Sproat, 2 that the L. S. fees be $4 per school instead of $5.—Carried.

The Report was adopted as amended.

By-law for raising $200 for building a bridge on the boundary line of the Co. of Huron and Co. Middlesex, was read and passed.

The Gaol and Court House Com. reported, recommending steps towards the erecting a separate Registry Office, defining the Court-house keeper's duties, and recommending that the sum of the Court Room be granted to the Grand Jury of Huron.

After some discussion, it was moved by Mr. Kribs, seconded by Mr. Farquharson, That the Court House be not let for the purpose mentioned in the last clause of the report. On the yeas and nays being taken there were.

For the amendment: Messrs. Sproat, Elliot Warwick, Downey, Fisher, Hogg, Wallace, Miller, Allan, Scott, Hayes, McKinnon, Purvis, Kribs, Farquharson, Dolson, R. Brown, Smillie—18.

For the Report: Messrs. Bishop, A. Johnston, Cameron, Sutton, R. Johnston, Martin, Nicholson, Schooles, Ross, Wilson, Leckie, McDonald, Parsons, Creasy, A. Brown, Gibson, Messer, Stark, Buchanan, Dobbin, McIlmyre, Mallough, Frost, Stynne, C. Whitehead, Lumsden, Currie, Spencer, J. Whitehead—29. The Report was confirmed, among others.

The Report of the Equalization and Assessment Com. was read and adopted. Report of the Roads and Bridges Com. of Bruce was read, when it was moved in amendment, to No. 2 of the Report by Mr. Gibbs, seconded by Mr. Dobbin, That the sum of $800 be granted for the erection of a bridge on the Pensaucker and Khyn River, lost on a division. Report adopted.

Moved by Mr. Kribs, seconded by Mr. Hogg, that a By-law be passed, empowering the Co. of Bruce to raise by debentures the sum of $20,000 to be paid in ten years, to be expended in cutting down hills and other improvements on the Inglis Falls road in Bruce. Lost on a division.

It was resolved, upon the Postmaster General to change the mail route, commencing from the Lake Shore to the Goderich and Sangeen Road in the Township of Huron.

Moved by Mr Ross, seconded by Mr Lumsden, and resolved, That the Warden petition the Magistrates in session to take steps to have a small advance on Constables' disbursements in taking prisoners to gaol given them until their accounts are returned from the Government Audit.

A motion for Messrs. Wallace and Adair, for $50 to be laid out on Goderich and S. road, through Sangeen, was lost on a division.

A motion of Mr Lumsden, for $50 to be expended on road between the Townships of Arran and Derby was lost on a division.

Report of the School Com. was read and adopted.

The Finance Com. reported, recommending payment of the following accounts:—Elijah Moore $1 50, R. H. Bonis $119 29, Rob. Bonis $2.63, R. C. Moir $19 93, Jos. Nunn $9 27, John Ferguson $131.45, Rev. John Stewart $67.50, John Fair & Co. $7.50, M. C. Cameron $16 95, J. V. Detlor & Son $193 40, W. T. Cox $17 20, T. J. Murchison $8 28, T. J. Murchison $4 27, John Mellory $33 50, D. Kirk and others $26.12, Story & Turner $8.85, W. Brown $11.25, Rev. J. P. Carman $13 50, Rev. A. Tolmie $19 50, J. Sherlock, $11, M. Heffernan $12 01 as per accounts certified by Mr. Day $218 23, D. Fletcher $37.80, W. Johnston $32.70, J. Vanstone $150 00, referring to motion of A. Cameron asking a grant for $300 to be laid out on the Lake Shore road, Stanley, recommended that it be not granted. W. T. Cox $25 25, Jas. Hicks $11 00. The Committee recommended Mr Ross for the local nature of the statistics accompanying his letter, and recommended that Mr. Nair receive the sum of $50 10 as a rebate allowance.

The Council adjourned on Saturday morning, and Tuesday the 6th day of June next, after a very harmonious session.

Complimentary Dinner in Goderich to D. H. Ritchie, Esq.

A SPLENDID SUCCESS!

According to the announcement in our last issue, the United Counties' Council gave a Complimentary Dinner in Dark's Hotel to D. H. Ritchie, Esq., late Cos. Clerk, on Thursday evening last. Although the ovation was determined upon at the last session of Council, nothing definite was decided upon until the Tuesday evening before it came off; hence outsiders had little or no notice of the event, and a third-rate hotel-keeper would have had a splendid chance to excuse himself for a *third-rate* dinner, but as it was, the attendance was large, and Dark proved himself fully equal to the occasion.

The Dinner was laid out in the large Dining-Room of the British Exchange Hotel, which was very tastefully decorated for the occasion, and we appeal to all who were present if doubts arise when we state that the dinner was one of the best cooked, best served and best got up generally that has ever been seen in Goderich. We have attended public feasts in the first Hotels of Toronto, Hamilton, Belleville, &c., but we assert positively that no one of them surpassed, if, indeed, it equaled, that which did Mr. Dark so much credit on Thursday night. The following is a transcript of the handsome *bill of fare* which each guest found beside his plate:

BILL OF FARE.

