PROGRAMME

FOR 1879

SWEEPING REDUCTIONS

will be made in the prices of all kinds of

MISCELLANEOUS BOOKS,
BLANK BOOKS,
WRITING PAPERS,
ENVELOPES,
SILVER WARE,
FANCY GOODS,
WALL PAPERS,
CHROMOS,
&c., &c., &c.

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Goderich, Jan., 2nd 1879.

Huron Signal.

GODERICH. JAN. 22, 1879.

COL. ROSS, the member for West Huron, on Thursday last, delivered the speech of the session. It is a model of close reasoning, clear and concise in statement, and a complete refutation of the fallacious assertions and showings of that hypocritical and irresponsible humbug, D. L. Macpherson. It deals principally with the finances of the Province and can be implicitly relied on as showing just exactly how the people's money has been spent. Just before going to press we received from our own correspondent at Toronto the speech in full as taken down for the SIGNAL. We shall publish it in full next issue. It took two hours in delivery and of course will be somewhat curtailed, but more complete than any report in the city papers.

We regretfully make the announcement of the death of the Hon. Donald McDonald. He died at his late residence in Toronto on Monday afternoon at 4 o'clock. The deceased gentleman was a Senator of the Dominion of Canada Under the old *regime* he represented the Electoral Division of Tecumseh, which comprised the Counties of Huron and Perth. He was elected to this position about thirty years ago defeating the late Thomas Mercer Jones. By virtue of the arrangement made at the time of Confederation he became a life Senator. He was very wealthy, owning largely in real estate in the District which he represented, also in various other parts of the Province and Dominion. He was a far seeing man, possessed of thorough business qualifications and indomitable energy

THE REFORM CONVENTION at Hensall, for South Huron, on Friday last, was largely attended. Every municipality was represented. Mr. Archibald Bishop was re-nominated unanimously. Addresses were delivered by Mr. Bishop, Mr. Thos. Greenway, Mr. S. G. McCaughey, Mr. M. Y. McLean and others. The convention was very enthusiastic, and the prospects are good. The conduct of the Ontario Government was heartily approved of and endorsed by resolution.

Town Council.

After beginning the declaration of office the members of the new Council assembled in the Council Chamber on Monday 20th inst. Mayor Doyle in the chair, all present except John Mitchell and J. T. Garrow. Archdeacon Elwood was re-appointed a High School Trustee. Moved by W. Mitchell seconded by Mr Bingham that H. W. Ball be appointed by the Council as Auditor for the ensuing year. Mr. Hutchison moved in amendment, Mr. Sloane seconded that Mr. R. Radcliff be one of the Auditors for the ensuing year.—Amendment lost. Motion declared carried. The Mayor then appointed Andrew Waddel as the other Auditor. Mr. Dancy moved, Mr. Atcheson seconded that the Standing Committee for the ensuing year be now struck and that consist of five. Carried. The members composing it are Johnston, Detlor, Dancy, Hutchison, Seymour. F. W. Johnston receiving the highest number of votes will be chairman *pro tem*.

Mr. Seymour gave notice of motion, Mr. Jordan seconded, that the Board of Public Works meet and define the duties of Street Inspector and Nightwatchman, so that when the appointment of these officers is made they may clearly understand what is expected of them as to lighting the street lamps, etc.

Council adjourned until next Friday evening.

MUTUAL LIFE ASSOCIATION OF CANADA.—We have received from Mr. J. Russel, who is local agent for the Company, a beautiful Calendar for the year 1879, issued by the Mutual Life Association of Canada. The above Association have their head quarters in Hamilton. From an exchange we learn that they are doing a good and largely increasing business. This company is based upon the soundest and most equitable principles. The first of these is that the premiums are absolutely non-forfeitable after two payments have been made and the profits are distributed equitably and entirely among the policy holders. This is an excellent arrangement. The names of the directors and officers will be found in the Company's advertising card in another column, and afford ample guarantee for the prudence of the management. Mr. Bull, the superintendent of agencies, was in town last week and called upon us. This gentleman was for some years the Secretary of the Life Association of Scotland, and continued in that capacity until the company withdrew its Canadian Branch. From flattering notices of the press and from what we have seen of him we should think it would hardly have been possible to have made a better selection. A company so officered cannot fail to be eminently successful.

PRESENT.—Mrs. Sieveright, on Saturday last, unexpectedly received a present of two handsome easy chairs and a table cover accompanied by the following address:—A few of the many friends of Mrs. Sieveright in the congregation desiring to manifest by some tangible token their warm attachment to her, and their sincere appreciation of her many excellent qualities and Christian virtues, request her to accept the accompanying present and with it the assurance that it is the earnest hope and prayer that she may be long spared to her family and friends.

Horticulture.

