[illegible] Signal,

[illegible], MAY 4th, 1871

[illegible] DOCKAGE.

[illegible] Council holds its regular [illegible] (Friday) evening, and we [illegible] take the liberty of renewing [illegible] as to the mode of improving the docks. We think it would be wise to ask Government aid for the purpose. When the Government has dredged the harbor and built the piers, they will no doubt find it necessary, in order to protect the expenditure thus made, to extend the new North pier to the present embankment opposite the elevator, and by that means take the river clear out into the lake, preventing danger to the works from ice coming down in the spring, and saving the periodical dredging hitherto necessitated from the silting-up occasioned by the meeting of the waters of lake and river inside the harbor. This will take a large sum of money, and we would be sorry to discourage the Public Works Department from expending any portion of it, by an appearance of selfishness on our part. At the same time, the docks must be repaired, or our shipping trade cannot be developed to the extent which it now ought to be, and which would redound immensely to the advantage of the whole community. One of the first things necessary is to get from Government the control of the wharf. This they would no doubt readily grant. Is the town in a position to be taxed sufficient in one year to complete the works required? We think not. The completion of the drainage system now undertaken will be burden enough for us to bear, for some time to come. Nor, we believe, could debentures legally be issued for the purpose, while we remain indebted to the Municipal Loan Fund. Should we not, then, turn our attention to what can be done by private capital, in the form of a Joint Stock Harbor Company, or by property-holders along the wharf? In either of these ways, we are satisfied, the needed repairs could be made, if the parties investing money could so get control of the wharf, when properly built, as to reimburse themselves by being allowed to make a fair charge for wharfage? This seems to us the best solution that could be arrived at, to save the ratepayers from being unduly burdened and, at the same, to get the improved dock accomodation the increasing trade of the port urgently demands.

UNJUSTIFIABLE.

It is strange how often the *New Era* opens its mouth, only to put its foot in it. In describing the result of the vote on the question of giving a bonus to the London railway it says :—"the project was voted down two to one without the vote of the Warden, which would have been also *Nay.*" We would like to know on what ground our contemporary considers itself entitled to make such an extraordinary assertion about a vote that was not given. Certainly not from the conduct of the Warden in the chair, which was as free from bias, and as fair to all sides, as that of any chairman we ever saw, and we think the *New Era* acts very unjustifiably in making such a statement. The Warden is not slow to express his opinions, when he thinks it his duty to do so, and we would advise the *New Era* not so rashly to jump to gratuitous conclusions.

A Blemed for Figures.

It is not often that literary geniuses who ought to shun everything vulgar are experts in the dreary mysteries of fractions. Our high-strung contemporary, the Kincardine *Reporter*, has evidently an extraordinary "head for figures." Fingering over 175 misty pages of Geological report the *Reporter's* eyes glisten as they alight on a delicious tabulated statement. Snip go the scissors and the unexpected "gem" is rescued from "the dark unfathomed caves" of a blue book to shine for ever in the "setting" provided by types for many other shadows. Following such a wise example, we "snip" likewise, and produce the result thus :—

	Goderich	Clinton	Kincardine
Chloride of sodium	239.410	201.070	241.310
Chloride of calcium	100	670	840
Chloride of magnesium	410	194	230
Sulphate of lime	4.658	8.463	2.304
	244.568	210.397	245.484
Specific gravity	1.167	1.137	1.191
Degrees of Salometer	92°	80°	96°

So far the *Reporter* speaks by the book, and is quite proper, but in the next sentence our confrere swearing by the *Reporter*, which is very improper, says:—"From the above analyses (by Dr. Sterry Hunt) it is evident that Goderich salt contains 25 per cent more extraneous matter than that of Kincardine, while the salt of Clinton contains nearly 50 per cent more than the salt produced here,—a most important matter to the consumer." It looks big to talk of 25 or 50 per cent, and the intention is, no doubt, to make it look big. To reduce the thing to its actual dimensions:—According to the analysis, in every 1000lbs. of Kincardine salt there is within a very small fraction of 2 per cent of foreign matter; while in Goderich Salt there is about 2½ per cent; which we humbly opine is a matter of not the slightest importance to the consumer. In every 1000lbs. of Clinton Salt there is, by the analysis 3½ per cent of foreign matter. But the percentage in all is so infinitesimal and homeopathic in quantity that only one with such a "head for figures" and such a faculty for exaggeration as the Kincardine *Reporter* would seriously refer to it in a commercial point of view. All the mistake is that the *Reporter* uses a microscope in his investigations, but leaves his readers to suppose that he describes the size of things as they appear to the naked eye.

Important Shipping Case.