BOILED,

Round of Beef—Carrots. Turkey—Celery Sauce.
Leg of Mutton—Caper Sauce. Beef Tongue.

ENTREES.

Salmi of Duck, Fricasseed Chicken, Curried Chicken.

ROAST,

Saddle of Mutton, Turkey,
Beef, Chickens,
Goose—Apple Sauce.

VEGETABLES,

Boiled Potatoes, Cabbage.
Turnips, Mashed Potatoes,
Pickles, Beets.

PASTRY,

Plum Pudding, Peach Tart, Trifle,
Mince Pie, Raspberry Tart, Tartlets,
Apple Pie, Plum Tart.

Madeira Jellies, Almond Blanc Mange.,

DESSERT,

Almonds, Pound Cake, Celery,
Sponge Cake, Walnuts, Filberts,
Raisins, Apples.
Ales, Liquors.

After the numerous guests had satisfied themselves that the bill of fare represented all that was desirable for appeasing the most epicurean appetite, the cloth was removed and we had an opportunity to look around and discover who was present. Mr. Ritchie, the guest of the evening, was in the seat of honor at the centre of the table running across the head of the room. On his right sat Dr. McDougall and A. M. Ross, Esq., on the left Robt. Gibbons, Esq., Warden, who acted as chairman, James Broceleank, Warden of Bruce, and James Watson, Esq., merchant. Amongst those present we noticed the members of the Counties Council with *hardly an exception*, His Honor Judge Cooper, H. McDermott, Esq., S. Pollock, Esq., Hugh Johnston, Esq., I. F. Toms, Esq., Hugh Cameron, Esq., Principal of the Common Schools, Goderich, W. Mackay, Esq., Jno. Kay, Esq., Wm. Young, Esq., of Colborne, Peter Adamson, Esq., Cos. Clerk, Geo. Gould, Esq., Pro. Clerk, Bruce, and many other gentlemen, the company numbering in all about *eighty*.

The 1st and 2nd Vice-Chairs were occupied by Messrs. Adamson and Sutton.

The Goderich Brass Band was stationed in the Orchestra, and did first rate service during the evening, the pieces performed so creditably being neither too long nor too loud for such an occasion.

The Chairman proposed in succession the customary loyal toasts of the Queen, Prince of Wales, and Governor General, all of which were received with marked demonstrations of enthusiasm.

'The Army and Navy,'—(cheers.) Band 'Red White and Blue.'

Sergeant Johnston responded. He said he felt happy to have the honor of returning thanks for the manner in which the toast had been drunk by the *confederation*, he might say—(laughter and applause.) He trusted every one present loved and revered their noble Queen, and the flag under which they lived. He spoke of the danger of war and hoped we might have peace. He also alluded to the poor opinion he entertained of the general appearance of the American soldiers, as he had seen them. The gallant sergeant was loudly applauded.

Sergeant Spence said he had spent 20 years of his life in the British army, and had seen something of the service. Should trouble arise he firmly believed the British Army would maintain its ancient reputation for bravery and efficiency—(cheers.)

'The Volunteers and Militia of Canada' was proposed and received with repeated plaudits.

Captain Ross responded, saying that it was well known that a soldier could always fight better when his blood was up, and of course the same might be said of speaking. He generally looked upon this toast as something to get the steam up with—[laughter.] Alluding to the splendid speech of Mr. Johnston, he said he [Mr R.] was what might be called a leather bed soldier, and he thought it not derogatory to his character as a volunteer to express the hope that he might be kept long out of active service. Canadians should remember that Britain could hardly spare more than 60,000 men to assist them in a struggle, and hence the necessity of due provision for our own defence. We should not underrate the military power of the Americans, and it was absolutely necessary for this country to be placed in a proper state of defence in order to maintain its institutions we love. We could not go on with the small force on paper we had hitherto. He hoped the people would heartily support the Government should it decide to call out the Militia for drill and thorough preparation—[cheers.]

Mr. Toms also responded. He said he had been called upon unexpectedly and was rather new in the business. He believed it was quite true he had been successful in drawing one of first prizes in the recent lottery, but he was quite willing to serve in the militia under such men as the guest of the evening—[applause] —who would lead them on to victory and all that sort of thing—[laughter.] It would be absurd for one so young in the service to make a long speech, and he would therefore content himself with thanking them on behalf of the Militia for the honor done.

Judge Cooper returned thanks on behalf of the Rifle Company in a brief speech.