The following address was delivered at the annual meeting of the Goderich Horticultural Society on the 9th inst. by Mr. Alex. McD. Allan the President elect. The leading points were discussed at a subsequent meeting and the address adopted by the board of Directors.

To the Members of the Goderich Horticultural Society:]

GENTLEMEN,—

For the purpose of introducing into our Society a feature that I think every similar Society should adopt, I have prepared, in lieu of the usual formal Directors report, a review of some matters that passed under my notice since our last annual meeting; and if I sometimes stray beyond what may properly be considered our theme, my friends will, with that liberality, good nature and patience that distinguishes fruit growers, bear with my rambling fancy. First of all allow me suggest that hereafter our President be required to deliver an address at our annual meeting, giving a review of horticultural matters in this section during the preceeding season. In the next place that a regular monthly meeting of the board of directors be held for the purpose of discussing topics horticultural; and in this way, while acquiring a more perfect knowledge ourselves, we may be in a position to improve our Society and educate its members. While it is highly gratifying to observe the gradual improvement in horticulture in this section, it must be admitted that if we were to combine theory with practice and rub our ideas together at monthly meetings, the mutual benefits would be great, and they would extend to many outside of our Society at present, who would thus be brought to appreciate our efforts and join our ranks. Each year brings changes and these are usually improvements of some kind. We are advancing, but by making a more determined effort we might advance more rapidly, and there is no reason why this effort should not be made. Many points might be named to show that each year of late has marked an advance step. One of these is the greater care in selecting competent and unbiased judges from outside of our own section, of acknowledged skill in the department for which they are selected. When we compare the fruit on the tables at our show last fall with that of four years ago, we see a very decided improvement; the poorer varieties, that used to be so common on our exhibition tables, are now banished, and in their place we find the choicest and best varieties. Many other points might be named but these will suffice at present.

Looking back to the spring of last year we find fruit growers returning thanks that their trees suffered nothing by mice. Many took the proper early precaution to bank up the earth around the trees in the fall, and thus prevent mice from reaching them, but all were safe last winter without this precaution, as there was not snow sufficient to cover the ground and induce mice to burrow.

The mild days in the first of March brought forward the contents of many insect cocoons and chrysalis, but at the same time I observed in some of these instances that the cocoons and chrysalis were pierced, and upon opening those thus affected I found a small wiry insect about the size of a small ant, with two probossis of a very peculiar grayish color; this was evidently an enemy, for in every instance it had devoured the contents A sharp frost of a week or ten days about the middle of March evidently destroyed these useful insects, but at the same time it similarly affected the larva, as, on examination some days after, I found many cocoons and chrysalis, which had not been pierced, shrivelled and the contents blighted. The unusually warm and rainy weather brought on growth in April; within the space of a very few days vegetation had started and the eager horticulturists and entomologists were on the alert for the first signs of the weals or woes of the approaching season. It is interesting to mark the many surmises of these anxious enquirers, and how often they build up a mountain out of a mere mole hill. But their exaggerations are excusable when we consider the general results, for every season has produced fruits resulting from this diligent spirit of research; many new discoveries are made among insects, and remedies devised to exterminate pests amongst them.

The buds and blossoms had scarcely opened when the *leaf roller* made its appearance in every section, causing a fear in many places that a new and formidable enemy had appeared. About the first of April a farmer from Goderich Township brought to me, as a curiosity, a small twig of an apple tree with the well known band cluster containing the eggs of the *tent caterpillar* My friend had never seen the like before and thought he made a discovery. I laid the twig on my desk at the time, paying little attention to it; a few days after, however, I picked it up and, examining it more carefully observed the irregularities and dilapidated appearance of the ring, or cluster; upon a closer examination I found that the parts thus affected were filled with small very light colored mites, almost transparent, which had evidently devoured the contents. Not knowing but that they came there since the twig was laid on my desk, I visited several orchards and cut off twigs with the usual clusters ringed around them, and upon subjecting these immediately to the same close examination, found them affected similar to the one already described. which convinced me that fruit growers had a friend in the newly discovered enemy to the tent caterpillar, The experience of the season also proved conclusively that this little mite did good work, as comparatively few nests of the tent caterpillar were seen, and comparatively little damage was done by this pest.

I am glad to observe that a deeper interest is taken in the Ontario Fruit Growers Association by growers in this section; and after the experience of the past year I hope to find a material increase in membership. The Burnet grape vine that the Association distributed last spring has so far given general satisfaction, but few failures being yet reported among the vines distributed in this section. I hope the fruit will prove as satisfactory as the vines. As a Society we should look to the Fruit Growers Association as our parent stem and be guided by the good example laid before us by so noble a vine. From our parent we receive much nourishment, and our fruits will show what use we have made of this nourishment.

