

THE REPORTER.

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THE REPORTER

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BETHUEL LOVERIN,
Publisher and Proprietor

Fire Protection.

As we anticipated, the good sense of our citizens fully endorsed the views which we expressed relative to the above question. The wisdom of having the matter settled at an early date is generally recognized, and we have been requested by several leading citizens to announce that a meeting of those interested will be held in the Town Hall at 8.00 on Monday evening next. We hope that every man having a dollar invested in the village will be present. All are interested, and all should be present. The matter will be fully discussed, and an approximate estimate of the of the probable cost of efficient fire extinguishing appliances will be laid before the meeting. It is desirable that whatever movement is made should be backed by, as near as possible, the unanimous assent of all property owners. Therefore, we hope that citizens will consider the matter carefully, and go to the meeting on Monday evening prepared to listen attentively and to vote and speak intelligently. This is no trifling matter. The sad experience of the village of Midland and the town of Port Perry last summer, should teach our citizens the folly of waiting until the steed is stolen before locking the stable door. Prompt action in some direction is desirable, and we trust that no time will be lost.

Private Bank.

Since our announcement that one of our citizens contemplated conducting a private banking business, the matter has taken more definite shape, and the whole subject will be brought up and discussed at the same meeting as the question of fire protection. So far as we can learn, a private bank in Farmersville would receive every support and encouragement. Leading business men state that they have felt the need of such a convenience very much, and that a bank here would save them much trouble and many vexatious delays. If only in the way of expediting the cashing of cheques and issuing of draughts, and in carrying current accounts and receiving deposits, a bank here would be an invaluable acquisition to the village. Satisfactory personal secur-

ity could, we are sure, be given by the proprietor, and as this is the best kind of security, those doing business with the bank would feel perfectly safe.

The Railway.

Voting on the By-law granting \$11,000 to the above railway will take place in the Municipality of Elizabethtown on Tuesday, May 5th. We hope all friends of the road will do all they can to carry the By-law in that township. We notice by the terms of the By-law that the company must establish and maintain two stations within the municipality, one within a half mile of the village of Lyn, and the other within the same distance of Unionville. The prospects of war in Europe and our own troubles in the North-West will no doubt detract somewhat from the interest in local affairs, but the friends of the road must be up and doing in order to have the By-law carried. Over-confidence was the cause of the defeat of the By-law in South Crosby and Leeds and Lansdowne rear. While the number of votes polled showed a large majority in favor of the bonus, the two-fifths of the electors not voting caused its defeat. Elizabethtown is a large township and it will require a large number of voters to record their votes in order to have the required number. The following letter explains the position of the Company in regard to the early commencement of the road:

New York, April 15, 1885.

G. T. Fulford, Esq., Sec'y B. W. & S.
S. M. R'y.

Dear Sir,—The construction company wish to know how soon the railway company will be ready to have the work commence under the contract. Will you be kind enough to write to the president and to the municipal councils who have not as yet passed their by-laws, viz.: North and South Crosby? I notice from the newspapers that Elizabethtown have advertised their by-law. If the municipalities act promptly no delays will arise, but if they keep waiting and lose valuable time, the construction company will put all their energies in their western contracts, and if any delays occur it will be the fault of the municipalities, for we have been and are now ready but cannot keep capital idle for any great length of time. Please make the enquiry and let me know the result, so I can inform the construction company.

Eugene M. Cole.

From the above letter it will be seen that the immediate construction of the railway depends altogether upon the action of the municipalities. We understand that steps are being taken to have the By-law re-submitted in South Crosby and rear of Leeds and Lansdowne, when it will doubtless be carried by large majorities. North Crosby, the only remaining munic-

pality, is prepared to vote on the question as soon as satisfactory assurance is given that the railway company mean business. From this it will be seen that our railway prospects are by no means bad, and that we may rely on the construction being commenced next summer, should these municipalities grant their bonuses.

The Rebellion.