We give below a report of the result of the third trial of Mr T B Vanevery's suit against the Phoenix Insurance Co. of Brooklyn N. Y. Many of our readers will remember the circumstances of the case, "Kaloolah" being wrecked at Saugeen, in 1862, while endeavoring to rescue another vessel, the Sir Charles Napier of St Catherines, from distress. The Insurance Company contended that in so doing the "Kaloolah" departed from the intention of the policy, by which she was insured only to engage in the passenger trade. The Company also took the technical objection that the suit was not "prosecuted" within one year from the date of the loss. The first objection was waived, on it being established that it was the universal custom of mariners to go to the assistance of vessels in distress. The case then turned on the meaning of the word "prosecuted", which the Court ruled the plaintiffs had not done within the stipulated year, although before the expiry of that time they had served the defendants with a writ. We think it important that shipowners should know what objections insurance companies seem prepared to take to the payment of losses. Mr. Vanevery, after the decision, consulted with his Counsel, and the matter will be tried again in the Superior Court

UNITED STATES CIRCUIT COURT
A DECIDED ON A LAW POINT.

In the case of T. Barney Van Every and others against the Phoenix Insurance Company, of Brooklyn, New York, the Court instructed the jury to return a verdict for defendant. Although the instruction was explicit, the jury retired, and remained absent about three-quarters of an hour before they obeyed the instruction.

This case had been on trial since the jury came into court on Tuesday; and this trial was the third time the case had been presented, not to speak of the arguments that preceded and accompanied the several hearings upon the legal propositions involved. It was an action to recover upon a policy of insurance issued by defendant on the first of April, 1862, on the steamboat Kaloolah, for the season of navigation from April 1, 1862, to November 30 of the same year, whereby the company insured the steamer against the perils of navigation while she should be engaged in a general freight and passenger business, upon the waters of Lakes Superior, Michigan, Huron, Erie and Ontario, and their bays, rivers and canals, for the sum of $3,000. The declaration averred that, while the policy was in full force, and while, on the 18th day of August, 1862, the vessel was engaged in a general freight and passenger business, lying in the harbor of Southampton, at the mouth of the Saugeen River, the Captain of the Kaloolah was applied to by the Captain of the brig Charles A Napier to aid in saving his brig, which was then stranded on a bar at the mouth of the river; and that, in accordance with the usage and custom of those navigating the lakes, the Captain of the Kaloolah went to the assistance of the brig, and while so engaged in the attempt to save it, the Kaloolah herself grounded on the bar, and was thereby wrecked and lost, of which loss proper proofs and proofs were made. As to these facts there was no serious controversy. A conflict of testimony existed as to the state of the wind and sea when the Kaloolah went to aid the brig, but in the view the Court took of the case this became immaterial

The defence was based on two grounds First, that the steamer was lost while engaged in a different employment from that permitted under the policy. Second, the policy contained a clause that all claims under it should be void unless prosecuted within a year from the time the loss occurred, and no prosecution had been had within the term of a year.

The Court reviewed these positions. First, that of the plaintiffs that the act of rendering assistance was in accordance with a general custom or usage of those navigating the lakes, wherefore such act is no deviation or departure from the employment permitted by the terms of the policy. In other words, that to render such assistance, as was attempted to be rendered, was incidental to all vessels of the character and class of the Kaloolah.

As to this point, the Court, in substance laid it down to be law, that to establish such a custom it must be shown that it is universal and general in the business to which it is applied; so general as to have become a part of the business itself and a matter of course, so that the public sentiment of those in the business would consider it the duty of those in charge of the Kaloolah to have sought to render the service asked, and would have held the Captain blameworthy if he did not respond. A single instance, or a few such, of good hearted men going to the relief of vessels in distress would not constitute a custom. It must have resolved itself into such custom that the service would be expected to be rendered by those who have a right to comment on the conduct of the man refusing. If such a usage as this existed, then it became a part of the contract of insurance; if it was aught less, then the company could not be held underwritten the vessel with a view to the added risk.

As to the second position, the plaintiffs aver that, within a year from the time of the loss, they prosecuted their claim. No suit at law nor judicial proceading was proved to have been prosecuted within a year, but plaintiffs made a question as to the meaning of the word "prosecute" as used in the policy, insisting that as used it was equivalent to the words "follow, pursue, insist upon" or any other term signifying an effort to obtain payment. The defence contended that the word meant the prosecution of a suit or the institution of a judicial proceeding in some form for the enforcement of the claim. The Court held that the view of the defendant's counsel was correct as to the construction of the word as used in the policy. In that state of the case it was the duty of the plaintiffs to sue within one year from the date of the loss. Not having proof of this plaintiffs had sought to prove a waiver of this execution by the agents of the company. But in offering proof of this they had passed beyond their pleadings. They had averred compliance, but had not alleged a waiver. In the absence of that averment they could not prove it, wherefore the suit must fall, The Court further, upon a review of the testimony, found that the evidence did not warrant a finding that there had been a waiver by the company.

What is Paris Fighting For!

