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SUN PRINTING COMPANY.

ALFRED MARKHAM, Manager.

THE SEMI-WEEKLY SUN

ST. JOHN, N. B., AUGUST 8, 1900.

HUGGING THE MACHINE.

"Shake hands with the boys for "me, and hug the members of the "much abused threshing machine!— "Preston." Such are the concluding words of the despatch sent from Toronto to Mr. McNish on the night following the stealing of the seat for West Elgin. Mr. Preston is now a superintendent of immigration offices. He lives in Europe and costs the country about six thousand dollars a year, half salary and half alleged expenses. On the day that he sent the above message he was manager of the machine. The very next day he received his official appointment. But though he is far away, the spirit of his message to Mr. McNish still abides with his party and its leaders. This is shown by the story of the West Huron and Brockville election cases.

In February, 1899, a federal by-election was held in West Huron and the government candidate was declared elected. A few months later the same thing happened in Brockville. These elections afforded some surprises In one of the Huron polls only 39 votes were counted for the conservative candidate, while 44 men made affidavits that they had handed to the deputy ballots marked for him. In another poll there was a greater deficiency, and these were samples of the whole. Torn official ballots were found on the floor. Blank ballots were found in the boxes. One of the returning officers let the cat out of the bag by boasting that he had himself voted twenty-three times for the government candidate. Naturally the men whose votes were stolen were indignant, and Mr. Borden, one of the members for Halifax, was asked to demand a parliamentary investigation.

Mr. Borden collected his facts, made his charges, and asked for a reference to the privileges committee. He brought the matter up on a question of privilege and as such it was decided.

Sir Wilfrid Laurier began with heroic promises. He consented at once to the inquiry. He spoke beautifully about the sanctity of the ballot and declared amid applause "if "anyone has contravened the law, it "is fair and right that this should "be investigated, and that we should "know now, henceforth and forever, "that the will of the people must be "expressed as the people wish to express it, however severe the consequences may be on one side or the "other."

This state of virtue lasted about a week. When the privileges committee began to get in its work the obstructors began to get in theirs. Many and ingenious were the devices for impeding the inquiry.

Yet it made progress. It was proved that bogus ballots were used, that the number of them corresponded with the number of lost conservative, and that the sham ballots were marked for the government candidate. So far as West Huron was concerned the evidence was complete of a deep and well planned conspiracy to steal the election by stealing good ballots and substituting bogus ballots marked for Holmes. The returning officer who boasted of his achievements was however, not examined. After the premier had declared in favor of a thorough inquiry, the premier's organizer for Ontario had an interview with this officer, who thereupon went away and hid himself.

At length the government majority in the committee insisted on closing up the inquiry for the session. Nothing could turn them from their purpose and they actually suspended operations for the year, while nine witnesses who had come all the way from Goderich were waiting in the corridors to be examined. The enquiry thus stood over to the session of 1900, and the evidence was reported to the house.

Doubtless it was the intention at that time to have the election before the house met again. This programme was not carried out, and when the house met last February Mr. Borden was on hand ready to resume the investigation. As soon as the committee was struck he rose as before, to a question of privilege, and made his motion for renewing the inquiry. But the ministers had discovered that this was not a question of privilege. It had changed its character in a year and now a notice was required. Notice was given, and when the motion was again reached Mr. Borden was informed that it was an opposed motion and must take its turn with debatable questions. There was not a word now about the sanctity of the ballot or the will of the people. Sir Wilfrid and his colleagues were now dead against the inquiry, though they did not yet admit it. They pretended to be only concerned for the rules of the house.

Finding the rules of the house and every form of obstruction used against him, Mr. Borden took the grip with the government straight by dropping the motion from the order paper and bringing it in as an amendment to the supply. Then the issue had to be faced.

The government tried to face it by directly calling on the house to vote down the motion. Sir Louis Davies declared that the committee was not a fit court to try such cases. Other ministerialists opposed an enquiry anywhere, and asserted that the house had nothing to do with such matters. The government had evidently determined to vote down the motion and choke off all further inquiry.

There was reason for this. In the meantime the chief operator in the seat stealing plot had confessed. Pritchett had sworn that he was paid to go around teaching specially selected deputy returning officers how to "switch" ballots. He had given the name of his employer, of his paymaster and his students, with the details of the method, and the extent of the fraud, and of the price paid by the party for the job. So the investigation had to be stopped.

