable to formation of a monarchical form of Government. Government authorizes a statement that a treaty of peace with Chili may be considered as an accomplished fact.

LONDON, Dec. 20.—The latest news from the East is more pacific. The Government at Athens which has hitherto been swept away by the popular eagerness for war with the Turks is now disposed to listen to the protests of European powers. This disposition strengthened by rapidly growing sentiments in favor of peace may avert war if the Sublime Porte will grant time for further negotiations. It is understood the Western Powers will sustain the Sultan's ultimatum in Greece, while Russia in the interest of the Greeks will seek to modify its terms. A rumour which prevailed in Paris yesterday that Russia had sent an unfavorable note to France on the Eastern question proves to have been a canard invented to depress the Paris market. The foreboding allusion to the Eastern question made by Lord Stanley on the 13th of November in his speech to his constituents is regarded as one of the secondary causes of the crisis in the East.

CONSTANTINOPLE, 18th.—The Greeks in this city ask of the Porte the privilege of remaining here in case of hostilities between the two countries, agreeing to preserve a strict neutrality. A corps has been organized and is ready to proceed to Greece at short notice. Turkey continues tranquil.

MADRID, 19th.—It has been decided that the *Cadiz* insurgents be tried by a Council of War, but in no case will the extreme penalty of death be inflicted.

PARIS, 20th.—Ex-Queen Isabella has returned from a visit to Napoleon at the Tuilleries.

The *Moniteur* continued to urge conciliation on both the Greek and Turkish Governments. The *Patrie* asserts that the Porte will submit to the Great Powers documentary proofs that Greece intended to incite insurrection in the Turkish islands, and then take possession of them.

Telegrams from St. Petersburg say Russia and other great Powers agree that both the Porte and Greece should delay action for five days in order that negotiations for settlement of the question may be attempted.

The public newspapers say the Envoys of Turkey and Greece have left their respective posts at Athens and Constantinople. The "Patrie" says the naval commanders in the Piræus have been instructed if they can help it to avoid a struggle with the Turkish vessels, which at present could only weaken the Grecian cause. The same journal says the Athenians are exultant over a prospective war with Turkey, while the deputations from Nauplia, Patras, Corfu and Corinth, protest against the policy of the Government as ruinous to Greece. The Athenians expect a revolt by the Greeks in the Turkish provinces of Thessaly and Macedonia. The latest advices from Athens state the Government of Greece has as yet taken no steps of a defensive character.

Athens, Dec. 18.—A new cabinet is to be formed by Alexander Kowmondowros, the President of the Ministry.

Madrid, Dec. 20.—A riot broke out at Forth, Province of Seaman, caused by the hostility of the people to the organization of a national guard. It was promptly suppressed.

The "Correspondencia" asserts that the Carlists have formed a deep and wide-spread conspiracy for possession of the Government, and that they only await the breaking out of strife between the Liberal parties of the Court to develop their designs.

American Despatches

New York, Dec. 20.—The *Herald's* Havana letter says: It is a fact that a gigantic insurrection exists in this island; that it is supported by a great mass of native population, and that they have had many encounters with Spanish troops with fair success. The best informed are beginning to calculate on ultimate success, which shall leave Cuba free and independent.

New Advertisements.

ELECTION OF MAYOR FOR 1869.

TOWN OF GUELPH

THE VOTE AND INTEREST OF THE Electors are respectfully solicited in favor of

Mr. ROBT. MELVIN FOR MAYOR.

HARTFORD Fire Insurance Company

OF Hartford, Conn.

INCORPORATED IN 1810. CAPITAL, \$2,000,000.

Special Rates for Dwellings and contents for terms of one to three years.

Guelph, Dec. 21. E. MORRIS, Agent.

WELLINGTON LUMBER YARD, GUELPH.

Notice to Farmers and Others.

GOWDY & STEWART, SPEED LODGE, No. 180.

BOARDING. BOARDING.

A few respectable boarders can be accommodated with comfortable boarding on reasonable terms. Apply to MRS. BLOOMFIELD, in rear of Baker Wright's.

R. RAE & CO.

IMPORTERS OF China, Crockery, Glassware, AND FANCY GOODS.

ALMA BLOCK, GUELPH, ONT.

HAVING purchased of Messrs. JAMES MASSIE & CO. their stock of Crockery and Glassware, imported this Fall, and rented the large and commodious premises adjoining their wholesale business in the above line.

From the facilities we possess in a practical knowledge of the business, and by buying for cash in the best markets of England, France, Germany and America, we are prepared to offer our Goods at prices that will compete favorably with any House in the Province.

Guelph is a specially central point, offering facilities for the transmission of Goods in all directions. Under such circumstances we have confidence in soliciting an examination of our stock before purchases are made elsewhere, confident that we can offer inducements unsurpassed in the Trade. We are now opening

500 Crates of Granite and Common Ware, And 300 packages of Glassware, China & Fancy Goods

Comprising a complete assortment in these lines.

Prompt attention given to all orders, and all Goods carefully packed by experienced warehousemen.

Guelph, 19 December. R. RAE & CO.