Who dreamed, that, when the German hosts left devoted Paris, the people of that city would not set themselves to repair the ravages of famine and battle? Much less did any one imagine that the demon of socialism would set itself to tear out the heart of the young Republic. The licentious ideas, the madness and passion of the last century are loose again, and once more the tragic drama is being enacted, which had the guillotine for its central figure and a harlot for its goddess of reason. While the mothers and sisters and daughters of Paris, robed in mourning and bowed down with sadness, are kneeling at the altars of the churches in prayers and tears for slaughtered kinsmen, the populace of the other sex intoxicated with the hope of unbridled license, parade the streets with noisy shoutings and applaud the demagogues who proclaim that "property is theft," and the heartless vagabond of the gutter as good a "citizen" as any other. The authorized exposition of Communist principles may well startle us here, in happy, religious, law abiding Canada.

It declares that property is not personal, but national; that every one must work, and for that object must join one of the different societies it is proposed to organize. These societies will be invested with certain governing powers. Sleeping and dining room are to be modelled somewhat after those of ancient Sparta. Physical labor must be performed in rotation by all the members. The relations will be free, and citizens may and re-marry as often as they like. Jurisprudence, police religion are all to be swept away.

Better than this was the mysterious rule of Napoleon, or the iron heel of Bismarck. The loathsome monster of Communism is vitally diseased, and cannot live, and its enthusiasts are the lowest ruffians of the lowest Ruebus. This makes it all the more dreadful, while it does drag out its poisonous existence. We hope Thiers, with the soldiers of the provinces at his back, will soon be able to destroy it. It seems as if France, as represented by the Parisian populace, was no advanced enough yet for any form of government but a despotism.

Spring Assizes—County of Huron

The Court of Assize, Nisi Prius, Oyer and Terminer, and general Gaol delivery was opened in the Court House, Goderich, on Tuesday, 2nd May, at noon, His Honor Chief Justice Richards, presiding.

THE BAR

was represented by C Robinson, Esq., Q. C., of Toronto, for the Crown, and Ira Lewis, Esq., County Crown Attorney, M C Cameron, Esq., John Davison, Esq., D S Gooding, Esq., B L Doyle, Esq., J S Sinclair, Esq., W R Squier, Esq., R Macdonald, Esq., J B Gordon, Esq., J Y Ewood, Esq., and J F Toms, Esq., all of Goderich. We also noticed that Messrs McCaughey and Holmes of Seaforth, and S Malcolmson of Clinton were present at the opening of the Court.

GRAND JURY:

The following Grand Jury was empanelled:
John Buchanan, Colborne,
Joseph Chidley, do
John Churchill, Goderich Township,
William Case, Hay,
David Campbell, Tuckersmith,
John Doig, do
James H Finley, Goderich,
Thomas Holmes, Morris,
Hugh Love, Hay,
John McRae, Senr Morris,
John P Nattal, Goderich Township,
John R Reynolds, Hullett,
John Seymour, Goderich,
Henry Steep, do
Robert Scott, Hullett,
James Scott, McKillop,
John Torrance, Goderich Township,
Alex Watson, Goderich,
James Watt, Hullett,
Thomas White, Stephen.
Mr J T NATTAL was chosen FOREMAN.

JUDGE'S CHARGE.

His Lordship addressed the Grand Jury to the following effect:—

He was happy to see only two criminal cases on the calendar, only one of which might perhaps come before them. One of the parties was charged with larceny. The criminal intent was an essential element to constitute the crime. If a person believed he had a right to the property, though his opinion might be erroneous it would not be larceny but trespass. A man might take property with the view of paying a one debt due him, with the belief that he had a right to do this. This was something that the jury might have an unfavorable opinion of. It was well parties should not be encouraged to take the law into their own hands. Before bringing in a verdict of "No Bill" in any case they should have all the information before them that could be given by the Crown prosecutor. The other charge was one of embezzlement, an offence very much akin to larceny. They would have to consider the evidence in both cases. The witnesses were now usually examined before the Grand Jury and sworn by the Foreman Another part of their duty would be the examination of the Gaol. He had no doubt the gaoler did his duty, but a periodical scrutiny was desirable. He then dismissed them to their duties.

DOCKETT.

The following are the civil cases:—
Holden v Paston.
Runciman v Oliver.
Mitchell v Crawford
Foster v McCurdie et al.
Sparling v Turner.
Campbell v McDonald.
McCance v Williams.
Robertson v do.
Butler v Buchanan.
Lee v Tolmie.
McGregor v Township of Hullett.
Keith et al v Cline et al.
Stewart v Agricl. Mutual Ass. Co.
Elliott v McConell.
Kelly v Harvey
Kerr v Toms et al.
Clarke v McKay.
O'Reilly v O'Reilly
Totten v McGregor
Stewart v Taggart.

A Goderich Man in Colorado.