But then came in a new difficulty. While most of the government supporters were willing to assist in the choking operation, some were not. Two or three members on the government side calmly refused to be parties to this act of strangulation. Two of them said that there was certainly fraud proved and that the culprits should not be shielded. This frightened other members. Warnings of the clergy and of the religious and independent press increased the panic. As the debate went on members began to get letters from home which made them feel that the public conscience was aroused. They began to perceive that this matter could not be suppressed in the way proposed.

Sir Wilfrid saw the danger, and changed his policy so suddenly that he took the breath away from those followers of his who had made light of the whole affair. He became solemn. He declared that without doubt there was an organized conspiracy to steal the people's votes. He said it was far-reaching and serious, and required prompt and decisive measures for its suppression. Though he called upon the house to vote down Borden's motion and thus kill the inquiry then half completed, he pledged himself to appoint a royal commission of superior court judges to investigate these election cases and any others brought to notice. This inquiry he declared with solemnity would be searching and thorough. It would begin forthwith, and never stop until the whole conspiracy were exposed.

Once more the premier received his meed of praise, though this time it was administered with caution, in memory of the other enquiry which was promised and begun and then choked off. A few days later, when Sir Wilfrid refused to allow the judges to use the evidence taken by the committee, refused to authorize the court to take the testimony of those who desired to tell how they voted, and finally refused to provide that the West Huron and Brockville cases should be the first taken up, the suspicion deepened.

June has come and gone. July has passed. August is passing. The commission has been appointed, but it has not held a court or called a witness. The members of the machine are at large and happy. Some of them are enjoying government offices. Some are engaged in arranging for the coming election. All are on good terms with the party, and rejoicing in their deliverance from the peril that seemed impending. There is no reason to suppose that any change in the election methods is intended, or that the party has dispensed with the service of the machine which stole the elections in Brockville and West Huron. The leader and organization are hugging the machine.

FAST STEAMING.

The trial of the torpedo boat Viper indicates great possibilities in the turbine motor, for the speed of a torpedo boat today may be the speed of an ocean liner in a few years. Doubtless the Viper is built on lines which give great motive power while reducing the resistence to a minimum, but the history of marine architecture shows that the larger passenger ships have competed closely in speed with these light craft built with a special view to swiftness. Before the Viper was built, the Albatross, with a speed of thirty to thirty-one knots, represented the limit of speed, even in torpedo boats. In May last the Viper beat this by four knots. The other day in her second trial a speed of thirty-six knots was reached, and still later the boat covered a measured mile at a speed of thirty-seven and one-eighth knots, or forty-three miles an hour. This is the rate of a fast railway passenger train, and suggests the possibilities of crossing the Atlantic in less than four days. Steamships of twenty-three knots' average speed, or say twenty-four to twenty-five trial maximum, make the distance between eastern and western land points in five days and a half. The Viper, if she were an ocean ship, and could maintain a rate three knots less than her trial mile, would come easily inside the four days' time. Other things being equal, the turbine equipment seems to have added seven knots, or more than eight miles an hour, to the speed of Her Majesty's torpedo boats. So far as is yet revealed, there is no reason why it should not be applied with the same results to commercial shipping.

QUEENS COUNTY.

The action taken on Saturday by the liberal conservatives of Queens will perhaps give pause to Mr. L. P. Farris, the aspiring senior member for that constituency. The prospective retirement of the provincial premier and of the chief commissioner, which has stirred the ambition of several members, and it is said that Mr. Farris has made sure of one of the portfolios. He is also reported to have announced that he would be returned without opposition on his acceptance of office. This, at least, is a vain boast. Mr. Farris will be opposed by Mr. H. B. Hetherington, who has accepted the unanimous nomination of the liberal conservative convention.

Mr. Hetherington does not need an introduction to the electors of Queens. He is a native of this county, and in the last provincial campaign was associated with Mr. Woods in a campaign which was almost successful in capturing that stronghold of the government. The contest made it clear that the position was not impregnable.

Since then Mr. Farris and his friends received a rude shock when they found the power broken which they had so long exercised in municipal affairs. In the election of councillors the friends and supporters of Mr. Blair and Mr. Farris had long used their influence and had succeeded in making the council a party machine, to the great discredit of the municipality and the serious disadvantage of the taxpayers. Mr. Hetherington took a hand in a recent municipal campaign in which the electors rose against this injurious domination and brought it to a sudden and inglorious end. Even the blandishment of Mr. Blair, who was hurried to the scene, failed to stem the tide. The happy result of this overturn has been seen in a more economical and much more effective county government and the management of municipal affairs in the interest of the people, and not of the political machine.

