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The HURON SIGNAL

DEVOTED TO COUNTY NEWS AND GENERAL INTELLIGENCE

SEVENTH YEAR. WHOLE NUMBER 2090.

GODERICH, ONT., FRIDAY, MARCH 18, 1887.

McGILLICUDDY BROS PUBLISHERS. $1.50 A YEAR IN ADVANCE

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FRIDAY, MARCH 18TH, 1887.

THE GOVERNMENT'S MAJORITY.

A good deal of surmise has been indulged in as to the Government's majority in the new House. We think it can safely put at 27 as the normal vote; with a coalition during the first session running as high as 40 and as low as 15. To look for a new election in the summer of 1888. Here is our estimate:—

	Min.	Opp.
Ontario	53	39
Quebec	30	35
New Brunswick	10	6
Nova Scotia	14	7
Prince Edward Island	—	6
Manitoba	4	1
British Columbia	6	—
Northwest Territories	4	—
	121	94

MORE SNEAK JOURNALISM.

"When taxed by Mr Porter with shameful misrepresentation of that meeting, (the "Grand Hansard" Tory meeting at Goderich) the senior editor of THE SIGNAL had not a word to say in his defence."

The parenthetic portion is ours, but the item above is from the *Star* of last week, and we have only to state that the editor of the *Star* again speaks falsely. There was no necessity for the editor of THE SIGNAL defending the report of the Goderich Tory meeting, and of the shameful dodge resorted to by Mr Porter of foisting a bogus Hansard upon the meeting, and quoting extracts from an unofficial document as being from the *Official Report of the House of Commons*. At Benmiller, at Goderich and at other points Mr Porter admitted that he had omitted the offence charged against him by THE SIGNAL, and confessed to having read from the unofficial document and not from *Hansard*. Mr D. McGillicuddy spoke against Mr Porter at Benmiller and St. Augustine, and was present at the last Goderich meeting where Mr Porter addressed the electors, but although on each of these occasions the subject of the bogus *Hansard* came up for discussion, the Tory candidate never dared to question the correctness of THE SIGNAL'S report. The only conversation ever had by Mr Porter with Mr D. McGillicuddy on the subject was at Benmiller, after both had spoken to the meeting. As Mr McGillicuddy resumed his seat, and after Mr Porter had admitted that he had omitted from the bogus volume, Mr Porter said petulantly to Mr McGillicuddy "Why did you publish that report of the Goderich meeting in THE SIGNAL?" The answer was, "Because it was true, and the book you read from was bogus," And upon the strength of that question and answer the editor of the *Star* builds the item that heads this article. F. W. Johnston of Goderich, admitted at the South Hill meeting that the volume read by Mr Porter, and alleged to be *Hansard*, was bound at Seaforth, and the editor of the *Star* can at any time put his hand upon the rascal who palmed the book upon Mr Porter, as the *Official Records of the House of Commons* for Canada. The action of the *Star* in this matter is another evidence of sneak journalism.

The West Huron protest is no myth.

The election of Rykert in Lincoln county proves that the people of that section do not approve of honest representation.

Now that it is assured that a protest is under way towards unseating Mr Robert Porter there is a shaking up of dry bones in the Conservative party. Bermuda will be a pleasant resort for more than one of our local Tory gentry between now and next fall.

SIR JOHN and his Tory following are endeavoring to circulate the idea that the Government will be sustained by a large majority when the House meets; but the efforts made by Tory returning officers, at the instance of the Government, to count out successful Reform candidates, and the other questionable devices resorted to by Government to keep its present following shows that the Premier is rapidly being driven to his corner. If Sir John believes he will be sustained by a good working majority, why does he not instruct his creatures, the returning officers, to act honestly with the candidates' returned? From present appearances there's a screw loose loose somewhere, so far as Sir John's alleged working majority is concerned.

THE PAP-FEEDERS.

The Subsidized Press Does Not Like the Truth.