Mr John McPherson, late of the Axe Factory, who left Goderich a few weeks ago for the Chicago Colorado colony, has now arrived there, and writes his brother Mr James McPherson, of this place. From his letter we are permitted to make the following extracts which will be of interest to our readers—

"I have just returned from tour over the colony lands trying to make a selection. It is the most wearisome thing I have undertaken in my travels, and am very tired. I will endeavor to give you an idea about the West and how we came here. On Thursday, about 10 P.M., we left Detroit and arrived at Chicago about 9 next morning. It took the most of the day to get our arrangements made, and at 8 P.M we got under way, travelling till Sunday at noon At the end of the 18 road 4 miles from the Town site, we had to leave the cars by jumping down two feet into as tough clay as you ever saw; were to go aboard of a lumber waggon. Unfortunately about thirty colonists arrived together in a bunch. It was as old as Green Paul, and, by the time we made to eight miles, we were nearly frozen. Then we arrived at the Colony House—a two-story building about 60 x 40—we found it full and more too. That night my wife had to sleep on a carpet on the floor, upstairs with the women, and caught a cold. I slept downstairs with the men. It looked pretty tough to see the ground covered with snow. It stormed all day, Sunday, in a most terrific manner. It took the starch out of us pretty well. When we made inquiry, the old settlers said that a storm always comes, about from 8th to 12th April, and that it is the very life of the country. They were glad to see it. We were told by Colonists and others that, for weeks and months in fact all winter, the weather had been excellent; and the old settlers say that they have not seen such severe weather, for 9 years, as in March and April. It was such a contrast to what we had seen in places we passed through, where the wheat was waving in the breeze and the peach-trees in blossom. Notwithstanding all these drawbacks and hardships, as you might call them, I think this one of the most beautiful places I ever saw. The crops of grain and roots grown here are enormous. Just think of 900 bushels of potatoes and 70 bushels of wheat per acre One thing is certain, the potatoes and flour are the finest I ever saw or ate. Though the farmers do not half work, they are all rich. Horses sell for $200, to $300 each and not extra at that, Oxen are worth about $150, per pair, Mules from $400 to $700 per pair, and milch Cows from $40 to $75. each and upwards. Potatoes go at 3 cents per lb, Tea $1.50 and not good at that, and Flour $5.50 per hundred. The children seem to like here well, and I am persuaded, it is both a beautiful and pleasant place to live in, when people get sorted up a little, and find something to do. There is no scarcity of work. Laborers earn $1.50 and board, or $2.25 and board themselves. Girls are in demand at from $5.00 to $7.00 per week and cannot be got at that. I never saw so many bachelors before, and all rich. I asked one the reason and he replied that there were no girls to make wives of Money is of great importance here and can be laid out to better advantage than in any other place I have seen."

The British Government has suspended the writ of *Habeas Corpus* in one district of the county of Westmeath, Ireland.

Goderich Town Council.

The Regular Meeting was held in the Town Hall on Friday, 28th inst. Present, the Reeve in the chair, Dty Reeve, Councillors Clifford, Crabb, Doney, Detlor, Passmore, Sinclair, Davison, Gordon, Smith, Doyle, Gardiner and Savage Minutes of last regular and special meetings were read and approved. Petition from Mr Ed. Sharman to grade Cameron St., agreeing to pay $10.00 towards defraying cost. Moved by Mr Sinclair seconded by Mr. Doyle that it be referred to Road and Bridge Committee with power. Legacy was received of $20.00 from the late John McHardy Esq., amounting with interest date to $21.13. It was moved by Mr Horton, and seconded by Mr Doyle that Mr McHardy's communication be published in the local press. It was also resolved to place the legacy in the hands of the Relief Committee to be applied to the laudable object intended. A letter to the Treasurer was read from Mr Thomas Robertson, Dundas:—complaining of lots being placed on the non-resident roll, when they were occupied by McHorton. Mr Savage, who was assessor for 1869 & 1870, said there were no buildings on the lots and nobody resident and he of course put it on the non-resident roll, and as Mr. Robertson was the owner, he was entitled to pay the taxes. Mr. Doyle thought the matter should be investigated, and moved, seconded by Mr. Sinclair, that it be refered to the Finance Committee. Carried. Account of Robinson and Wilkinson, for Relief, ordered to be paid. Account of *Star* office for printing and stationery $3.50, order to be paid. Mr. Harry Reed's application for a saloon license in the Bedford block Kingston St. was received. Mr Crabb moved and Mr. Gardiner seconded that it be granted, provided the application met the approval of the inspector. Moved by Mr Detlor, seconded by Mr Smith that it be not granted. Mr Sinclair said the house must be stated and the same inspected by the inspector, before the Council took any action. The application was then amended as above Mr Gordon thought there was no reason not to grant license to Mr Reed when others were granted. He would at any time go against all saloons, but he thought there should be no favoritism. Motion Carried. Mr Crabb said it was understood that all streets and sidewalks leading to churches should be kept in repair. The sidewalk on St David St to the Methodist Episcopal Church was in a bad state, Mr Crabb moved, seconded by Mr Savage, that the South side-walk of St David's st be gravelled from Kingston St to Victoria Carried. Mr Clifford proposed to put up notification that parties destroying shade trees should prosecuted to the utmost rigors of the law. He moved that a reward of $50.00 be offered to any person giving such information as would lead to conviction of offenders. Mr Savage moved and Mr Sinclair seconded that the reward be $5.00. Carried. Mr Savage drew attention to the destruction committed by pigs on the streets and asked for a remedy. Mr Crabb thought it was the duty of the street inspector, to attend to having the pigs impounded by himself or some one else. Mr Sinclair agreed with this. Mr Gardiner drew attention to another nuisance the loafing of boys about the streets. Mr Crabb had always advocated the idea of having one man to act as chief constable and street inspector at a salary of say $450, that would enable him to devote his whole time to the work. Mr Crabb moved, and Mr Sinclair seconded, that the Street Inspector be empowered to hire help to have the pigs running at large impounded—Carried. Moved by Mr Sinclair, seconded by Mr Savage, that the Road and Bridge Committee be empowered to repair the Bridge Hill—Carried. Mr Doyle said he saw other towns taking the bull by the horns and employing a man to watch the loafers. If Mr Hood said he would accept the duties, he would move an addition of $50 to his salary, and when necessary he could employ assistance. Mr Gardiner would second the motion. Mr Savage moved and Mr Dancy seconded, that Mr Hood be empowered to hire assistance when required to look after the loafers and pay those he hires $1.00 each per night.—The latter motion carried. Adjourned.