In nominating Mr. Hetherington the liberal consrevatives have chosen a candidate who has thus already rendered the county some service. It is also to his credit among other things that he has been selected for violent and abusive attack at the hands of Mr. Tarte and of La Patrie. Though the charges made against him by the master of the administration at Ottawa are false, it is quite true that Mr. Hetherington has discussed some matters, notably the question of the Canadian contingents in Africa, in a spirit quite opposed to the views of Mr. Tarte and Mr. Bourassa. The people of Queens will not think the less of Mr. Hetherington because he is one of the "mischievous imperialists" whom Mr. Tarte and La Patrie do not like. The determination of the Queens county liberal conservatives to oppose the local government at the by-election, if one should be ordered, is the proper attitude. This fine example was set in Carleton county, whose people won for themselves great praise by their independence and public spirit. The retirement of Mr. Emmerson and the resignation of Mr. White will make a considerable change in the personnel of the administration. But the government will remain, what it is now, a mere appendage to the government at Ottawa and a creature of the minister of railways unless the people interfere with the programme and elect men who are not in the Ottawa and Fredericton combination.

At this critical time a few more by-elections may give great results in checking existing evils. Within two years the people of Prince Edward Island, in by-elections alone, have swept away a two-thirds majority and left the government dependent upon the casting vote of the speaker for a brief extension of its ignoble life. It stands today at the mercy of a purchased supporter, with the attorney general unable to get a seat, and the premier endeavoring to hold the government up until after the dominion elections.

The reaction in Manitoba began in by-elections and ended with the annihilation of a government which two years ago had only three or four opponents in the legislature. What has been done in Prince Edward Island and Manitoba can be done, and, we believe, will be done in this province.

MANY BAD BILLS.

Some more new unfinished Bank of New Brunswick bills showed up on Friday. They were of five and ten dollar denomination. The fives were in a somewhat more finished state than the first one discovered. All, however, are unsigned. A feature of the matter is that every one of the bills so far discovered are numbered 10,002, and all have come from Nova Scotia. It seems that the persons or persons who secured them from the Bank Note company have made that province the seat of operations. People who are fortunate enough to possess bank bills had better look over them to see if they are signed.

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BATTLE REPORTED

Between the Allies and Chinese, in Which the Former's Casualties Are Placed at Twelve Hundred.

British Consul at Tien Tsin Cables that the Advance Began on Saturday—Ministers Reported Safe on August First.

LONDON, Aug. 7, 3.40 a. m.—"The advance of the allied forces commenced today" cables the British consul at Tien Tsin under date of Aug. 4. This is the first official information received here that the attempt to relieve Pekin has begun. It is accepted as correct.

The British consul does not mention any fighting, but the Shanghai correspondent of the Daily Mail, telegraphing Sunday, says:

"The Pekin relief column is reported to have suffered a check. The Chinese are said to have adopted Tugela tactics, and after several hours of fighting to have retreated."

This is the only message received in London this morning bearing out the reports of Admiral Remey and Commanders Taussig regarding an engagement at Pei Tsang. The fact that the advance did not begin until Saturday is taken to strengthen the accounts of a battle Sunday, especially when it is said to have occurred so near Pekin as Pei Tsang.

In the same cablegram which was read in the house of commons the consul at Tien Tsin says:

"News from the Japanese legation has been received up to Aug. 1."

Therefore the edicts announcing the safety of the ministers on that date are confirmed.

Yesterday the Chinese minister, Chih Sen Lo Feng Lu, communicated to Lord Salisbury a message from the Tsung Li Yamen dated July 30, reiterating the statement that the ministers were safe on that day, and recounting the friendly relations existing between them and the Yamen, as well as reporting the sending of supplies to the legations by the Yamen. The message contains this important statement:

"A successful termination of the conference with the ministers for their conveyance under escort to Tien Tsin is expected, but on account of the recommencement of hostilities at Tien Tsin code telegrams for transmission to the representatives are considered undesirable."

This appears to confirm the statement that the Chinese government will endeavor to stop the march to Pekin by using the ministers as hostages.

The Lokal Anzeiger of Berlin, publishing an interview with Li Hung Chang, quotes him as declaring that China must not, in any circumstances, cede any more territory to any power. In reply to a question why the rebellion was not put down Earl Li is reported as having said:

"I blame Prince Tuan, the empress dowager and the whole Pekin government. But for their lack of energy the situation would never have become so serious."