Affairs in the North-West are approaching a crisis. The soldiers are well advanced toward the rebel basis of operations, and news of an important battle between Gen. Middleton's force and those under Riel's personal command, in the neighborhood of Batoche, may be expected before Saturday. Gen. Middleton is sending his forces down both sides of the Saskatchewan - simultaneously, thereby making sure that no way shall be left open for the escape of any of the rebels, as he is evidently of opinion that they would sooner run than fight. He has divided his force about evenly and apparently thinks that either division would be able to overcome Riel's forces should they meet them. In the event of Riel's advancing down either side of the river it is probable that he would be able to engage whichever wing of Middleton's force he happened to meet, singly, as the presence of timber along the banks would prevent anything like effective co-operation on the part of the disengaged division on the opposite side of the river. On Tuesday, the appalling news was received that Fort Pitt had fallen, and that two more victims (Mounted Policemen) have been added to the already large list of killed during the present deplorable outbreak. It is to be hoped that this despatch tells the worst, but there are unhappily grave reasons for supposing that the whole party at Fort Pitt, consisting of Inspector Dickens, twenty-five Mounted Police, and a few families of settlers have also been massacred. The messengers who brought the news to Battleford are doubtless those who were sent out from there some time ago to ascertain the fate of Fort Pitt, and there is unfortunately little room to doubt the correctness of their mournful story. No information seems to have been obtained concerning the whereabouts of the survivors if indeed any escaped after the fall of the fort. Inspector Dickens, who commanded the force at Fort Pitt, is the youngest son of the famous novelist.

The Eastern War Cloud.

It was thought last week that negotiations which were in progress for a peaceful settlement of the difficulties between England and Russia would be successful, but later advices show that the question is far from being settled. Constant telegraphic communication between the English

cabinet and St. Petersburg is still being kept up, but the explanations of the Russian attack and slaughter of the Afghans are anything but satisfactory. It is generally thought that Russia is prevaricating in order to gain time to concentrate all available troops on the Afghan frontier. In the meantime, England has not been idle, and throughout all her possessions liable to be affected by a war with Russia, military activity has characterized the past month. Especially has this been the case in India, against which Russia's aggressive movement is directed. The Indian army has been largely reinforced and put in a state of thorough efficiency.

SHeldon. Obituary.

One by one our old residents are passing away to that bourne from whence no traveller returns. This week we are called upon to chronicle the death of Stephen Sheldon, who died at his residence in this village, after a short illness, on Wednesday last, 15th inst., in the 77th year of his age. Mr. Sheldon was for many years a resident of Plum Hollow, where he was known as an exemplary member of the Baptist denomination, and a leader in every good work. Having amassed a competency and wishing to be relieved of the cares and anxieties of a farmer's life, he removed to this village a few years ago, carrying with him the respect and esteem of a large circle of friends and acquaintances. Mr. Sheldon was twice married, his second wife being the widow of the late Reuben Algire. His wife survives him. The funeral services were conducted in the Methodist Church by Rev. Mr. Sherman, assisted by Rev's Barnett and Blair. The remains were taken to the family burying ground at Plum Hollow for interment.

Elizabeth Nash (nee Carman), born in Matilda, August 3rd, 1795, died in Elizabethtown March 17th, 1885, at the advanced age of nearly 90 years. Her father, Jacob Carman, grandfather of our townsman, Geo. Nash, Esq., died at the age of 95, and on his ninetieth birthday was able to cut and split 100 fence rails in a day. He used to walk to church regularly a distance of three miles, rather than be bothered hitching up a horse—an example for the young men of to-day, who, if they would possess the sturdy vigor and ripe age of their brave fathers must nourish themselves in their fathers, heroic faith. Starting with the subject of this memoir as the first generation: she had 10 children, 41 grandchildren, 56 great-grandchildren, and 2 great-great-grandchildren, having lived to be contemporary with her children of the 4th generation. And then, as a shock of corn in its season, gathered by angel reapers into the garner of God. May parents and children clasp glad hands on the banks of eternal deliverance.