PORT ALBERT.

Victoria Lodge I. O. O. G. T.—This Lodge was organized on the 14th Feb'y last, with only 12 members. There are at present 31, who are fully determined to do all in their power for the promotion of the order. This Lodge has been the means, since its commencement, of doing a great amount of good in this vicinity. The following officers were installed by the W. P. D, on the evening of the 26th April:—

J. Crawford Sen., W. C. T., Annie Crawford W. V. T., John Smale, W. C. A. C. Hawkins W. S., John B. Hawkins, W. T., Thos. Richardson; W. F. S., Henry Haydew, W M., Geo. Dreany, W. I. G., F. Hawkins, W. O. G., R. Brown, W. A. S., George McConnell, W. A. M.; Elizabeth Haydew, W. R H. S.; Cathrine Quail, W. L. H. S.

WEATHER.—The beautiful April showers which have occurred these last few days have made the meadows assume quite a new dress. Farmers are prosecuting their work in this vicinity with all ardor possible. There will be a large quantity of Spring grain sown in this neighborhood as the weather has been so favorable for the prosecution of the farmer's work. There is scarcely any fall wheat sown about here, but what is looks very well.

Ashfield and Wawanosh Agricultural Society.

SPRING SHOW AT DUNGANNON.—This Show took place yesterday and was well attended, nearly 200 being present, which considering the rainy day and the busy season was better than could have been expected. The prize-list was as follows:—

HORSES.

Six entries, 1st prize "Young Count" Mr. Marr; 2d prize "Young Hard Fortune" Mr. R. Tolmie; 3d prize "Conqueror," Mr James Stewart; 4th prize "Young Suffolk Punch" Mr. John G. Truax.

BULLS.

Aged, 1 entry, prize, a thoroughbred Durham, Wm Darwin's.

UNDER TWO YEARS 1st prize to S Boaden 2nd Mr Washington 3d prize Mr Tiffin's.

Colborne.

TEMPERANCE.—The Nile Lodge of Good Templars celebrated their anniversary in remembrance of the organization of the Lodge on Thursday evening last, which was a decided success in spite of bad roads and rain. The temperance hall, which is a neat commodious new building, was filled to excess, by the members in regalia and the public. The chair was taken at 7.30 by Mr. William Nichols the Worthy Chief, who delivered a short and pithy address on the importance of the temperance cause, and the duty of the church towards the society. He also stated that the Lodge started one year ago with only 17 members, it has now about 40 members. Mrs. Crawford assisted by Miss Thompson then gave the audience a temperance song which gained great applause; after which there was a number of recitations and dialogues by numerous speakers, with a number of songs by Mrs. Crawford, Miss Thompson, Mrs L. O. Rice and others. After the usual votes of thanks the meeting broke up at eleven o'clock.

LECTURE.—Rev Jas Scriveright gave the last of a series of lectures on Popery, yesterday evening in the Town Hall, at Smith's Hill, to a large audience. The subject was 'The Roman Catholic Clergy.'

Mr. Bishop's Reply to Mr. Sproat.

To the Editor of the Huron Expositor:

SIR,—Very reluctantly I address you, having little time and less inclination to appear as a newspaper writer. It is only at the earnest solicitation of some of my friends that I consent to answer Mr Sproat's letter, considering it hardly worth the powder. Mr Sproat should remember that those who live in glass houses should not be too ready in throwing stones at their neighbors; and Mr S. should be especially careful when he indulges in such a pastime. A little caution, too, on his part in reference to making assertions about matters he does not understand, and giving them to the public through the press would not be out of place. What I said in Seaforth was, that I had received a circular asking me to attend the meeting for the purpose of considering the propriety of forming a group of municipalities to give a bonus to the L. H. and B. R.; that I did not believe in the grouping principle, and, therefore, would oppose it. That I had to do so at all from all points and was of the same opinion I had always entertained namely, that the fair way was by County bonus; but that I did not see how a County bonus could be carried under the circumstances. I also said we had made a mistake in not buying the Northern Gravel Road. That the County Council had made a mistake, and that I, as one of that Council, was as much to blame for it as the other members, and that mistake was, the coupling the buying of the N. Gravel Road with the taking off of the tolls. I said that if they had been voted on separately the result might have been different—at least so far as the town ship of Usborne was concerned. The ratepayers of that township argued in this way—Is it reasonable for us to vote free roads to the County of Huron when we have to pay tolls going to Lucan (our market town) in Middlesex, and also to old Mary's, in Perth? Indeed how we could expect those municipalities to give us fair play with regard to railways when we had not given them fair play in the matter of gravel roads. A very good test lies for Mr Sproat's terrible wrath. The ex-Reeve of Tuckersmith asks what new light I have got. Let me answer by citing one instance of Mr Sproat's mind being strangely illuminated:—A few Goderich people often compelled him to dispose some and committee money illegally retained. Immediately afterwards for reasons no doubt obvious to himself, he canvassed the different members to have the Council sittings at Clinton. A majority of us promised to support a motion to that effect. When Mr Morrow moved to hold the next meeting at Clinton, imagine our surprise to hear Mr Sproat move an amendment that the next meeting of Council be held in Goderich, as usual. When asked his reasons for acting so strangely his reply was that he had received new light. Comment is needless. Mr Sproat says he has said pretty clear for his whistle already in the way of railway lines What would Mr Sproat's farm be worth were there no railway? or Seaforth, or the County of Huron without it? If he considers he has paid too much for the railway, living as he does within a mile of a station, what must the ratepayers of Usborne, Stephen, Hay and Hullett think, who have never been directly benefitted to the value of ten cents by it?—Or even those of Stanley, Grey, Morris, Turnberry, Wawanosh and Ashfield, who have to travel from ten to twenty miles—and pay 12c toll every five miles—to get to the Station? Mr Sproat should just say what he means, which is, "I have got all I want at your expense, gentlemen; and if you want anything more, just pay for it yours lives!"

Now, Sir, I am in favor of the L. H and B. R. for the following reasons:—Because I believe opposition is the life of trade—and we need it badly in this matter because I believe we would get a bonus more for our grain and for a hundred more for our pork had we a competing line of railway; because I believe it would raise the price of property in the aggregate more than double what it would cost us in the way of bonus; because I believe it would, in a short time, make the hamlets through which it passed incorporated villages and the incorporated villages would become towns, thus opening up local markets for our now unsaleable garden and field products. Contrast as we are to the growing of wheat, which don't pay, and a few of the coarse grains, our soil has become exhausted. With markets for roots and such other necessaries demanded by large manufacturing populations we might restore our impoverished soil to vigor. Such a result would alone be worth a good County bonus. I it was just to give a bonus to a railway running 30 miles in this County how much more so to give one to a road which will run 60 miles!

Mr. Editor, I believe it is good policy to buy the Northern Gravel Road notwithstanding Mr. Sproat's "new light," and the everlasting hoist he speaks of and I will just point out why I think so. I find in the minutes, June, 1869, pp. 57, that Tuckersmith received $47.200 out of the $400,000 borrowed for gravel road purposes; Usborne, $34,460; Goderich town, $2,568. On pp. 52-1 find there were $46,213 raised in this County for the purpose of paying interest and establishing a sinking fund for the liquidation of the Gravel Roads debentures, and also for the improvement of roads and bridges within the County. On pp. 54 I find that Tuckersmith raised of this sum, $2,483; Usborne, $2,546; and Goderich town $2,770.—so that the town of Goderich paid out $202 more that year than she got altogether. There are nineteen municipalities, and it will be seen from the following figures that Goderich Town paid more than the nineteenth part of the whole amount; Usborne and Tuckersmith about a nineteenth each. I am, therefore, perfectly safe in concluding that Goderich pays the nineteenth part of the $400,000, which, in round numbers, is $21,000. Now, if the County does not give the Town some relief the $60,000 which she has paid to the Northern Gravel Road and the $21,000—her proportion of the $400,000—will make $81,000 paid by her for gravel roads in the County, having only received from the loan $2770. Usborne will pay $21,000, having received $34,460; Tuckersmith will pay $21,000, and received $47,200; Hullett received $37,600 out of the same fund and paid $2,825 as her proportion of the $46,213 raised as above mentioned. The township of West Wawanosh never received a dollar for gravel road purposes, still she pays her share of the cost of their construction. When the revenue from tolls does not keep the roads in repair we take County money and make up the deficiency—charging Wawanosh her share, while the ratepayers of that municipality are compelled to travel over a miserable, half-kept road and pay more tolls than we do. I believe in dealing squarely with municipalities as well as with individuals. The ratepayers of Usborne travel over one of those glorious Company roads and know what it is.

I see by your last issue that Mr. McMichael, ex-Reeve of Hullett, says that some of the Council doings are enveloped in mystery. Very surprising, indeed! If Mr. McM. will take the trouble to glance at a minute of 22nd December, 1858, when he was Councillor, will find a motion, unanimously carried, that will puzzle him "or any other man" to understand.