The London "Free Press" and the Hamilton "Spectator" Both Pap-fed—The "Star" also has its Nose in the Trough.

A couple of weeks ago the following appeared in THE SIGNAL:

"There isn't one newspaper in Canada today that sides with the Government that is not pap fed. Hence the loyalty of the organs to the cause. Even our own goody-goody *Star* would have gone to the wall had it not been for the fostering care of the Government."

The publication of the item in question aroused the ire of some of the subsidized papers, and among them the Hamilton *Spectator*, the London *Free Press*, and the Goderich *Star*.

The *Spectator* took exception to THE SIGNAL'S paragraph, and last week we showed that in one year the Hamilton Tory organ received over $17,000 worth of reasons for standing by the Government through thick and thin.

The *Free Press*, of London, also borrowed the opinion of the *Spectator* and put in the following brasen denial:

"The *Spectator*, replying to the Huron SIGNAL'S fabrications concerning Government newspapers, retorts thus:—'There isn't one newspaper in Canada today that sides with the Opposition that is not willing to be pap-fed.'"

The *Free Press* in one year received over $6,000 of pap from the Dominion Government, and certainly is not in a position to say that the THE SIGNAL'S statement regarding the pap-feeders is a fabrication. If the Government "cut off supplies" the *Free Press* would soon turn a pretty sharp curve, as it has done on more than one occasion heretofore.

Our local contemporary, the *Star*, also lifts its tuneful voice, and reiterates the statement of the *Spectator* and, as with the Hamilton and London organ, a disinterested witness is not brought into court. Why, bless us, if it wasn't for the Government printing received by the *Star* during the past year, the twinkler would have disappeared from the literary firmament altogether. The voters' lists under the franchise act, and the Government advertising has materially aided our contemporary and other Tory "lame ducks" during the past year, while the Reform press has had to depend in all cases upon legitimate business.

One would almost think that James Russell Lowell had subsidized the Tory press of Canada in his mind's eye, when he made the "pious editor" to say:—

"Palsied the arms that forges yokes
At my fat contracts squintin',
And cursed be the nose that pokes
Into the guv'mint printin'."

THE REFORM LEADERSHIP.

The Tory press is in a flutter because a rumor is afloat that Hon. Edward Blake has resigned his position as leader of the Opposition in the House of Commons. It is stated by some of the organs that Mr Blake has actually sent a circular to every Liberal member acquainting them with the fact that on the assembling of Parliament it will be their duty to elect a new leader. For fear our Tory friends would worry themselves too much on this point we take this opportunity of informing them that Hon. Edward Blake believes that the leader of the Opposition should be selected after every general election, at the first caucus meeting held by the members of the party, and, to this end, has evidently notified all the Liberals in the House to go prepared to elect their chief at as early a date as possible after the meeting of the House. But the fact that Mr Blake has notified the Liberal members that his leadership of the party expired when the new Parliament was elected does not necessarily imply that he intends to step down and out should his friends in the House desire him to continue in the leadership. Mr Blake was not afraid to lead the Liberals in the last Parliament when a venal majority of 70 backed Sir John Macdonald, and why should he quail now when that majority has dwindled to 25 or 28? Our Tory confreres need not worry about the leadership of the Liberal party. It will be remembered that after the last election in Quebec, at the meeting of the Liberals and Nationalists, Hon. Honore Mercier placed his resignation as leader in the hands of the caucus. He was immediately re-elected, and proceeded at once to the House, where he ousted the Tory Government, Mr Blake, on the present occasion, is only adopting the ordinary course provided for such occasions. When the Reform party wants a new leader, and when the leader wants to sever his connection with the party, neither of the contracting parties will go out of the way to give the Tory press the opportunity to make the first announcement of the contemplated discomfiture.

THE GERRYMANDER.

How Dr W. J. R. Holmes Carved Huron and Middlesex

He Glories in the Work—"There was No Politics in It?"—An Interesting Computation as to Clinton's Vote.