The St. Petersburg correspondent of the Daily Mail says: "Active negotiations are proceeding between Russia and the United States, the probable outcome of which will be a resolution to uphold the integrity of China unconditionally."

A Shanghai correspondent of the same paper says that the Americans there are urging the appointment of Gen. MacArthur as commander in chief of the allied forces.

The Standard's Shanghai representative, wiring Sunday, says: It is clear that the march to the relief of Pekin will be anything but a walk-over. Japanese scouts have discovered a large force of Chinese southwest of Tien Tsin, and another large force in the vicinity of Lu Tai, to the eastward.

"It is learned now that the members of the Tsung Li Yamen who were put to death for their alleged pro-foreign proclivities, were not beheaded, but were cut in twain, this being the severest penalty under the Manchu code. Sheng declares that the grand council at Pekin was ignorant of the orders for the execution."

WASHINGTON, Aug. 6.—Interest in the Chinese situation was intensified today by the receipt of despatches from naval officers at Che Foo reporting official but apparently reliable reports of active and extensive conflict between the allied forces and the Chinese between Tien Tsin and Pekin. The report indicates unmistakably that the relief column has started in earnest and that it is meeting with determined opposition. Although neither of the naval despatches mention the presence of American troops in the reported engagements, it is generally assumed at the war department that at least a part of General Chaffee's small army was on hand and took an active and aggressive part in the affair.

WASHINGTON, Aug. 6.—The following cablegrams have been received at the navy department:

"CHE FOO, Aug. 6.—Bureau Navigation, Washington: British Fame reports unofficial engagement at Pei Tsang Sunday morning, 3 to 10.30. Allies' loss, killed and wounded, 1,200, chiefly Russians and Japanese. Chinese retreating.

(Signed) "TAUSSIG.

"CHE FOO, Aug. 6.—To Bureau Navigation, Washington: Unofficial report, believed reliable, about 16,000 allies heavily engaged Chinese at Pei Tsang at daylight of the 5th.

(Signed) "REMEY."

BERLIN, Aug. 6.—The German foreign office announced this evening that it had received no fresh China news, and that it doubted whether the advance of the allied forces from Tien Tsin had begun.

The Local Anzeiger publishes an interview which Dr. Zaker, its special correspondent, had with Li Hung Chang at Canton, July 5. Earl Li told the correspondent that the Boxers were not rebels but were true to the royal house. Their movement, he explained, was directed chiefly against native Christians who had been using international protection to oppress Boxers.

With reference to the missionaries he said:

"It is my firm conviction that the missionaries are always in danger, for the relations between the Chinese population and foreigners have been the cause of nearly all the troubles and will always continue to be."

Earl Li went on to say that the Chinese hatred of foreigners had been increased of late through the action of the powers, particularly in the seizure of Kiao Chou, which he described as an "exorbitant penalty for a couple of missionaries."

Referring to the murder of Baron Von Ketteler, German minister at Pekin, he gave a positive assurance that neither Prince Tuan nor any other member of the government knew of the intended killing, and he also declared that Baron Von Ketteler was not killed because he was a German, but simply because he was a foreigner. In a word he was a victim of the Chinese hatred of foreigners.

"The Chinese government is not strong enough to put down the Boxers," said Earl Li, "but the thought of accepting assistance from the powers to put them down is extremely repugnant to the government."

In reply to a question as to who was the head of the central government, he said it was administered by Prince Tuan in the name of the emperor.

ST. PETERSBURG, Aug. 6.—A telegram from Khabarovsk says:

"About 6,000 persons, railway officials and their families, have arrived here from Charbin (also written Harbin) and other points, having received orders from government officials to embark on steamers. Among them are 44 wounded and 33 on the invalid list.

"The Chinese railway company has given 5,000 roubles for ambulance purposes and for the construction of quarters for other refugees."

LONDON, Aug. 7, 4 a. m.—A Shanhai special, dated Aug. 6, says:

"Li Hung Chang has officially informed the consuls that the ministers left Pekin for Tien Tsin last Friday, Aug. 3, with Gen. Lung Yu in command of the escort. The consuls are by no means disposed to credit Earl Li's statement."

All other reports that have reached London up to this hour indicate that the ministers have not left Pekin.

BISHOP OF MAINE DEAD.

