

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

The Legal Tender Act.

There is a report in the Tribune to the effect that the Supreme Court is pretty certain to adjudge the Legal Tender Act unconstitutional. Such a decision might be of vast importance to every country in the world that has had monetary transactions with the United States. If the Act be declared unconstitutional the last hope of the repudiators has fled, their last argument, though only one that could have its premises in villainy, gone. While the act is in force, it gives at least a show of legality to purposed robbery, but if it be nullified, there will remain not the shadow of an excuse for paying with greenbacks the bonds which were purchased with gold on the strength of the assurance they bore upon their faces, that with gold they would be redeemed. It required the passage of the Act in question to make greenbacks a legal tender. Previously, there was no stronger plea that they should be accepted in payment, than there would have been had they been merely so much soiled paper. But when this law compelled the country to receive them, an idea was conceived to make foreigners accept them too. A dollar is a dollar though a greenback, and if creditors were paid nominally, it would satisfy the moral code of some of the debtors as well as, or perhaps better than, if they were paid in reality. It will be well for the States and for other countries too, should there be yet sufficient honesty left in the chief tribunal of the Republic to destroy the only existing excuse for national robbery.

CENTRAL ASIA.—Two Wesleyan missionaries in China, who have just returned from a tour through the western provinces to the confines of Thibet, a distance of over three thousand miles, have published an interesting report on that as yet little known portion of the immense Asiatic Empire. They saw an abundance of coal, and evidences of gold, silver, lead, and iron mines. Catholic missions were so numerous that priests were found even in the small villages, and the converts to this Church were estimated by hundreds of thousands. The missions in China, whether Catholic or Protestant, represent an element of civilization, and the marvellous growth of the Roman Catholic Church, which is confirmed by the unanimous testimony of all who have travelled in China, will greatly aid in bringing China under the influence of modern civilization.

A WASHINGTON correspondent of the Boston Post telegraphs, with reference to the murder of the Renos and Anderson, that as soon as it was known at the Capitol, Mr. Seward paid his respects to Mr. Thornton and explained the violent character of the proceedings in Indiana, and gave the British Ambassador every assurance that the Government of the United States would do its whole duty in the premises. Mr. Thornton bluntly replied that he could not exactly perceive what was to be done, since the parties whose protection had been guaranteed by the United States had already been hung.

THE CUBAN INSURRECTION.—The first reinforcements of Spanish troops have arrived in Cuba, and others were expected immediately. Their arrival was greatly needed, for even the Spanish accounts of the insurrection leave no doubt that it has thus far maintained its ground and even gained strength. Count Belmasada has been in Havana, to consult with the Captain-General and ask for reinforcements, and he now intends to march upon Bayamo, the stronghold of the insurgents and the seat of the Provisional Government.

THE ADJOURNMENT.—The Leader says it is now pretty well understood that an adjournment of the House over the holidays will take place on Tuesday or Wednesday next. This course could not have been avoided, as it became quite evident in the early part of the present week that the prorogation could not take place before Christmas without detriment to the public interests.

Red River Distress. There is reason to fear that the distress at the Red River Settlement will prove to be a more serious matter than was at first anticipated. An extract from a letter from the Rev. Mr. Black, published in the Globe, gives a definite idea of the state of matters in the colony: "All day on Wednesday our relief committee sat in the court room investigating the returns (20 in number) from all the parishes, as to the state of the people. The results are frightful. There are, at this moment, 484 families, consisting of 2,342 persons in want, and must be relieved or starve. Of the families, 237 are Protestant, and 247 Catholics. Of the persons, 951 belong to the former, and 1,391 to the latter persuasion. And besides these, there are (including both churches), 48 families and 242 individuals, who have so little on hand, that they must be passed into the other class in a few weeks. And beyond these again, there are many more who, if it is to be feared, cannot get through without help. So, I believe, we will be very little beyond the mark if we reckon the number of the necessaries before the winter is over, at 3,000. Now, count what amount of flour this number would require for the five months between now and open water. At 2 lbs. a day for each, I make it 4,500 barrels—or taking it only at our present number (say 2,400), 3,600 barrels. We have 100 on hand, and about equal to 800 on the way. Where is the rest to come from? And how is it to be got in? The state of things is really appalling. The fishing also is a failure; and strange to say, not a rabbit is to be seen. Buffalo hunters, moreover, are returning with nothing; some are said to have eaten their horses.