At a political meeting held last December in Victoria Hall, Goderich, in the interest of D. Taylor, Tory candidate in the provincial election contest, the question of the gerrymander was introduced by that gentleman, who endeavored to score a point at Mr Mowat's expense. In reply, Mr D. McGillicuddy, who appeared for the other side, stated that there was no comparison between the redistribution of seats by the Mowat administration and the shameful gerrymander of the province by Sir John Macdonald in 1882, owing to the fact that in the first named instance no judicial or county boundaries had been tampered with, while in the second, a large number of counties had been dismembered by the Tory government. He cited our own county of Huron, in which the town of Goderich had been in three separate and district ridings inside of ten days; he further stated that the last draft of the gerrymander as it affected this county had been brought about by a special mission to the capital by Dr W. J. R. Holmes, then of Brussels, but now of Goderich. The statement made by Mr McGillicuddy was questioned by several zealous Conservatives, but he knew what he was talking about. At the meeting held the following week in the Grand Opera House, called in the interest of the Provincial Treasurer, Dr Holmes represented the Tory candidate, and in the course of his address he admitted that he was the father of the gerrymander in Huron and Middlesex. Here are his own words, taken down in THE SIGNAL reporter's little note book at the time, and kept for future reference:—

I will now take up the question of the gerrymander. Since confederation we have had four redistributions,—two by the Dominion Parliament and two by the Provincial. The Dominion parliament is bound to redistribute the ridings after each census. Ontario had to get six new seats, and so a new distribution was carried out in the Dominion. Mr Mowat also took the ground about that time that he should redistribute for six members, too. As the years went on the province of Ontario was entitled to four new members in the House, and Sir John A. Macdonald had to redistribute the constituencies again. In this redistribution scheme he adopted the principle that it was not necessary to maintain the county boundaries; that municipalities could be taken from one county and added to another to equalize the population. You will readily perceive how necessary this is to maintain an even representation. That is why the counties of Middlesex, and Huron and Perth were intermingled. There were no towns or townships broken up, at least I have heard of none. [Col. Ross, at the close of Dr Holmes address, showed where the thing had been done in a most indefensible manner by the Dominion Government.] I don't say that gerrymander was fair altogether. (Applause.) Only it is impossible for such redistribution to be made without it redounding in some way to the interest of the sitting member, *if he be a supporter of the Government*. (Laughter and applause.) I challenge any man, said the doctor, warming to his work, to take a map of the two counties of Huron and Middlesex and show where the ridings have been unfairly framed. I am not ashamed to say that I am the author of that redistribution in these two counties! (Sensation, laughter and cheers.) And, gentlemen, I am bold to say that there was no politics in it! (Loud laughter.) That arrangement was better than the divisions of municipalities that exist in the Provincial arrangement. I left Clinton in the West riding; if I had put it in the South I would have kept Mr Cameron at home. For Clinton gave 28 of a Reform majority; Cameron had 29, and 12 Conservatives who had votes in Goderich township would have put Mr Cameron in a minority. Drawing himself up to his full height, and assuming an air of supreme self-righteousness, Dr Holmes concluded his reference to the matter by remarking, "After all that has been said about the gerrymander, we can safely accuse the Reform party of hypocrisy."

Taking the result of the election of February 22nd as a basis, it is almost a pity that Dr. Holmes did not carry out the spirit of the regret expressed in his speech, and have Clinton removed from the West Riding. Cameron would then have had 26 of a majority, instead of Porter. The doctor rejoices now that Clinton was not carried out.

WHAT'S UP?

Things That Are Happening Around Us.

The True Inwardness of Tory Virtue—They Vote for the Perpetuation of the Crime, and Object to Its Exposure.