PORTLAND, Me., Aug. 5.—Right Rev. James Augustine Healey, Bishop of the Roman Catholic diocese of Maine, died at his Episcopal residence on Congress street at 1 o'clock this afternoon. Bishop Healey returned from Canada Friday night, where he had been on Episcopal business, and seemed to be in his usual health, though for many years he has been subject to frequent attacks of acute indigestion. Saturday he went to Biddeford on ecclesiastical affairs, returning home about 5 o'clock. At 9 o'clock he complained of indigestion and suffered for about two hours, finally getting relief through the attendance of Drs. Baker and McDonough. He slept well during the night and tried to get up this morning to say mass, but was unable to do so. The depression returned, from which he was temporarily relieved, but at 12 o'clock he began to grow weaker, so much so that at 12.30 he called for Father O'Brien, rector of the Cathedral parish, who administered the last sacraments.

Bishop Healey continued in good spirits and was conscious to the last. No arrangements have yet been made for the funeral, but announcement of the details will be given to the public in due time.

KINGS CO. S. S. CONVENTION.

The fourth session of the annual convention of the Kings County S. S. Association opened at Apohaqui, July 31, at 7.30 p. m. The devotional exercises were led by the Rev. D. Campbell of English Settlement, and closed with prayer by the Rev. W. J. Clements of Belleisle Creek.

A. E. Pearson gave a partial report of attendance. The Rev. R. W. J. Clements reported a number of resolutions. Among them was the following:

Resolved, that the members of this convention employ their best energies to secure the legal prohibition of the liquor traffic as an unqualified evil and an enemy to home, church and state, and especially in the Sunday schools to teach the children temperance principles and thus lay a good foundation of temperance sentiments for the future.

A partial financial report was given, showing the business part flourishing, with $68.23 on hand.

After a short report on Normal school work by the superintendent, the Rev. G. C. P. Palmer gave an interesting address on Teachers' Responsibility for the Spiritual Side of the Work.

The offering was then taken up. 138 reported present.

Adjourned with doxology and benediction by the Rev. B. H. Nobles.

LONDON, Aug. 7, 2 a. m.—A regular cyclone has prevailed throughout the United Kingdom since early last evening. Loss of life on land and sea and the destruction of shipping and other property is reported.

P. E. ISLAND.

Deliberate Suicide of an Aged Lady at West St. Peters.

Islanders Who Hold Positions of Honor — Has a Representative in China—Personal Items.

CHARLOTTETOWN, Aug. 2.—Among prominent Islanders who have arrived from other parts on a visit to their friends are: Kenneth Ferguson of Glace Bay, C. B., to Lot 48; Daniel Tandvin of Providence, R. I., to Charlottetown; Charles Howatt and Mrs. Howatt of Portland, Me., to Crapaud and North River; Prof. Thurlow, G. Oak, Chas. Smith and A. J. Small of Newburyport, Mass., to Union Road, Lot 33; Mr. and Mrs. Charles Stewart, Mrs. Alex. Stewart and children, Mrs. Ernest McCobb and two daughters of Pittsburg, Pa., to Malpeque.

George McAulay of St. Peter's Bay was convicted a few days ago of a violation of the C. T. Act. He was fined $50 and costs or two months' imprisonment.

Seventy dollars was realized at a strawberry and ice cream festival held in connection with the Methodist church at Brackley Point Road.

Dr. John M. Martin, formerly of Montague, has been appointed surgeon to the steamer Molacca, of the Peninsular and Oriental line. Under this appointment the doctor will spend the summer months in China and Japan. Dr. and Mrs. Martin spent a few weeks on this Island last summer.

Edward N. Bryan of Lot 11 and Lois Good of Hill's River were married in the Episcopal church at O'Leary on the 25th ult. Rev. Henry Harper officiated.

Miss Carrie Pridham of Summerside has returned from a trip to Sackville and Amherst, where she was visiting relatives.

At the last meeting of the P. E. Island cheese board in Charlottetown about 6,000 cheese were sold at 9 5-16 cents per lb., amounting to about $40,000. Mr. Clements, a prominent cheese buyer from Liverpool, has been spending a few days on the Island.

Miss Benedict and Miss Barbario of Campbellton, N. B., are visiting friends in this province.

Almer McEwen, assistant station agent at Souris, while coupling cars a few days ago had the thumb and one finger of his right hand so badly crushed that amputation was for a time thought to be necessary, but happily this has been averted.

Rev. John McLeod of Vanleek Hills, Ontario, with Mrs. McLeod and three children, are spending a few weeks on the Island. Mr. McLeod was born in Belfast, and has been absent twenty-one years.

A number of very rare birds have been shot here this summer. Among the number was a Canadian cuckoo, which species was never seen here before.