The Chairman then said he wished it had fallen into abler hands to propose the health of the guest of the evening, David Hoon Ritchie, Esq., late Counties' Clerk. It was unnecessary to say that they all respected him, for that was a matter understood. He had lived long amongst them and had held many offices of trust. As the Judge had said he was one amongst those who in the discharge of duty were ready to stand up for the defence of the country when it was considered in danger. He was the oldest municipal representative this county possessed, and after he had retired from the Council he had held the position of Counties' Clerk for 14 years, and his private and public character during all that time was unexceptionable. As a magistrate he was one of the oldest at the Board. He had stood forward and assisted his brother magistrates by every means in his power, and it was on account of all these valuable public services that he had been invited to partake of the present Dinner in the character of guest. He (Mr. G.) was pleased—and no doubt Mr. Ritchie was also—to see so many noble faces at this Board. Mr. Ritchie would go home satisfied that he was held in esteem by all who knew him, and he trusted he would long live to enjoy the fruits of his laborious career—[applause]—and if he did not come back in the old capacity he hoped at least he would appear at the Bar of Auditor. He would now propose the health of our Guest, D. H. Ritchie, Esq.

The toast was received with deafening cheers, and was drank with all the honors.

Mr. Ritchie in response said, Mr. Chairman, Vice Chairmen and Gentlemen, I beg to return my sincere thanks for the very flattering and complimentary manner in which the toast had been proposed by Mr. Gibbons and received by the company. It is indeed most gratifying, after serving so long in the District Council, and in the County Council as Reeve and afterwards Clerk for twenty years, to be received as I have been tonight by this large and highly respectable body of gentlemen. A great many changes have taken place *since the time when I first entered the District Council*. The powers of Reeves were not so great then as now. The power of electing the Warden did not rest with them, the government retaining the power to make the selection. Not only the Warden but the Treasurer was under the power of the government, and it was under their patronage that he was appointed. Even the County Clerk was not elected by the Council. Three persons were recommended for the office by the Council, and out of these the Government selected one. The Surveyor was selected by the Warden. The powers of the Council in the way of raising money were not the same as at present. We could not even get printing done for credit—but the whole state of affairs has been changed so completely that you can now travel from one end of the County to the other without meeting with an obstruction. The Warden has kindly referred to my services as a magistrate. He says quite truly that I am amongst the oldest in the Commission of the Peace, and I will certainly make my appearance at the Board of Audit. I did so when it was not so easy to trudge through the mud, and now when circumstances are different I shall be happy to attend, although my presence may not please every one. I assure you, gentlemen, that the ovation of tonight is worth living a lifetime for. I shall indeed go home happy and gratified at the very kind manner in which I have been honored by this company, most of whom are the representatives of the largest and finest constituency in the Province. [Cheers.] I regret very much that I cannot express my feelings better than I have done, but you will please accept the will for the deed and allow me to resume my seat.

At the conclusion of his remarks Mr Ritchie was loudly applauded.

Song in splendid style by Mr Gibson.

The Vice-Chairman proposed the Agricultural Interests of Canada. Band—"Comin' thro' the Rye."

George Sproat, Esq., responded. He said: Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen, I am astonished that I am called upon to respond to this toast when I see so many big guns around the board, but sir, it is a subject that there is room for twenty to respond to, and what ever I am deficient in I trust will be made up by those who follow; we need not travel far abroad to find material enough for a few remarks on the progress of Agriculture in these united counties. When we take a cursory glance back to the year 1827, we see that my namesake Sproat, of Trafalgar, and our worthy Sheriff started from the Wilmot line and cut their way through the unbroken forest to the mouth of the Maitland, on the shore of Lake Huron, and there raised the first rude shanty on the place which in the short space of one third of a century a population of no less than ninety thousand inhabitants claim as their county seat. They were the *precursors* of our meeting here to-night, and if ever there is a pioneer dinner in these counties these gentlemen should occupy no mean seats at that board. It must be gratifying to them when passing through this fine country to see what human energy with divine assistance can accomplish. When they see the fine cultivated farms and comfortable homesteads supplanting the rude shanties—our rising towns and villages, full of the stir and bustle of large cities—our gravel roads, traversing the length and breadth of the county—our railroad with the iron horse groaning under the load of produce or whirling along with its load of merry excursionists to our lake city, and our telegraph, flashing the message of weal or woe in the twinkling of an eye from shore to shore of this vast continent, they must be filled with astonishment. What has accomplished all this sir, but the energy and industry of the Agriculturist? Although we have not the golds of California or Nova Scotia that made our Finance Minister's eyes glisten so, we have gold under our feet for the digging. If the farmers and mechanics of these Counties would follow the example set them by our worthy artist, Mr Cresswell of Tuckersmith, who can find material enough along our lake gift coast and inland, scenery, and even in our barnyards, to occupy no second place in the Art Galleries of our Provincial Exhibitions, they might beatify themselves and be equally successful in filling up the halls and stalls with stock and produce at the coming Exhibition in London, and show to other Counties and the Province generally that Huron and Bruce are not so far West after all. (Cheers.) In conclusion, I am proud to say that our worthy guest is an agriculturist, and if he should still remain with us in this far west or return to his native land more blest, I would say in the language of the poet,

"Goodby, good-by, our hearts and hands,
Our lips in honest Saxon phrases,
Say, God be with him till he stands
Among the Scottish Daisies." (Cheers.)