In the spring of the year many fruit growers make a practice of scraping and washing all their trees; they do so because it is necessary, and it pays. Lime and sulphur or lye solution, make very good washes; common soap suds will do, and some consider this the best. Blight has not been common in Huron the past season, nor have I heard that it has been destructive elsewhere.

Of all the enemies the fruit grower has to contend with, the curculio is one of the most formidable, and the experience of plum growers is always interesting on this point, A Goderich Township grower told me of a tree that grows beside a brook, the tree leans over the water, and always bears a heavy crop of plums, untouched by the curculio, excepting a few on the outer branches which do not extend over the water. Another, who has his plum trees planted through his orchard mixed with other trees, tied bands around every tree in his orchard, and also around some clothes line posts at the one side of the orchard. In a few days he took off the bands and found a goodly number of the little pests secreted in the bands on most of the trees; he found as large an average, in the bands around the posts as in those around the trees. This goes to show that the curculio is as apt to climb one tree as another, and a post as readily as a tree, notwithstanding the many opinions to the contrary.—

Black knot is still too common in our orchards, and no excuse can honestly be offered for its presence as the remedy is simple, effective and easily applied. I believe, since fruit growers will not give proper attention to this matter that a law should be enacted making it a matter of compulsion to apply the knife to every instance of black knot. There is little good done if only a few here and there attend to their trees One indifferent orchardist can supply the poison from his plum trees to destroy a whole district.

The *borer* has not disappeared yet although its ravages are somewhat curtailed in some sections by the constant use of proper means. Some wash the trees with soft soap, taking care to apply it well around the collars and forks; any alkali will suit; a pound of potash to two gallons of water makes an excellent wash. But when the grub has once got into the tree the general remedy is to follow it with a wire or knife.

The *codling worm* destroyed apples from their earliest formation, and in some sections, in the early part of the season it was feared that the crop would be destroyed; but these fears were premature, as the abundant crop proved. All fruit that falls prematurely should be destroyed, and for this purpose it is now generally admitted that pigs are of great service in an orchard. As many may not be acquainted with the codling worm a short history of its life may be of service. In the months of June and July the parent moth deposits an egg at the root of the blossom; the egg hatches soon, and a little worm appears which remains four to six weeks.—Sometimes the apple drops early, and if not the worm eats its way out and finds a hiding place where it spins a cocoon, and in process of time comes forth a full grown moth. There are two generations of these in a season. Various methods are adopted to destroy them, but probably the simplest and best is the band around the tree, where they readily hide, and where it is very easy to detroy them.

Strawberries were only about half a crop the past season, the frost in the first week of May having killed off the first blossoms. The chief growers are Mr. Fred. Seegmiller, of Goderich township, who has eight acres under cultivation, and Mr. J. Stewart, of Benmiller, who has three acres. The product of Mr. Seegmiller's field the past season was 800 bushels, and Mr. Stewart had a return of 9000 baskets, The price averaged eight cents per basket. For a winter covering for strawberry vines cornstalks are used laid lengthways with pieces of wood across to hold them down.

Cherries were a light crop, the early frost having destroyed the blossom.—Comparatively few orchardists grow more than they require for home consumption, and the common red is more generally grown than any other.

Raspberries are still to be had in such abundance in the woods and fields that but few have tried to cultivate them to any degree.

Black currants are generally a good crop, and the past season was no exception. In one or two instances I was shown what appears to be a disease in these bushes; it is a sort of fungus or greyish mould, resembling a heavy mildew. A liberal covering of salt and ashes will, it is said, prevent this disease. I noticed a small light reddish colored caterpillar, covered with a light woolly substance eating the foliage off the bushes. I don't know whether or not it is a new enemy, but I never observed it attacking black currant bushes before. Where not destroyed it would dismantle a bush in a few days. Red and white currants were not a large crop, but of excellent quality where properly cultivated and cared for. Too many neglect the currant bushes; they never trim out the old wood, but allow both old and new to grow, till old age trims the bush of part.

Gooseberries were a good crop, but many growers were so frightened years ago at the failure of English varieties by mildew that this fruit is not cultivated so largely. The Houghton Seedling is the favorite generally as it bears well every year and never mildews; the Downing also succeeds well where grown. Smith's white bore fairly, fruit large and free from mildew where ashes were used liberally; Smith's improved mildewed when nearly matured.—Hedgehog is a delicious tender skinned berry but mildewed on damp black muck; on well drained land where ashes and salt were used no signs of mildew appeared. Crown Bob gave a medium return but mildews badly unless properly attended to.

