

# THE HURON SIGNAL

DEVOTED TO COUNTY NEWS

AND GENERAL INTELLIGENCE

THIRTY-EIGHTH YEAR, 1885

GODERICH, ONT., FRIDAY, SEPT. 25, 1885.

McGILLICUDDY BROS. PUBLISHERS

## THE HURON SIGNAL

Published every Friday Morning, by McGILLICUDDY BROS., at their Office, North St., GODERICH, ONTARIO.  
And is despatched to all parts of the surrounding country by the earliest mails and trains. By general admission it has a larger circulation than any other newspaper in this part of the country. It is one of the oldest, newest and most reliable journals in Ontario possessing, as it does, the fore-going essentials and being in addition to the above, a first-class family and friends paper—it is therefore a most desirable advertising medium.  
Terms.—\$1.50 in advance, postage pre-paid by publishers; \$1.75 if paid before six months; \$2.00 if not so paid. This rule will be strictly enforced.  
RATES OF ADVERTISING.—Eight cents per line for first insertion; three cents per line for each subsequent insertion. Yearly, half-yearly and quarterly contracts at reduced rates.  
JOB PRINTING.—We have also a first-class jobbing department in connection, and possessing the most complete and best facilities for turning out work in Goderich, are prepared to do business in this line at prices that cannot be beaten, and at a quality that cannot be surpassed.—*Terms Cash.*

FRIDAY, SEPT. 25th, 1885.

### YOUNG LIBERALS CONVENTION

The Young Men's Liberal convention closed on Wednesday of last week, but the results of the work done at the gathering will be published in the next issue of the Signal. The Young Men's Liberal convention was not a success, and this fact is a proof, if proof were needed, that the business done was unimpaired to the interests. As has been aptly said, "The surest way to discredit the enemy is to find out what they don't want you to do, and then to do it." That evidently, has been the plan upon which the Liberal convention worked. The Tory press has paid them on the back, in hope that they would bolt from the Reform ranks, but without avail, and to day the Reform party of Canada, young and old, is more firmly knit together than ever before. Our friends the enemy say that the convention has been unfruitful and that the results—that so definite point of view has been promulgated. "If that be so, would they complain? Can it be believed that the Tory press and party had hoped that the Young Liberals would formulate a policy that would divide the country and drive the Reform party, place and enmity? We do not think so, and we do not believe the intelligent public will take this view of the case. A broad platform has been laid down by the Young Men's Liberal convention, and when the plans are viewed it will be seen that it is sufficiently broad for all honest men to stand upon, regardless of old time association, and of slight width to give full scope to the widest intelligence of honorable men of all parties, creeds and political affiliations. The platform embraces:

- 1) Condemnation of the iniquitous Dominion franchise bill, and advocacy of its repeal.
- 2) That Canada have the power to regulate commercial treaties and to terminate its own extradition treaties.
- 3) That the right to impose customs taxation should be limited to the necessities of the Government economically administered.
- 4) That steps be at once taken—without interfering with the present proportion of each province in that body—to reform or reconstruct the Senate in such a manner as to make it a representative or elective chamber.
- 5) That the system of granting superannuations to Civil Service employees be abolished.
- 6) That the expenditure of public money in assisting passages of emigrants to this country be discontinued, as the resources of the Dominion are sufficient inducements to all desirable classes of emigrants.
- 7) That the increase in our public debt from less than \$100,000,000 to confederation to nearly \$300,000,000—is an increase out of all proportion to the growth of population or the creation of wealth of this country; and that the present oppressive burdens should be decreased.
- 8) That the British North America Act be so amended as to more clearly define the respective functions of the Dominion Parliament and of Provincial Legislatures, and in case of future dispute between the legislative bodies, the decision should rest with the courts and not with the Governor General in Council.
- 9) That legislation by the Imperial Parliament be sought with the view of restoring to the Dominion the power possessed by the former Province of Canada to alter or amend the constitution of the country.
- 10) That the practice of importing men to fill positions in the civil service which should and can be filled by Canadians be condemned; and that the creation of dual offices, and the duplication of the salaries of public officials be