Mr. Adair sang 'Castles in the Air' in magnificent style and was rapturously encored.

Mr. Sutton proposed 'The Commercial Interests of Huron and Bruce.'

James Watson, Esq., in response said it was very proper that the toast of Agricultural and Commercial Interests should be placed as near to each other as possible, as they all knew that in reality they usually went hand in hand. Anything that depressed one also affected the other. The Commerce of this section had not been in such a flourishing state as it might have reached for some time back, but still they should live in hope that things would soon take a change for the better. He had lived amongst them for twenty years, and he could say that it had always been his desire to see the prosperity of the country enhanced by every possible means. (Applause.)

D. L. Sills, Esq., also responded. He said his object in coming there was not so much to respond to the toast just proposed as to do honor to one of Stanley's most noble citizens. (Applause.) No doubt Mr. Ritchie, after so many long years of service, should feel proud of the demonstration of that night. It should prove a stimulus to younger men to be faithful in the discharge of duty, in order that, in after years, they might reap a similar reward. (Applause.) He (Mr. S.) also thought this toast and that which preceded it should go hand in hand, as no doubt they were most intimately united in reality. Having spoken at large on the subject at the recent dinner to Mr. Ritchie in Tayfield he would not attempt to make a long speech on this occasion, and would content himself with thanking those present, and wishing Mr. Ritchie, in his retirement, all the blessings of peace, felicity and long life. (Cheers.)

Mr. Valentine proposed the health of Robt. Gibbons, Esq., Warden of Huron and Bruce. The toast was very warmly received.

Mr. Gibbons said he had been chosen Warden for the seventh time, and if God spared him he intended to fill the duties of his office to the best of his ability, although he could not help feeling that there were others around the Council Board much better qualified for the position than he was.—(Voices, "No! No!") He had come here a very young man and a very poor one, and been enabled to *work* himself up into a position that he felt proud of. (Applause) and he could assure them that the welfare of these Counties should always be the dearest wish of his heart. (Cheers.) He hoped to see the day when, like York and Peel, $20,000 or $25,000 would pay all their indebtedness. (Loud Cheers.) He would most sincerely thank them for the kindly manner in which his health had been drunk.

Mr. Watson proposed the health of the County officers. (Cheers, and They are Right Good, &c.)

Judge Cooper rose to respond, but owing to the noise and the irrelevant remarks shot about by different parties, we could not catch the learned gentleman's remarks.

S. Pollock, Esq., being called upon, said he could not allow the occasion to pass without saying a word or two. Sheriff McDonald would have been there, he believed, had it not been for the inclemency of the night.—He had been under the sheriff for a number of years, and might be permitted to say that he (the Sheriff) occupied as high a position as any man in the Counties. They would agree with him that there was no more impartial man in the discharge of his duties—[Hear, hear.] And he had an opportunity of knowing that his desire was to benefit the community as far as his position would enable him to do. He had doubtless been the means of saving hundreds of people from ruin—(applause)—and it was impossible that a more worthy man could fill the office. He (Mr P.) believed that when an officer could not discharge his duties faithfully and efficiently he should at once resign. (Hear, hear.) As far as he was concerned he believed he (the Sheriff) had discharged his onerous duties with satisfaction to himself and benefit to the public. [Cheers.]

Hugh Johnston, Esq., responded also, thanking the company for the honor done the officials. He contrasted the present state of politics with the time when he could hardly go to a tea-party without being charged by the *Signal* or *Globe* with having been engaged in some political intrigue. (Laughter.)

Mr. Ross made one of his usual neat and quiet little speeches, which, by the way, are always well received.

Dr. McDougall proposed the Reeves and Deputy Reeves of the County of Bruce.—(Cheers.)

James Broceibank, Esq., Pro. Warden, responded. He thanked those present for the very kind way in which they had drunk the health of the Reeves of Bruce. He for one felt great pleasure in being present to do honor to one whom he, with many of the other Reeves of Bruce had been connected with so long. In Mr. Ritchie they had always felt that they possessed a warm friend, and they could not now part with him without feelings of sincere regret. It might be true that the Reeves of Bruce had not been able to make much progress towards the settlement of long standing difficulties, but it was also true that in material progress the County was advancing as rapidly as any in the Province. (Cheers.)

J. Gibbs, Esq., of Elderslie, said it gave him great pleasure to attend the present dinner. Mr. Ritchie had been greatly eulogized, but not too much. He had discharged his duties most faithfully and it would be ingratitude not to recognize them in some public way. (Hear, hear.)

Judge Cooper proposed the Press of Canada, which was responded to by Mr. W. T. Cox of the *Signal*.

Mr Sutton proposed the health of the Reeves and Deputy Reeves of Huron. Mr Gibbons gracefully acknowledged the compliment.

Mr Sproat proposed our Manufacturing Interests, which was acknowledged by Mr T Gibson.

Mr Broceibank proposed the Bar. Response humorous by Mr McDermott.