Toronto, Dec. 17. Mr. Scott (Grey) inquired of the Ministry whether they intended to confirm titles to persons who have squatted on and improved lands, not for speculative purposes, but to make a home for themselves; and were originally sold on time, subject to actual settlement, and payments not fully made, or settlement duties performed, whether they will cancel such original sales and resell to the party in possession. Hon. Mr. Richards said that the practice of the department was, that where lands were sold years ago and one instalment paid on them—where the purchaser had never gone into possession, but years after another came along and took possession, and made improvements of a permanent character—and resided on the lands a number of years—the practice of the Department in such a case was to cancel the original sale and sell to the one in possession. The practice had been pursued as far as he was aware, ever since the Crown Land Department had an existence. A number of sales had, however, been stopped in the County of Grey, because of the pressure brought to bear on the Government by Municipalities for their taxes; and because of the number of applicants to cancel sales of land in the locality, which had been stopped on the ground that parties were getting them at prices below their value.

Mr. Boyd enquired if it was the intention of the Department to allow the lands generally to be sold for taxes. Hon. Mr. Richards replied that that was the course the Government decided on adopting. They would not deprive themselves of the power of enforcing the conditions on which the lands were originally sold. All the action the Government had taken was as he had stated, with reference to the Grey and Huron lands. They had not interfered to cancel the sales as yet. A motion for leave to have the petitions in favour of the Georgian Bay Canal heard by counsel was lost. The other business before the House was unimportant.

New Advertisements.

ELECTION OF MAYOR FOR 1889.

TOWN OF GUELPH

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

Mr. ROBT. MELVIN FOR MAYOR.

THE GUELPH MELODEON COMPANY

BEg to draw the attention of the public to their Melodeons and Cabinet Organs, which, in the opinion of all competent judges, are the best that are manufactured, and are sold at prices from 10 to 20 per cent. lower than those of any good American make. We do not make imitations of our name, as those nameless instruments are made only for agents, who wish to sell cheap and inferior instruments. We were awarded

THE FIRST PRIZE

on both MELODEONS and CABINET ORGANS at the Provincial Exhibition for 1888, which was open to all the world.

As we warrant all our instruments for Five Years, the public will easily see that it is to their interest to buy from us rather than from an agent of some distant New England firm, whose guarantee amounts simply to nothing, even on instruments which they consider good enough to put their names on.

LONG CREDIT given to responsible parties, or a liberal discount for cash in full. Usual discount to Clergymen, Churches, Schools, &c. Factory and Ware-room in the Old Gore Bank Building, East Market Square.

BELL, WOOD & CO., Guelph, Ont. Guelph, December 18th, 1888. d1w1y

MONEY TO LEND.

The undersigned are requested to obtain Farm Securities for several thousand dollars, to be lent at moderate interest.

LEMON & PETERSON, Barristers, Solicitors, &c. Guelph, Dec. 9th, 1888. dwtf

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC.

The subscriber begs to intimate to the public that he will remain one month longer in Guelph, for the purpose of selling his farm and leasing his hotel. If the farm is not sold by the end of that time it will be let on shares.

JAMES ONEIL, Guelph, Dec. 11. daw 1m

SPEED LODGE, No. 189.

An Emergency Meeting of this Lodge will be held in the Masonic Hall, on Tuesday evening, Dec. 22nd, at half past 7 o'clock.

JOHN CRIDFORD, Secretary. Guelph, Dec. 17. d4l

THAT VENERABLE OLD GENTLEMAN,

SANTA CLAUS,

SAYS:

What a Capital Thing it would be just now for

CUTHBERT

TO INAUGURATE A

GIFT SALE!

The suggestion is a good one. There will be

A Sale To-night.

Guelph, December 18. dw

The First Lot this Season

FRESH HADDOCK
FRESH LOBSTERS, in the Shell

ANOTHER LOT OF THOSE VERY

Superior Haddies

PIATT & CO'S

BALTIMORE OYSTERS

SELECT, ARRIVING DAILY

SOLD TO THE TRADE AT HAMILTON AND TORONTO PRICES.

GEORGE WILKINSON,

Guelph, 18th December. dw

SOLE AGENT FOR GUELPH.

BOARDING, BOARDING.

A few respectable boarders can be accommodated with comfortable boardings on reasonable terms. Apply to MRS. BLOOMFIELD, in rear of Baker Wright's. Guelph, December 7. d2w

MUNICIPAL ELECTION

To the Electors of the North Ward:

GENTLEMEN, At the request of a number of Ratepayers I have consented to become a candidate for the office of Councillor in place of Mr. James Mays, who retires.

Should I please you to elect me I shall endeavor, to the best of my ability, to further the interest, not only of the North Ward, but the Town generally.

I am, Gentlemen, Yours, &c., &c.

JOHN A. WOOD. Guelph, Dec. 15. d6 w1

R. J. JEANNERET,

From England.

Established in London, Ont. 1842 and in Guelph 1855.

WORKING WATCHMAKER AND JEWELER

DAYS BLOCK, Opposite the Market Guelph.