Yours, &c.,
ARCHIBALD BISHOP.

Usborne, April 24, 1871.

EDITOR'S NOTE.—We publish the above letter for two reasons:—1st. Because we published Mr Sproat's letter on the railway question, to which this is a reply; 2nd. because Mr Bishop is manly enough to have looked the financial relations between the Town of Goderich and the County of Huron squarely in the face and to conclude that instead of being a "grasping corporation" the County town has paid $81,000 towards the construction of gravel roads, and received on by $2,770, being therefore in Mr Bishop's opinion entitled to "some relief." He is equally just to West Wawanosh. We commend the figures to the candid consideration of all interested.

"Fruits and Fruit Culture."

LECTURE BY WM. SAUNDERS, ESQ.

[From the London Free Press.]

The Bishop Cronyn Hall was comfortably filled last evening by a very intelligent audience to hear the lecture on the above subject from our worthy fellow-citizen, Wm. Saunders, Esq. The President of the Association, Ven. Dean Hellmuth, introduced the lecturer in a few happy sentences.

The lecturer began by remarking that it is pleasing to note the growing interest that is manifested in fruit culture throughout the Province. It is no longer held that the climate of Canada is unsuited to the perfection of the finer fruits, for it is being realized that with the exercise of a little care everyone may sit, literally, under his own vine, and enjoy besides the rich and juicy fruits it is now found to be practicable to cultivate. Taking a retrospective glance, the lecturer touched upon the history of the apple, known to early Romans, among whom 29 varieties were common. The apple tree is a native of England as well as of other European countries, and history mentions that in 973 King Edgar rested from the chase under the branches of a wild one. The cultivation of this hardy and universally approved fruit was strenuously inculcated three hundred years ago, one worthy recommending it among other reasons on the ground that an ointment made with the pulp of apples, swine's grease and rose-water, was useful to beautify the skin!' The apple in America appears to have originated by chance. The Esopus Spitzenberg,—the best esteemed of all our apples—originated at Esopus, originally settled by the Dutch, on the Hudson River. The Rhode Island Greening, the Baldwin, and Northern Spy and other of good quality had their origin in the same way. Now and then new seedlings appear; one of these, the London Pippin, introduced by Mr. Leslie, of London is much esteemed. The pear is a no less ancient fruit than the apple, and was transplanted from Greece into Italy. In portions of Europe and Western Asia it grows in a wild state, and is there the most astringent of all fruits. It is not a native of this continent but has been brought here through the agency of the Huguenots, probably, who carried with them in their exile seeds of the choicest varieties. Belgium and Holland have produced finer varieties of this fruit than the rest of the world, and very aged trees, the seeds of which were brought from those countries, are to be found at Long Island, in Michigan and Illinois. Some pear trees in England are known to be 400 years old, and one in New York, destroyed in 1867, was planted 200 years ago by the Dutch Governor on what was then his farm, now a large and populous city. As an instance of productiveness it was mentioned that a pear tree in Illinois, not even a foot of girth, yielded, in 1834, no less than 184 bushels of pears, and in 1840 almost as many. A hint was given which may prove useful, which was that pears should not be allowed to ripen fully, but gathered ten days before maturity, and ripened in the house, a higher flavor being thus developed. Several pears were here named as excellent, the Bartlett being the most popular, known in England under the name of Williams Bonchretien. But as 1,000 varieties of pears have been planted in this country, the mere enumeration of them would be tedious. The method of dwarfing the pear by grafting it on the roots of the quince, has greatly stimulated pear culture; for by this plan instead of waiting four to fifteen years for fruit, the cultivator usually reaps some reward in the second or third season. The finer varieties of plums are of very recent origin, not dating in America farther back than fifty years. Of these are the Washington, the Lombard—the most prolific and profitable variety grown—the Imperiel, Jefferson, &c. All varieties of this fruit are believed by botanists to have sprung from the sloe, and the wild plum of this country would, if properly experimented upon, be capable of much improvement. The cultivated cherry came originally from Asia, and was brought to Italy by Lucullus, in 69 B C. Its culture soon spread all over Europe, and reached America in the same way as other fruit. Avenues of this tree are to be found in some parts of the continent of Europe, the fruit of which is free to the traveller. There are no less than 187 varieties of this fruit with us, many of which are of America origin. Professor Kirtland, of Cleveland, has been very successful in raising them. Though the tender peach does not promise much success in the northern portions of the country, it may be grown with success on the shores of Lake Erie, particularly from a point near Fingal to Amherstburg. Some of our enterprising citizens have purchased farms at the westerly portion, and are planting the peach on an extensive scale, with every prospect of success. There is probably no country in the world in which the peach is grown in more abundance than in the United States and it would be impossible to use the fruit so raised if it were not for the extensive factories in which it is preserved by canning. An establishment of this kind, employing 200 hands, having been noticed, the lecturer proceeded to speak of the nectarine and apricot, delicious fruits, but little cultivated however, owing to being particularly liable to the attack of the curculio. The grape, its origin and culture, next occupied attention, and an interesting description of the method of crossing varieties given. The