Medical Profession. Acknowledged in a very sensible speech by Dr McDougall.

Shipping Interests of Huron and Bruce.—Response by Capt M McGregor.

Mr Adamson proposed the health of Mr Piper, one of the most respected members of the Counties Council. (Cheers.)

Mr Piper favored us with one of his admirable songs.

Mr W T Cox proposed the health of Mrs Ritchie.

Song by the company, "here's a health to a good lassie."

Mr Ritchie acknowledged the compliment paid Mrs Ritchie, saying that much of the little success he had met with in life should be attributed to her hearty co-operation.

Mr Gillies, in a neat speech, proposed the health of Mr Adamson, the new Counties Clerk.

Mr Adamson returned thanks for the very kind and flattering manner in which the toast had been proposed and drunk. If he had been at all successful as a Councillor, it was because he had ever stood aloof from all combinations outside the Council Chamber. He had never seen any one who adopted that course, ultimately successful. As County Clerk he should endeavor to follow as closely as possible in the footsteps of his worthy predecessor, and he hoped to have the support of the Board in the attempt to discharge all his duties faithfully and efficiently. Applause.

Mr. Bishop said he would beg to propose the health of Mr. Gunn, who he was happy to announce had just entered the room.—(Cheers.)

Mr Gunn came forward amidst a perfect storm of applause. He thanked the company heartily for their kindness, and alluding to his presence, said his township having dispensed with his services, he was now on his way to Quebec to endeavor to advance the interests of Bruce. He spoke at some length of the Coal Oil prospects of Inverhuron, stating that certain American gentlemen, encouraged by the indications, were making arrangements for testing the matter thoroughly. (Cheers.)

'The Ladies' was responded to by Mr Tom and others.

Mr Gibbons proposed 'Our Host and Hostess.' Mr T Dark responded, saying if he had had longer notice he would have endeavored to do better.

The company, after spending one of the pleasantest evenings ever witnessed in Goderich, sang Auld Lang Syne and God Save the Queen, and dispersed quietly about 2 o'clock a. m.

BRUCEFIELD.

COMPLIMENTARY DINNER TO D. L. SILLS, ESQ.

(Reported specially for the SIGNAL.)

According to previous announcement, the farmers of the surrounding neighborhood, in high appreciation of the ability, energy and untiring perseverance of Mr. D. L. Sills as a commercial man of business, entertained him at a public dinner, which was held in the Exchange Hotel, Brucefield, on the evening of Friday, January the 27th. In consequence of the severity of the weather and almost impassible state of the roads for a few days previous, many at a distance were extremely disappointed in not being able to be present to give their aid in celebrating the occasion so justly merited by Mr. Sills the *Farmers' Friend*. Those, however, in the immediate vicinity were determined not to be behind in proving that they fully appreciated the importance of the occasion, and felt it to be their duty as well as a pleasure to assemble themselves to give honor to whom honor was due. At eight o'clock, when dinner was announced, James Davison, Esq., a prominent farmer of Tuckersmith, took the chair, supported on his right by the guest of the evening, R. Bell and P. Ramsay, Esqrs., on the left by Dr. Monroe, S St. John, Esq., Edward Briggs, Esq., first vice-chair, and A. Torr, Esq., second vice-chair. Amongst the gentlemen present we noticed Capt. Ord, Mr. A. Strong, Mr. P. McDonald, Mr. J. McDonald, Mr. R. Ferguson, Mr. J. Laidlaw, Mr. J. B. Secord, Mr. A. M. Richards, Mr. Moore of Hamilton, Mr. Lloyd of Boston, Mr. Clarke, Barrister, Mr. J. Jocelyn, Mr. Dick, Mr. Murdock, Mr. J. Broadfoot, Mr. R. M. Cartney, Mr. I. Rattenbury, and about eighty of the most prominent farmers, professional men and merchants of the surrounding townships. Our worthy host had provided a full supply of the good things of life for his guests which they partook of with a will, the spread reflected very great credit to Mr. Dixon and showed evidence of his fitness as a caterer to the public. In fact everything was in perfect profusion, from the noble roast of beef and turkies down to the delicate sardine. Wines, Brandies, Ales, &c., in abundance.

On the removal of the cloth, the chairman before proposing the usual loyal toasts, passed a high encomium upon many noted persons who by their perseverance and enterprise had raised themselves to the highest positions in life, and concluded by passing a well-merited eulogy on the guest of the evening for his enterprising spirit, uprightness of character and dealings, and his indomitable perseverance, and declared that he believed that Mr. Sills more fully enjoyed the confidence of the farming community than any commercial individual in the county of Huron, that he was fully entitled to the appellation the *farmers' friend*. (which expression called forth a genuine burst of applause.

The chairman then proposed the Queen, (God bless her).

Song,—the National Anthem.

Prince and Princess of Wales and the rest of the Royal Family.—Song, 'Rule Britannia.'

The Governor General.—Song by Mr. Clarke, 'The fine old Irish Gentleman.'