—Mebbe the editor of THE SIGNAL isn't aware of the fact, but the publication of Mr John Stewart's letter from Regina in last week's issue of the paper has caused quite a commotion, and more than one of the Tory neighbors has waxed virtuously indignant over its appearance. Now, I read the letter through, and then, when the Tory neighbors drew my attention to it, I read it again, and although I must confess there was a strong presentation of facts, yet knowing the author of the letter to be an honorable and upright man during his residence in this section—much more so than most of his captious critics—I came to the conclusion that things in and around the Northwest section must be in a sorry plight when such a letter could be written by so reliable a man. I recollect when M. C. Cameron denounced the immorality of the Government agents that Sir John Macdonald had a pamphlet published denying Mr Cameron's statements; I recollect when Sir John Macdonald at Dungannon contended, (in the presence of ladies, too), that the purchasing of young squaws was a legitimate traffic, the report of his speech, supervised by his secretary, Mr Pope, was published in the leading Conservative organ, and no Tory that I ever heard of was ashamed that his wife or daughter heard Sir John's shameless contention, or found fault with the Tory organ for publishing what was beyond question a defence of the vicious habits of Government employees in the Northwest, by the Premier of the Dominion.

—But now things are changed. THE SIGNAL publishes a letter which deals with the facts that are denied by Sir John and the Tory organs, and, *presto*, change! our virtuous(?) Tory friends are touched to their vitals. One of the super-virtuous gentlemen came over to my place and I gave him special audience. He said some of the neighbors felt as he did, and had determined to see the editor, but as he knew I was a good square-toed old fellow, with a leaning toward morality, and as he knew I had access to the columns of THE SIGNAL, he determined to let the editor slide, and get me to talk straight morality in my column next week. I told him I'd be most happy to do so, and asked him to state his case, which was in effect that no public journal should publish details of crime in its columns, as THE SIGNAL had done last Friday. After listening to him, I delivered the following brief exhortation:

—Look here! I've listened to you and a lot of the other neighbors on this question, but although you all find fault with the newspaper for publishing the facts of the glaring immoralities in the Northwest, not one of you have paused in your denunciations to give one breath of censure to the wretches who commit the crimes or the Government that keeps such wretches in office. Every mother's son of you squealers voted in favor of the perpetuation of the crimes in the Northwest, and sought by his vote to politically kill the man who had denounced the Government on the floor of Parliament for keeping in its employ the lecherous brutes who have been in the habit of committing the crimes mentioned. You have condoned these crimes by your votes, and now you are horror-stricken because a fearless newspaper draws aside the veil and shows the world what you want hidden. I can perfectly understand the ruffianly Government agents asking to have the press muzzled, but ye, good virtuous men that you are,—who only become accessories after the fact by voting that the crimes be allowed to continue—should not be first in asking that the publication of the crimes shall cease. Why, I verily believe, if a murder were committed you fellows are so virtuous and gentle that you would aid the murderer to escape, and want to string up the unfortunate journalist who chronicled the crime; the burglar, the slugger, and the garrotter would also have mercy at your hands; and the newspaper that dared to make their crimes known would be suppressed—always provided that the gentlemen mentioned were of your shade of politics, and the journalist who wrote up the crimes and the newspaper that sounded the warning were not. Now, I'll be honest with you. I don't think you're half as big a fool as you try to make yourself out to be. You know that almost every day you read columns in the daily press devoted to the chronicling of vice in social and other circles. You are not afraid to let the daily paper with the account of the Lord Colin Campbell scandal and the breach of promise cases, and the *Pall Mall Gazette* exposures, go into your family circle. A few years ago when a terrible outrage was committed in Clinton, the victim being a resident of Goderich, you were not afraid to see the evidence of the case published in full in the Clinton papers and the Goderich *Star*. You would never have opened your mouth now if the crimes had not been brought home to employees of the Government you voted for at last election. That's the honest truth, and take it home with you.

AJAX

THE WRIGHT PAPERS

Uncle Uniacke Recovers From His Illness.

He Jubilates Too Heavily Over the Great Conservative Victory, and Gets Laid Up for Three Weeks.