European grape does not succeed well in Canada, having been found either too tender, or too subject to mildew The native American varieties are quite distinct from these. There are four of them, three of which are proper to the north, viz:—The fox, frost and summer grape. By judicious cultivation these are becoming a dessert fruit, and possess superior hardiness and productiveness. Reference was made to the quantity of land under grape cultivation in Europe, estimated at twelve millions of acres, yielding 3,107 millions of gallons of wine annually. Our space will not permit more than a reference to the interesting description given of the method of hybridizing the grape, improving its quality and yield. It should be given at length or not at all. The strawberry, blackberry and raspberry, originating from wild parents, have been improved by judicious selections and crossings. The most profitable and productive variety of strawberry is "Wilson's Albany," which is of good size, deep crimson color and brisk acid flavour. The Triumph de Gand ranks next, and though not so productive as the other, is large, sweet, and has a luscious flavour. Several other kinds were spoken of as belonging to the first rank, the introduction of which has given a wonderful stimulus to the cultivation of this the earliest fruit. A few years since we could only get an occasional quart or two in our own market and that at a high price; now the annual consumption average 500 bushels, and is rapidly increasing. "Brinckle's Orange" stands at the head of raspberries. It is a large yellow berry, of good size, raised by Dr Brinckle, of Philadelphia. The 'Philadelphia' is among the hardiest of the cultivated sorts, and is enormously productive, and will probably be for many years The variety for the million. As our woods and fields become better cultivated, and the supply of the wild fruit cut off, these sorts will supply their place. In the selection of a suitable spot for a fruit garden, the soil is a matter of importance, for if favorable conditions in this respect are not provided the labor will be greatly increased, and disappointment frequent. The first requisite is dryness. None of the plants and trees we cultivate for fruit will grow with their roots continually immersed in water, so if the soil is wet it should be drained. It often happens that those retentive soils when drained are the very best for the purpose, and as the labor and expense connected with draining an ordinary sized garden plot is generally small, a location otherwise suitable need not be rejected on this account. Many sorts of fruit thrive well on a light sandy soil even with little care, but the growth is usually poor both in wood and fruit compared with similar trees in a richer and stronger soil. A rich deep clay and partly of a sandy character, with an under-lying stratum of gravel or gravelly clay, is perhaps the most desirable for the purpose. The pear and plum especially delight in a strong rich soil, but the apple will grow and thrive in almost any sort of soil. A suitable spot being provided, the next thing is the preparation of the ground, which should be well stirred, and as deeply as possible. A small piece can be trenched with the spade to the depth 18 inches, but on a large scale this method is too expensive, and the plough must be relied upon. If a good furrow, say 8 inches, is turned over with an ordinary plough, and a second team follows in the same line with a subsoil plough, the surface may be thoroughly loosened to the depth of 15 inches, and thus leave the ground in a very good condition for planting. Ordinary standard apple trees should be planted about 30 feet apart each way; standard pears and cherries 25 feet; dwarf pears about 10 feet; plums, peaches and apricots from 16 to 20 feet. After planting trees should be thoroughly mulched, that is the surface of the ground around them covered with some material which will retain the moisture in the soil, such as manure, chip rubbish, sawdust or small stones. These all operate beneficially by preventing the surface of the ground from becoming dry to any depth, which would cause the young and tender rootlets near the surface to wither, and such materials as will decay slowly and enrich the soil would be a benefit in that way also. Simple as the operation may seem there are many people that do not know how to plant a tree properly—a deep hole is often dug scarcely large enough to cover the roots into. These, when stuffed into this small aperture, have the soil well packed down above them, and they are then let alone to struggle on as best they can, and when the trees fail to grow—which is very commonly the case—the unfortunate nurseryman who may have furnished them gets all the blame. Before planting a tree its roots should be examined, and if there are any among them injured or partly broken, those should be cut off back to the sound part, with a sharp knife. A hole should be dug somewhat larger than the entire circumference of the roots when laid out in a natural position. These should then be spread, and fine soil worked in among the smaller fibres with the hand, so as to prevent their being crowded together. If proper care is taken in this way the roots will occupy, after planting, much the same relative position as they did in the nursery rows from which the trees was taken. The hole should be filled up with nice fine surface-soil, no manure or rich compost being allowed to come in contact with the roots. If any such is used, it is best placed on the surface after planting. It is not uncommon when planting trees or vines to look out the richest and strongest manures that can be got, and to put plenty of it in the holes around the roots to stimulate their growth The young rootlets do not thrive in such over feeding, but often decay, and the plant or tree is killed by kindness. From the commencement of the growth of the tree, for all time to come a close watch should be kept for insect enemies, for their name is legion Often when a young tree has become nicely established and made a fair growth, some wandering moth flies around it and deposits in the leaves or twigs a hund