The chairman then proposed 'The Army and Navy of Great Britain,' coupling with it the Volunteer force of Canada.

Capt. Ord, in a neat and telling speech, returned thanks. He referred to the various achievements of the British Army and Navy, of have y excellent discipline, of the careful manner in which they were always provided for. Stated as they had always been an army that could ever be looked up to as an example of bravery and skill, he felt quite sure that they would ever be found ready and willing to go forth to do battle for their Queen and country whenever their services were required. After passing a high eulogy upon the Volunteer force of Canada, he concluded by proposing to sing 'The Red, White and Blue,' which he accomplished in capital style. He retired amidst much applause.

The Chairman then rose and said he wished it had devolved upon some one more able than himself to propose the toast he was about to offer; it was our worthy and much respected Guest. He had known Mr. Sills since he first became a resident of the Village of Brucefield, that in all his relations with the farming community he had ever striven to prove himself a friend indeed. The result was that he was held in the highest esteem wherever he was known, and no matter whether in public or private affairs he had shewn himself a thorough honest man in principle—and he felt sure that Mr. Sills in looking back upon his past commercial career would find it a pleasing satisfaction for him to know that his efforts were appreciated by a discerning public. He would now propose a bumper to the health of the Guest of the evening, D. L. Sills, Esq. The toast was received with rounds of applause. Song—'For he is a right good fellow, &c.'

Mr. Sills rose—(renewed applause)—and said, Mr. Chairman, Vice Chairman and Gentlemen, it is with no ordinary feelings of pleasure that I rise to return you my sincere thanks for the enthusiastic manner in which my health was drank by this large assembly of the bone and sinew of our country. But, sir, mingled with this pleasure there is a sensation of pain caused by my inability to express gratitude, as I fainly would desire. This tribute of your high appreciation of my past efforts among you, assuredly will prompt me to make more determined efforts in the future to be a greater service than I have been in the past to the agricultural and commercial interests of these United Counties. Sir, when I look back to the time when I became located among you, and trace up the improvements since that time, there arises in my breast a degree of honest pride, when I think that I, as one, have been instrumental in forwarding these improvements. But, sir, that pride increases and swells my bosom when I see my exertions are so highly appreciated by the surrounding community. This feeling does not arise from any vain desire on my part to have the plaudits of the people showered upon my head, but from an honest conviction that I have endeavoured to do my duty in the sphere in which my lot was cast. It is about fourteen years since I became a resident amongst you, and during that time I have watched the growth of the agricultural developements of these Counties with a degree of interest. At that time this portion of the country was sparsely cleared; but now, sir, what a pleasing contrast. The broad acres which stretch out on all sides, and the high state of cultivation to which they are brought, are cheering indications of the improvements of our Counties, as well as the industry and perseverance of our noble pioneers before whose brawny arms the forest yielded its claim to our fertile soil. Our agricultural productions, which a few years ago could be numbered by thousands, are now by millions. (Cheers.) We are often told that the cultivation of the sunny plains of England are far in advance of ours in point of cultivation, but need we wonder why this is so? The owners of those vast plains in the mother country are men of capital and thus are enabled to bring their land to the highest state of cultivation; but in this country such is not the case. The owners are striving to surmount those difficulties which ever appear in a new country, and therefore have not the means, although the will, of cultivating their lands as they would desire. (Hear, hear.) But, sir, that day is not far distant when the past as a criterion for judging the future when the fertile plains and verdant valleys of Canada, will baffle in production both in quantity and in quality the boasted plains of a Norfolk or a Lincolnshire. (Applause.) Mr Chairman, there is another scene presented to my view to-night. When I cast my eyes over this large assemblage which I see congregated—men of every shade of politics, indicating that when the common interest of our country demand an association of all shades, nationalities and creeds, these party feelings for the time must stand in abeyance. (Applause.) This is a very desirable state of society, and among the other advantages of our society it promises this qualification to a great degree. In conclusion, Mr Chairman, I would state there is still another cheering sight here presented to my view, and that is, I find not only those with whom my business brings me in immediate contact, but almost every profession and craft which adorn our country are here represented. These are highly necessary to our country's welfare, but there is one class whose honest toil marks its sons with that sunburst brow which is ever the emblem of industry, and whose representatives assembled to night to do me honor for my special efforts in their behalf, which I think is the bulwark of all the rest. If the storms of adversity fill the sails of this class the steers are thrown upon the cruel breakers of bankruptcy without a captain to command, without a rudder to guide their way. The words of the poet are truly appropriate to this class of society when he says:

"Proud ships may hold both silver and gold,
The products of a foreign strand;
But ships would rot and be valued not
Were there none to till the land."

Again I must thank you for the high tribute of respect you have paid me. Mr. Sills took his seat amidst rounds of applause, the company rising to their feet and singing "He is a right good fellow" &c., in such a manner that fully indicated that the sentiments of the song were the sentiments of each individual present.