### OUR CONTRIBUTION TO SCIENCE

It is refreshing to find a candid man among even the occasional contributors to the Star. The correspondent who was describing the geological formation of our noble Maitland admits his liability to err—who of us is infallible?—by saying:—  
"I do not profess to be a geologist, but simply a student of books recording the wonders of nature, especially the recent discoveries of geologists."  
And then he virtually acknowledges his mistake in the following words:—  
"The similarity in appearance and structure between the Laurentian and Silurian deposits being so striking, it may be that the limestone rocks forming the bed of the Maitland river really do belong to the latter series."  
It is a pleasure to set right on so important a question as the great Laurentian formation so gentlemanly and frank a seeker after scientific truth as the correspondent of the Star appears to be. His love for science, as shown by his admiration for our local geological formations, and his evident sincerity, as evinced by a candid acknowledgment of his mistake regarding the Silurian rocks that line the bed of our own Maitland, give us hopes that the gentlemanly correspondent may yet attain to a high and honored position among our Canadian geologists.  
There is a lesson here for the editor of the Star. He should imitate this candid correspondent, and publicly acknowledge his errors. But candor and truth need not be looked for in the editorial columns of that marvellous political stonemason. Besides, in recounting his political errors, the editor of the Star would fill an edition much larger than that of the exhibition globe.

### GODERICH OR CLINTON?

We have repeatedly pointed out that Mr. John C. Dettler is occupying an anomalous position by remaining Chairman of Goderich school board while he resides in the town of Clinton, where he is giving all his business energy and his closest attention in working up a prosperous dry goods business. One of the troubles arising from this unhappy state of affairs is that reports of the school inspector, which was sent from Toronto in time to reach Mr. Dettler twelve hours before the school met had been a resident of Goderich, did not reach him at all. This is Mr. Dettler's explanation, as reported by the Star:—  
"Mr. Dettler stated in explanation that the report had been addressed to him at Clinton; he reached Clinton on Monday afternoon, and being in Goderich to attend the meeting that evening did not receive the report until the following day. The report should have been sent to him earlier, as there was a whole month in which to prepare it, and had he expected it and waited in Clinton to receive it that afternoon, he would have been compelled to drive up here instead of taking the train."  
We are glad this statement has been made by Mr. Dettler. It is a strong argument why he should not live in Clinton while he attempts to perform the duties of Chairman of the Goderich school board. The envelope enclosing the report bears the Toronto post-mark Aug. 1, 3 p. m. and must have left by the western mail train 45 minutes later, arriving at Clinton at 9 p. m. on Saturday, ready for distribution on Monday morning. The envelope shows that it was made up in Toronto post office in ample time for that evening's mail. But even admitting that it did not come west until the Monday afternoon train, that proves simply this: That had the Chairman of Goderich school board been a resident of our own town (as indeed, he should be), a letter by the afternoon mail addressed to him here would have reached him at 4 p. m., or four hours before the meeting. But, judging by the Toronto postmark, he would have got it at 8 a. m., or twelve hours before the board met. The Chairman of the board, however, may excuse himself in the language of Sir Boyle Roche:—"I'm not a bird, I can't be in two places at once." The inspector, some will say, should have telegraphed the Chairman, as to where he would be for a day or two before the board met!

The chairman's declaration that the report should have been sent earlier than the last day is absurd. So long as it could reach his hands before the board met there was time enough. The sequence has proved that it is not prudent for any person to leave a communication in the hands of the officials of the public school board, if they wish it to be kept inviolable until the board has first had it read to them. The inspector evidently knows his men, and did not wish the report to arrive too early and be canvassed on the streets in language not the most elegant or refined (as indeed was done) before the board and the general public had heard a word of it. Members of the board may blame the secretary

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to the report after the paper had been read publicly at their last meeting, but they have nothing to say about any one giving away the contents of the document before it was read to the board. We do not hold the chairman personally responsible for this "give away," but he should make enquiries as to how and why interested parties were made acquainted with the contents of the inspector's report, while the board was forced to remain in ignorance of its contents for a whole month after he had received it. Of course a special meeting of the board means that the gentleman from Clinton must leave his business and come all the way to Goderich; and perhaps some of the members of the board who were clamoring for special meetings a year ago are not now desirous of disturbing the comfort of the non-resident chairman.