We had wondered what had become of our genial old friend, Uniacke R. Wright, of West Wawanosh, whose homely letters, although levelled against the Liberal party, we were always pleased to receive and print. We had expected a personal call from the old gentleman the day after the election, as he had sent a note saying he would come in after all on the evening of the election day and get the returns at the Conservative quarters. Our anxiety over the non-appearance of our contributor, or any communication from him, was dispelled yesterday by the receipt of the following brief note, written in a rather more shaky hand than is usual with the Wawanosh statesman and philosopher:—

ALLOVER'S SKOOLHOUSE,
West Wawanosh, March foreteen.

DEER SIGNAL,—I was orfully put out that I didn't see you day after elekshun, as promist, or send a glowin' letter in the flush of victery, to see if you dassent put it in. I have jest got out of a bed of pane. I jooblated too much. Them lickers sold by the Goderich taverns is home-made, or wuss. When the full returns came in, and showed us fellers ahed, blame me if I didn't feel so good that I got as full as the returns. I don't know how I got home. I have doubts about my own return. My wife has sot neer me day and nite for a fortnite, bathin' my hed with vinnegar and other likwids. My hed felt like a bank barn thunder-struck. I'll rite agen when I get some better. Our fellers here ain't done krowin' yet. I tell you it was a mitey triumph. I will spare your feelin's, although you did put in that konseeted rooster. You needn't print this unless you want to fill up.

Yours gloryin' in victery,
U. R. WRIGHT.

Temperance in the Schools.

A large deputation, headed by Goldwin Smith and Moses Oates, waited upon the Attorney-General and G. W. Ross. They were chiefly members of the Liberal Temperance Union, which does not believe in prohibition or the Scott Act. The speakers made a general objection to the stand the Government has taken on temperance matters. They protested against the temperance principles inculcated in the minds of the youth of Canada by means of the text book on temperance, authorized by the Minister of Education, because it was too much on the side of temperance. Goldwin Smith contended that the enforcement of a prohibition law was coercion of the people to observe a law that the majority were not in favor of. Objection was also taken to the appointment of special tribunals to try Scott Act cases in the shape of Police Magistrates, and Moses Oates raised the question that if the contention of the temperance people was correct Christ himself was a sinner, as he was not a total abstainer.

Mr Ross said the Government did not contain any medical men, therefore they had to take the best evidence on the subject, and the weight of scientific opinion was that alcohol was not necessary to a healthy condition of the human system. All know the evil effects of liquor when its use is abused. Twenty-three States of the Union have already adopted the Books on Temperance. Therefore, Ontario was not alone in this matter. The Government, he thought, did a wise thing in laying before the youth of the country the effect its use would have upon them and saying, "Take warning."

Mr Mowat dealt with the question of the enforcement of the Scott Act, which, being in operation, all would agree should be effectively administered. The Government always appointed a legal gentleman as police magistrate where such a person would accept office. It had been found absolutely necessary to appoint special tribunals, because ordinary officers were unwilling to take action in consequence of local terrorism. He gladly received any suggestions that had not yet been considered, but the act must be enforced and the law respected wherever adopted. He was not prepared to give an opinion upon the question that Moses Oates raised, but reminded him that times were changed since Christ was on earth.

At the instance of Mr John Maclay, late Registrar of Bruce, a writ for libel, of which due notice had been given, was issued on Monday out of the Common Pleas Division of the High Court of Justice, which, with statement of claim, was forwarded to the Sheriff of Bruce for service on the Warden of that county. The plaintiff claims $40,000 damages. The venue is laid for the Hamilton Assizes next month. In view of the unanimous judgment of the High Court of Appeal, which declared the fees charged by Mr Maclay to be the correct and legal fees allowed by statute, and the Ontario Government having failed to take any action thereon, Mr Maclay considers this course the only remedy open to him.

FROM WASHINGTON.

Close of the Forty-Ninth Congress.