Mr. Ferguson then rose to read letters of apology from F. W. Thomas, Esq., B. M., and Ira Lewis, Esq., County Crown Attorney, regretting that they were unable to attend—which were as follows:

GODERICH, Jan. 27th, 1865.

DEAR SIR—The violent storm which has prevailed for the past three days has interfered with the business of the Bank to so great an extent that I shall be precluded from being present at the Dinner to be given this evening in your honor. It would have afforded me pleasure to have added my testimony to the untiring energy, intelligent enterprise and unvarying correctness so amply characterized in your business relations and which I have had favorable opportunity to form a competent opinion from our large and numerous transactions for the last year. I am pleased, also, to see that the agricultural community of your widely extended district are alive to the value of having a man of your enterprise amongst them, and that they have taken an opportunity to make public their recognition of your merit and the identity of your interests with theirs.

I am yours truly,
F. WOLFERSTAN THOMAS.

D. L. Sills, Esq.

COUNTY CROWN ATTORNEY'S OFFICE,
Goderich, Jan. 25th, 1865.

My Dear Sills—Mr. Thomas (Manager of Bank Montreal) and myself had arranged to go down to your Dinner at Brucefield. Providence (through snow-storms) has willed it otherwise. I can only say that I very much regret it, but am rejoiced to find the people of Huron ready to recognise your energy, talents and enterprise in so becoming a manner. Trusting that you and your friends will have a good gathering,

I am, truly yours,
IRA LEWIS.

D. L. Sills, Esq., Brucefield.

The Vice-chairman then rose and after complimenting the party and briefly stating they object for which they had convened, he called upon Mr. Jocelyn for a song entitled the 'Pilot,' which he sang in splendid style. The Vice chair next proposed the toast 'Canada our Home' which was very ably responded to by Mr. Peter McDonald, and I can assure you that I exceedingly regret that want of space will preclude me from giving it, but in justice to Mr. McDonald, I must say he handled the subject in such a masterly manner as to fully convince all present that thus far his oratorical qualifications are of the first-class. He retired amid a perfect burst of applause.

A song by the guest of the evening 'Plains of Waterloo.'

Next toast that followed, 'The Educational Interests of Canada,' which was very learnedly responded to by Dr. Munro of Brucefield.

Song by Thos. Jackson, Esq., 'The Old Oak Tree.'

The Vice-chairman then gave the toast 'the Lord we left,' coupled with the name of Mr. R. Ferguson.

Mr. Ferguson in his usual masterly and forcible style proceeded to draw large deductions from English history and showed the various lessons that Canada could derive from the experience of her ancestors, and after a peroration characterized by scope of imagination, elegance of diction, sublimity of sentiment, he sat down amidst the applause of the assembled multitude.

Then followed a song by Capt. Ord and Mr. St. John entitled 'A thousand a year.'

The Vice-chair then gave 'The Agricultural Interests of Canada,' which was ably responded to by Mr. James McDonald, councillor of Tuckersmith.

The next toast 'The Commercial Interests of Canada,' which was responded to in a neat and appropriate manner by J. B. Secord, Esq., Varna.

'The Press' ably responded to by Mr. P. McDonald and Mr R. Ferguson.

Song by Capt. Ord, 'The Merry Maids of England.'

Toast—'The Ladies,' responded to by R. Ferguson and Dr. Munro.

After numerous songs and recitations the company broke up, evidently impressed with the truth of the lines, when he says,

'A little pleasure now and then
Is relished by the wisest men.'

Hon. D. McDonald on the Address.

The following is a report of the speech delivered by Mr. McDonald on the answer to the Address:—