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SIR,—I wish to reply to some statements that were made at the last special meeting of the school board by H. W. Ball, the self-important member from St. Andrew's ward. This man is well known as a blowhard and a falsifier, and it is hardly worth my while to reply to him, so low does he stand in public estimation. However, even a skunk such as he can raise a bad stench in any neighborhood, and the best way to do after the little animal has caused the nuisance, is to fumigate the surroundings. To this end I will proceed to state the facts of my connection with work for the school board for years back, years before the gabby little native of St. Giles illuminated the board with his florid cockney oratory. For the past five years I have done nearly all the work required by the board, and have always charged reasonably and done the work satisfactorily. In nearly every instance the work has been secured by my being the lowest tenderer. There have been one or two occasions when I received the work without tender, but on these occasions no other mechanic was available, and the work was imperatively needed. One of these occasions was last spring when H. W. Ball came to me and requested me to put up convenient additional buildings to the school property. I did the work, and when it was done Mr. Ball, and said that the chairman of the contingent committee would not give an order for payment until the board met, and that I would like to have the money, as I had been at the expense of paying hands, &c. He then wrote out an order for the amount, (although he was neither chairman of the board nor of the contingent committee), and instructed me to have it cashed. I cashed the order, because I wanted the money, but I couldn't help thinking that H. W. Ball took a great deal of authority upon himself sometimes. With regard to the job at which this man Ball cavilled last meeting, I need only say that last year I was instructed by the board to get lumber for six sets of blackboards for the town schools. There was no suitable kiln-dried lumber in town, and I had to order it from Buchanan, Lawson & Robinson's planing mill. This year Mr. Buchanan informed the contingent committee that the lumber was ready, and it had better be secured at once or it would be placed on sale. I was then instructed to get the lumber and bring it to the schools until the board met. At that time I was working at Mr. Seager's residence, and I at once proceeded to the school, placed the lumber there, and left my tools so that I could go on with the work after the board gave final instructions, and with as little delay as possible. Between the time of delivering the lumber and beginning work at the central school I was engaged at work at Mr. Thom. McLean's and Mr. William Watson's residence, and had to use some of the tools, and was so employed until the 7th of Aug. at which time I began the work at the school. This was four days after the school board meeting, which was held on the 3rd of Aug. Ball said at the last meeting that I went to work before the board met. This is another of his lies, as I have already shown, and caretaker McDougall proved it to be false at the meeting in question. I did not start to work on the blackboards until some days after the board met at that time. While I was working on the blackboards it was intimated to me that work was required on the central school roof, and that as my tools were there I might as well complete the repairs. I went to Ball and asked him about it. He said he was willing that I should do the work if the other members of the committee were agreeable. I went to Mr. Morton and the chairman of the committee asked Ball about the matter, and that person again expressed a desire that I should go on with the work. I did so, and sent in my account at the last meeting. This is the true story of the whole affair. With the disgraceful wranglings at the board I have nothing to do, save as a ratepayer I believe that such presumptions and lying upstarts as Ball should never be allowed to sit there, and that I hope St. Andrew's ward will rid itself of his presence and put in some man with character, intelligence, truthfulness and honesty next New Year.

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DATE	Passed from Goderich Model School.	Passed from other Schools.
1880 June	17 out of 29 or 59 per cent	32 out of 40 or 80 per cent
1881 Dec.	20 " 29 " 69 "	46 " 58 " 79 "
1881 June	12 " 19 " 63 "	33 " 48 " 68 "
1881 Dec.	18 " 28 " 64 "	26 " 38 " 68 "
1882 June	19 " 22 " 86 "	14 " 24 " 58 "
1882 Dec.	18 " 22 " 82 "	15 " 23 " 69 "
1883 June	20 " 27 " 74 "	13 " 27 " 48 "
1883 Dec.	35 " 38 " 92 "	21 " 52 " 40 "
1884 June	35 " 35 " 100 "	31 " 40 " 78 "
1884 Dec.	32 " 56 " 21 "	17 " 53 " 32 "
1885 June	14 " 49 " 29 "	18 " 30 " 60 "