Vice-Principal Allan F. Matthews of the Alberton High School has been visiting Chatham, N. B.

Sarah Ross, daughter of Donald Ross of North Bedeque, and lately matron of the Vincent Memorial Hospital of Boston, was married last week to Thomas S. Owen of Roxbury, Mass., and formerly of Hamilton, P. E. I. Rev. H. S. Whidden officiated. Mr. and Mrs. Owen will reside in Roxbury, Mass.

Judge Warburton, the honorary representative in P. E. Island for the Associated Board of the Royal Academy of Music and Royal College of Music, London, England, has announced that at the examination in the "Elements of Music" held on June 2nd, Misses Annie Campbell, May Cotton and Maggie Martin of Charlottetown passed with very high marks.

Eben McLeod and wife of Chicago are visiting here. Mr. McLeod is the second son of Rev. J. M. McLeod, now of Vancouver, but formerly pastor of Zion church, Charlottetown. Mr. McLeod is chairman of the Western Passenger Association, formed ten years ago, and composed of all the large railroads west of Chicago, St. Louis and the Missouri River, some thirty-eight lines in all.

The Gavin school house was burned to the ground a few nights ago.

Mrs. Ellen De Grossie was found Monday evening hanged in her own house at West St. Peter's, Kings county. Mrs. De Grossie was 65 year old and had lived alone since the death of her husband, eight years ago. Everything went to show that she coolly premeditated the deed. On her bed she had placed the dress and clothing for her burial. Her money was placed where it could be easily found, and she had even tied a large white veil over her head and face.

Chas. D. McEachern, a young man from Belfast, leaves tomorrow morning en route to Glasgow. There he will join his cousin, Capt. N. J. McLeod, and together they will sail for Australia in a three-masted steel ship commanded by Captain McLeod. From Australia they will sail to South America, afterwards rounding Cape Horn and proceeding to San Francisco. Mr. McEachern expects to be absent about a year.

Mrs. Robert A. Strong, who has spent a year here, the guest of her daughter, Mrs. George W. Gardiner, left today on return to her home in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

Reginald McDonald of Georgetown has been appointed professor of history, geography and geometry in St. Dunstan's College.

A horse attached to T. J. Morris's delivery wagon backed over the Ferry wharf yesterday and was drowned. The animal was worth $150.

Rev. Charles A. McLeod, formerly of this city, was ordained a member of the Redemptorist order on the 25th ult. by Rev. J. J. Gleannon of Kansas City, where the ordination took place. After the ceremony Father McLeod proceeded to Boston, where he will remain until the 7th inst., when he returns to Kansas. He left Charlottetown eleven years ago.

This province it seems is represented in the person of Albert B. Penney of the U. S. marine corps among the reported wounded in China. Penney was born in Charlottetown 21 years ago. He enlisted in Charlestown, Mass., last September. He is bugler of the marine corps.

R. E. Palmer, C. E., of Vancouver, son of Charles Palmer, Q. C., of this city, left here Monday morning for Spain. He goes via New York and London. Mrs. Palmer will remain in Charlottetown until the end of September.

The body of Frederick Burke, who was drowned near the Block House about two months ago, was found last week near Pownal. The body had evidently been floating about for some time.

FIRE IN CHATHAM.

McDonald's sash and door factory, Chatham, was struck by lightning on Wednesday and burned to the ground. The World says: "The fire spread to a house owned by Kenneth McLennan, adjoining the factory, and occupied by Chas. E. Robinson, and burned it down. Mr. Robinson saved a good deal of his furniture, but some of it was stolen from the place to which it was carried for safety. He had no insurance. The house was insured for $600. The residence of Jas. Loggie, across the street from the factory, caught fire on top and in front, but was saved. The whole front was scorched, the windows were broken, and the house damaged by water. There was no insurance on it. Robert Wells's house was scorched a little and some glass was broken. Some of the sashes were got out of the burning building, and a pile of them caught fire in the street and burned. Mr. McDonald has $3,500 insurance, and the burned building, machinery and lumber were probably worth $20,000. It is a great blow to him, as he had built up the business by years of hard work. He will probably rebuild at once. The factory employed about thirty men and boys.

ELECTION RUMOR.

TORONTO, Aug. 4.—The Evening Telegram says: "The executive of the Ontario Reform Association, with Sir Richard Cartwright presiding, held a conference yesterday afternoon at the Crossin house, to review the political situation. As an outcome of the conference, it is reported today that the general elections for the dominion will be held on October 16."

Advertisements in THE SUN pay.