A Lot of Hard Work Performed—A Big Expenditure on Rivers and Harbors—The President's Busy Life.

From our Special Correspondent.

WASHINGTON, D. C.,
March 7th. 1887.

The Forty-ninth Congress has joined the procession of the past. It adjourned *sine die* on the fourth of March. It has become the fashion to speak of the dilatoriness and stupidity of Congress, such abuse is cheap. It might be explained that it is difficult for a heterogeneous mass of clashing individualities and interests to act smoothly and simultaneously. Other peoples have solved the difficulties by divisions, frontier fortifications, and standing armies and collossal military budgets. We prefer to settle wrangles in our own house, and we are wise even in the conceit of our foreign neighbors.

The only way to judge the Forty-ninth Congress will be by comparing it with previous Congresses, and it must be said in its favor that more bills have been introduced and passed by it, more have become laws, and more have received vetoes, than in any of the Congresses that had gone before. Many important and useful measures were passed, among them changing the Presidential succession to the Cabinet; regulating the Electoral Count so as to avoid disputes; providing for one and two dollar paper currency; building a new Congressional Library; recovering in forfeited railroad land grants nearly 50,000,000 of acres and restoring it to the public domain; extending the mail delivery system to the towns with 10,000 population; the Inter State Commerce law; granting land in severalty to Indians; the Canadian Retaliation bill; the repeal of the Tenure of Office act; the increase of the Navy; and prohibiting the importation of foreign contract labor.

The bad measures attempted were numerous, but fortunately few of them became laws. Among them were the Oleomargorine tax; the Backbone land grant swindle; the Mexican pension bill; and the Dependent pension bill, which was vetoed by the President. The River and Harbor bill met deserved failure. The President, believing the money was not needed, refused to sign it. The River and Harbor bill which he signed August 6, 1886, made an appropriation of $14,474,000, and there was then a part of the preceding appropriation unexpended. On the 1st of November last the Engineer in-Chief reported to Congress that there was on hand for the improvement of Rivers and Harbors $16,636,362. But little of this money has been spent and there was no necessity for the appropriation of $10,000,000 more.

It was President Cleveland's original intention to remain at the White House during the closing hours of Congress, but at the last moment having received telegrams from Speaker Carlisle and both Senators and Representatives that the District Appropriation bill would fail unless he could reach the Capitol in time to sign it, he entered his carriege and reached the President's room at the Senate end of the Capitol only fifteen minutes before the time that Congress must expire by Constitution. There he and his Cabinet glanced at the bills that were brought to him by swift messengers, and such as were approved received his signature. The intelligence that the President was in the building spread rapidly, there were not less than five thousand people in the Capitol, and he had not been in his room three minutes before the police had to form a cordon around the door to prevent the intrusion of the throngs of people who pressed forward to catch a sight of the President. The police had a hard time of it until Mr Cleveland left the Capitol a few minutes after adjournment. He had only three hours rest since Wednesday night, but he showed no signs of fatigue, and after returning to the White House he held the usual daily reception of visitors in the East Room.

Bluevale.

The last of the old bridge went down the line on Tuesday.

Miss Annie Thynne, who for some time has been visiting friends near Port Dover, returned on Thursday evening.

Rev. Mr McQuarrie, of Wingham, conducted the service in the Presbyterian church last Sabbath morning, in the absence of the pastor.

Rev. A. Y. Hartley, returned from Toronto, on Monday evening. He reports the doings of the Dominon Alliance as still in favor of going ahead, and nailing the flag at the mast.

Quite a number are unwell at present, Mr Coults is not able to be around also Mr Wm Grey. Numerous colds are also reported, and will be sold at reasonable prices.

Some Howickites undertook to draw some posts to Bluevale station one day last week, and succeeded in reaching a point, about thirty rods from the station, when the supports on our load gave way, and precipitated in reckless disorder, in a place which which would have been a fence corner if the snow had not been too deep.