The Sale of Cloths, Clothing, AND GENTLEMEN'S FURNISHING GOODS,

STILL GOING ON AT JAMES CORMACK'S, MERCHANT TAILOR, No. 1, Wyndham Street, Guelph.

now on hand the Largest, Best Assorted and

Cheapest Stock of Goods in the Province,

Being purchased by, and the Clothing manufactured under, the personal superintendence of the subscriber, he can with confidence recommend them to his numerous customers and the public. Another lot of these FINE

BEAVER OVERCOATS

Just made. Will arrive in a few days. ANOTHER LOT OF THOSE CHEAP SHIRTS AND DRAWERS

For which there has been such a run. Keep up the demand, and I will keep up the supply at as low prices as can be bought at cost or under.

Guelph, December 19th. JAMES CORMACK.

Christmas and New Year's Gifts.

For Christmas and New Year's Presents go to JOHN R. PORTE'S

JEWELLERY AND FANCY STORE, Next door to Mr. Berry's Confectionery Store, Wyndham Street.

The following choice articles will be found in Stock: Ladies' Companions Ladies' Work Boxes Ladies' & Gents' Writing Desks

Chessmen, Chess, Draught and Cribbage Boards, Inkstands, Book Slides, Vases, Parian Figures, &c.

WATCHES, CLOCKS & JEWELLERY

Of every description, and at all prices, to suit purchasers. A LIBERAL DISCOUNT ALLOWED DURING THE HOLIDAYS

Guelph, 17th December. JOHN R. PORTE.

THAT VENERABLE OLD GENTLEMAN, OF THE TOWN OF GUELPH.

After a number of years' service in your office, as well as in the Board of School Trustees, I have resolved, at the desire of many partial friends, to become a candidate for the Mayoralty for the ensuing year.

If the length of the term which I have spent in behalf of the interests of our good town can be a recommendation to your favor, respectfully urge this claim. After nearly ten years' Municipal life, I think none will deny to me sincerity and fearlessness of purpose in the discharge of public duties, whilst I have ever sought to promote the welfare of the town in every possible way that lay in my power.

As there are many important and new questions affecting the public welfare likely to arise during the coming year, I have determined personally to interchange views with you during the short time left before the election. Amongst the most prominent of the questions, as you are aware, are the following, and which deserve the most anxious consideration:

- 1. The indebtedness of the town on account of the Municipal Loan Fund.
- 2. The question of Railway Extension northward.
- 3. The Union Station.
- 4. The change in the Municipal and Assessment laws.
- 5. The new School Law and Central School question.
- 6. Town Hall enlargement.
- 7. Increased economy in the expenditure on our roads and sidewalks, and the introduction of a thorough system by which they will be gradually made permanently good.

It is not possible for me in the scope of a brief address like this, to discuss these important matters, but I shall have ample opportunity hereafter to do so. I may briefly here observe that I consider no step should be taken involving the expenditure of any large sum of money with reference to any of these questions without the opinion of the ratepayers being first duly obtained. Our present liabilities are heavy, taxation sufficient, and our future, in a measure, fraught with perplexity. Still, I think, with prudence and judgment, the town of Guelph is bound to flourish, and increase in general prosperity.

Respectfully soliciting your kind support and influence, I am your obedient servant, GEORGE S. HEROD.

Guelph, 16th December 1868. dwtf

A Sale To-night.

Guelph, December 18. OPENING NOTICE.

The GUELPH BAKERY

Upper Wyndham Street.

H. BERRY in taking this opportunity of thanking his numerous customers for the very liberal patronage bestowed on him, begs to intimate that owing to the rapid increase of his Wholesale Confectionery business, he has disposed of his Bread business to ARCHIBALD GILCHRIST, whom he has great pleasure in recommending, and who, he is confident, will do his utmost to give satisfaction to all who may patronize him.

A. GILCHRIST

Has much pleasure in informing the public that he has opened the Store

NEXT DOOR TO M. SODEN'S, Guelph, Dec. 19.

A. GILCHRIST, Fancy Bread, Biscuit & Cake Baker.

New Advertisement.

FRUITS.

FRUITS SOLD EXTREMELY CHEAP

DURING THE HOLIDAYS

AT E. CARROLL & CO'S.,

Day's 2 Block.

Guelph, December 21st.

CHRISTMAS PRESENTS

Beautiful Jewellery?

When you buy your Christmas Presents, DON'T FORGET TO CALL AND SEE

D. SAVAGE'S

Beautiful Stock of Jewellery.

Wyndham Street, Guelph, 18th December.

ARRIVED

The First Lot this Season

FRESH HADDOCK FRESH LOBSTERS.

ANOTHER LOT OF THOSE VERY Superior Haddies

PTATT & CO'S

BALTIMORE OYSTERS

SELECT, ARRIVING DAILY.

SOLD TO THE TRADE AT HAMILTON AND TORONTO PRICES.

GEORGE WILKINSON, Guelph, 18th December. SOLE AGENT FOR GUELPH.

B. L. S.

Lately with Messrs. James Massie & Co., and formerly with W. J. Brown & Co., has opened out a large stock of

Groceries, Wines and Liquors

DINNER and TEA SETS, GLASSWARE, &c.

Call and judge for yourselves as to quality and price, at the Store,

Next Door to THE ALMA BLOCK, Guelph.

LANGDON FOR WINES and LIQUORS.

LANGDON For the best Smoking and Chewing Tobacco.

LANGDON FOR TEAS.

LANGDON For the Best Assortment of CROCKERY.

LANGDON FOR SUGARS.

LANGDON For a splendid stock of GLASSWARE

JUST RECEIVED, 500 Bbls. SALT; 100 Bbls and 100 lbs. Lake Huron FISH; 50 lbs. Labrador HERRING.

Guelph, 15th December.