Just received a choice variety of Cheap Goods suitable for Christmas and New Year's gifts. Particular attention paid to the repairing of Watches, Clocks and Jewellery. Guelph, December 17th. d1v

SOUTH WELLINGTON

AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY

THE Annual Meeting of the above Society will take place at the WELLINGTON HOTEL, Guelph, on

Saturday, 16th January, 1889, AT TWO O'CLOCK, P. M.

NOTICE.

In accordance with the provisions of the new Agricultural Act, it will be necessary for all who wish to vote at the Annual Meeting to pay their subscriptions for the ensuing year, prior to the 1st of January, 1889.

GEORGE MURTON, Sec'y, Guelph, Dec. 15. d2 w1 S. W. A. S.

To the Electors and Ratepayers

OF THE TOWN OF GUELPH.

After a number of years' services in your council, 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, I 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, 18th December 1888. dwtf

SPECIAL NOTICE.

The subscriber in returning thanks for the liberal patronage bestowed on him in former years, begs to announce that he has erected a NEW OPERATING ROOM at considerable expense, introducing all the improvements of the day, as well as

New RUSTIC Accessories;

He is prepared to execute Photographs and Portraits of all kinds

From the Pocket to Life Size, Equal, as regards finish and life-like appearance, to any that can be obtained in the Dominion—Copying of PORTRAITS in all its branches as usual, done in a satisfactory manner.

In Large Photographs with Frames he intends offering Special Inducements during the coming Holidays.

Parties requiring a large sized Photograph with handsome frame, or any other Portrait of themselves or friends, will find it to their advantage to call and examine specimens and prices. Rooms: Directly over John A. Wood's Grocery Store, Wyndham-St.

WILLIAM BURGESS. Guelph, December 12. dw

BUCKWHEAT FLOUR

—AND—

AMBERSYRUP

At John A. Wood's.

SNOW MATS,

SNOW BROOMS

At John A. Wood's.

SPLIT PEAS,

At John A. Wood's.

SPANISH CHESTNUTS

—AND—

ENGLISH FILBERTS,

At John A. Wood's.

PROVIDE

FOR THE

LONG WINTER EVENINGS!

The long evenings are upon us, when the laboring man, mechanic, &c., can devote their leisure hours to the improvement of themselves and families by procuring and reading

GOOD BOOKS!

At DAY'S BOOKSTORE,

Opposite the Market, will be found

- BOOKS entertaining and useful,
- BOOKS amusing and instructive,
- BOOKS of Travel and Adventure,
- BOOKS suited to every condition,
- BOOKS welcomed in every Family,
- BOOKS of History and Biography,
- BOOKS elegantly printed and bound,
- BOOKS good, new and cheap,
- BOOKS for Christmas and New Year's,
- BOOKS your certain fortune,

At extremely low prices for CASH ONLY, at

DAY'S BOOKSTORE,

Opposite the Market. Guelph, Dec. 11. daw 1f

AUCTIONSALE

OF

BOOKS,

TO-NIGHT,

At M. Shewan's Old Stand,

Wyndham s.e., Guelph.

J. B. THORNTON, Manager of Sale. Guelph Dec. 8, 1888. daw 1f

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. dw

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 hbl bbls. Lake Huron FISH; 50 bbls. Guelph, 15th December. Labrador HERRING. daw

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. dw JOHN R. PORTE.

Sale of Cloths and Clothing!

A. THOMSON & CO.

WOULD intimate that as their Mr. Thomson is retiring from business, the whole of their stock must be sold and the business wound up. To facilitate this, they have determined to

Commence a Clearing Sale on Monday 21st Dec.,

When they will offer their immense stock of

Cloths and Clothing, Shirts, Drawers, Hats, Caps, &c.

AT COST AND UNDER. As this is a rare opportunity of securing first-class Goods at auction prices, they would recommend all to take advantage of the great bargains which shall be given. There will positively be no credit given during this sale. All indebted to the firm are respectfully requested to call and settle their accounts at once.

Guelph, 17th December 1888

A. THOMSON & CO

"GRECIAN BEND."

A. O. BUCHAM

Solicits the notice of Ladies to his

Stock of New Hoop Skirts,

JUST OPENED,

Including the Newest and most becoming Styles, as well as a LIMITED

SUPPLY of the GRECIAN BEND.

The prices at which we are offering this lot of Skirts, puts the

VERY BEST GOODS WITHIN THE REACH OF EVERY PERSON.

SUPERIOR SKIRTS, made of first-class steel, from 37 cents up. OUR BEST SKIRT, thirty-eight springs, three inch tape, double fastners, ONLY \$1.

Wyndham St., Guelph, December 15.

A. O. BUCHAM.