On many of the topics adverted to in the Speech I shall be content with a simple expression of my concurrence, leaving the more full consideration of the principles and details involved for the time when the several measures of the Cabinet shall be presented bodily to Parliament." Upon one subject, however, I am unwilling to remain silent. I refer to the subject of our international relations with the United States, and the duty which devolves upon us of doing what we can to mitigate the asperity unfortunately prevailing on the other side of the border. Of the existence of a very bitter feeling there can, I think, be no doubt; and to my mind it is equally clear that this feeling, however lamentable and however erroneous, is not altogether unnatural. Properly to appreciate the temper of our neighbors, let us suppose ourselves occupying their position. Let us fancy ourselves citizens and property holders of St Alban's, for example, witnessing robbery, arson and murder perpetrated in our midst by a band of ruffians emerging from Canada for the purpose, and fleeing back to Canada for shelter. Or let us suppose ourselves citizens of a lake port, our shipping imperilled by pirates sailing from Canada, and our all menaced with the torch by parties who have sought in Canada the protection of a neutral flag. I submit that in either case our feeling toward the country which thus became a hiding place and base of operations for our enemies, would soon lapse from cordiality into indifference, and from indifference to suspicious coldness and qualified dislike. (Hear,) and should we see those whom we knew to be thieves, incendiaries, and murderers, protected by an unreasonable application of the forms of law—the force and efficacy of a treaty which we had carried out in good faith, annulled by the *ipse dixit* of a minor judge—and the scoundrels whose extradition we sought, released in spite of all remonstrances; I apprehend that we should not be very profuse with our compliments, nor, for a time, very discriminating in our choice of retaliatory weapons. (Hear, hear.) Well, ben gentlemen, this is exactly the position of our neighbors of the Northern States, and therefore, I, for one, cannot feign surprise at the ebullitions of anger we have witnessed, nor judge uncharitably the motives and purposes of a policy which causes some loss and much inconvenience to the Province, that may we not now invite our neighbors to reconsider, and in some degree amend, their judgment? Grant that they have been provoked into a misunderstanding of our attitude; grant that there is a show of plausibility in their misapprehension of our position; still they have misunderstood us—still their retaliatory policy proceeds upon a misapprehension of our resolves and desires. For though the right of asylum which Britain never denies to political refugees has been scandalously abused by men holding, or pretending to hold, commissions from the Confederate government, I am confident that their acts have never been approved, much less shared, by the Canadian people. (Hear, hear, from various quarters.) Of course, differences of opinion exist amongst us with regard to the war—its origin, its merits, its conduct, and its results. The same differences exist amongst the people of the U States themselves, and are, therefore, not a cause of quarrel. But this House can bear witness that from one end of Canada to the other but one feeling exists in reference to the proceedings which are a source of complaint, and but one determination in reference to the maintenance of peaceful relations with the government and people of the U. States. All classes in Canada agree upon this point—that whilst we give shelter to refugees, they shall be made to respect the obligations consequent upon hospitality; that whilst we remain firm in our attachment to the British flag, so far from seeking to provoke a rupture with the United States, we will do all that is compatible with our duty as British subjects to preserve, not simply peaceful, but cordial relations with the States individually and with the government at Washington. For my part, I trust that the unhappy war, yet in progress, will eventuate in the restoration of the Union, complete as it was before the war began, but purified, consolidated, and strengthened by the contest through which it will have passed. I believe that in this consummation are involved interests near and dear to humanity, all the world over; and I should indeed deplore the occurrence of any contingency calculated even temporarily to place the British Empire and the American Union in antagonism. The two nations are properly friends, and I trust that we in Canada will never by any act of omission or commission imperil an alliance so vitally affecting our interests and hopes. Entertaining these views, I need not say that I heartily approve of the steps taken by our Executive in regard to these international difficulties, and that I shall as heartily sustain any measure that may be proposed during the Session having a tendency to prevent complications, and to reassure our neighbors as to the wishes and intentions of Canada towards them. (Applause.) I may add the expression of a hope that amongst other matters, the danger with which the Reciprocity Treaty is threatened will not be overlooked. Judging by what has already taken place at Washington, I imagine that the only mode by which the abrogation of the Treaty may be prevented, is by consenting to its revision; and remembering how deeply the treaty concerns Canada, I should be unwilling to jeopardize it by a too rigid adherence to the punctilios of diplomacy.

GRAND TRUNK R. R.

Goderich Branch.

TIME TABLE, Dec., 1864.

GOING EAST.

	Express	Local	Local
GODERICH.. DEP	9.00 A M	12.00 A M	4.30 P M
CLINTON.....	9.38	1.00 P M	5.30
HAYSHEY.....	10.30	2.15	6.00
SEAFORTH....	10.38	2.00	6.15
CARRONBROOK	11.05	2.35	6.55
MITCHELL....	11.35	2.55	7.09
STRATFORD AR	12.30 P M	3.55	7.10

GOING WEST.

STRATFORD DEP	1.15 P M	2.00	8.10 A M
MITCHELL....	2.00	3.15	8.50
CARRONBROOK	2.35	3.48	9.10
SEAFORTH....	3.00	4.40	9.30
HARPURHEY..	3.10	4.50	9.38
CLINTON.....	4.10	5.40	9.58
GODERICH AR	4.30	6.30	10.40

Daily times of Stages run from Goderich to Lucknow, Kincardine, &c.

Town & Counties

☞ See Mr. Kerr's Grand Track advertisement.

☞ SORRY.—A Soiree in connection with the New Connexion Methodist church in this town was come off on Thursday evening last. We hear it was a success.

☞ A Temperance Soiree will be held in Manchester on Thursday, February 9th 1865, at 8 p. m.

☞ The Hullett Council Minutes will appear next week.

☞ The Town Council proceedings will appear in Friday's paper.

☞ We have to claim the indulgence of a number of correspondents. They will be attended to in our next.

☞ There has been no important war news since our last.

☞ The Weekly Signal of this week will contain the fullest report of Co. Council proceedings that has ever been published in the Counties.

COLBORNE.

FIRE.—The barn on the farm in this township rented by a Mr. O'Mara from Sheriff McDonald was consumed by fire early on Monday morning last. Besides implements, &c., burnt, four cows and some other stock perished in the flames. There was some insurance on the premises. The fire is supposed to have been the work of an incendiary.