That little pest the currant worm was very troublesome the past season; constant watchfulness was necessary to save the foliage of the bushes. They appeared to have a particular relish for the leaves of the Houghton Seedling and Downing gooseberries. Hellebore was more generally used as a remedy than anything else; some used fresh lime, which they dusted in the morning early over the bushes. A Bruce county grower told me that he used coal ashes as a mulch under his bushes and he was not troubled at all with caterpillers, while his neighbor's bushes were covered; the coal ashes keeps the earth moist and is said to be a preventative of mildew. I would recommend growers to give this a trial, and also to try wood ashes and salt as a mulch. When clusters of old leaves are seen netted together on the bushes they should be carefully stripped off and burned as they contain the cocoons of the currant worm.

Slugs were not so plentiful the past season as in that of 1877. The simplest and best remedy is to sprinkle fine dust over the tree so as to rest on the slugs, which lie on the upper side of the leaves; the dust clogs the pores in them (for they are merely a porus mass of jelly) and prevents breathing which causes death.

Thrips annoyed grape growers very considerably, and few attempted to exterminate them. Vines in a glass house can easily be kept clear of thrips by filling the house with tobacco smoke; this remedy is of little avail in the open air as the smoke cannot be kept on the vine for any length of time. Tobacco water is used on outside vines with success.

Peaches were a light crop, the early frost having killed the blossom in many sections. The Early and Late Crawford, Hale's Early, Alexander and a few other named varieties, besides a long list of seedlings are grown, but the preference is given to the first named. Those who are successful with this fruit make a practice of planting their trees where they are shaded from the south; they place a heavy mulch around the trees as soon as the frost is firmly bedded in the ground, so as to keep the ground frozen as late as possible in the spring and thus keep back the buds and blossoms. Trees thus treated live longer and bear better, so say those who have tried this treatment.

In the fall of 1877, an American visited this section and disposed of a quantity of Paw Paw Beans and Osage Orange seed; those who tried them are unanimous in reporting a failure.

The annual exhibition of our Society was held in connection with the West Riding Agricultural Exhibition, on September 18th and 19th, under rather adverse circumstances being immediately after the general elections. Notwithstanding these facts the entries were fully up to former exhibitions, and the quality of fruit was, in most cases, superior to any exhibited before in this section. In apples the quality was marked, and the specimens on the tables consisted almost entirely of the best known varieties. Some years ago we were accustomed to see chiefly the largest varieties, and many of these useless, showy apples that have been introduced into Huron by the notorious travelling agents who cared only to make sales, and who generally palmed on the public mere trash at high prices. As a rule, fruit was correctly named in displays as well as plates, and in making up collections excellent judgment was exhibited in the selection of the best varieties. If we judge by the specimens on exhibition, it appears the Æsopus Spitzenburg does not succeed here; there were only three exhibitors of this fine apple and no specimen was up to the proper standard. The fault must be laid at the door of the grower, I think, for not giving proper cultivation, as some very fine specimens are grown in the vicinity of Stratford and in Bruce County, where neither climate nor soil is better adapted, if as well, as in this section. We had one very interesting example where the advantages of proper cultivation could easily be discerned, I refer to a collection of ten varieties of apples exhibited by James Dickson Esq., from his orchard in the vicinity of Seaforth. This collection consisted of the Hawthorndean, Northern Spy, Cayuga Redstreak, 20 oz. Pippin, Colvert, King of Tompkins county, Fameuse, Ribston Pippin, Rhode Island Greening and Porter, which were all perfect fruit, and clearer and better defined than the same varieties in other collections. Mr. Dickson believes that it is impossible to grow good fruit unless the trees are properly fed and otherwise attended to, and in compliance with this belief he feeds his trees every year with good manure and lime, also occasionally ashes, mulching them with rough manure and yard refuse such as chips &c. It stands to reason that a weak tree is more liable to contract disease than a healthy one, that the fruit also will be defective and lack the quality to be found in its kind where the tree is strong and healthy. A breeding animal requires extra care and food; so with trees, the one that is loaded with fruit has to supply the necessary nourishment to produce that fruit, and if the earth does not contain a sufficient quantity of the required elements, it is necessary to supply what is lacking, in the shape of manures, otherwise the tree will become weak and diseased, the fruit spotted and imperfect in size and flavor. This is a subject which commends itself to every grower; it requires but a thought to see how reasonable it is, and for me to dwell upon it further would be useless. Mr. W. J. Hayden of Ashfield showed me two seedling apples of his own raising; one small, colored a good deal like the Duchess, a free, jucy, sub-acid flavor, ripens early, and the tree a large bearer. The other was medium size, similar to the Black Detroit in color, but more oblong in shape, flesh perfectly white, crisp and solid, flavor sub-acid and pleasant. This promises to be a valuable apple. Mr. Hayden's specimens of Bourassau and Pomme d'Api, were very fine. Growers vary a good deal in opinions as to the most valuable varieties of apples. One large grower placed the Hawthorndean at the top of the list for value. The tree comes into bearing early, bears regularly and well, and the fruit is in demand at a good price. The Spy is generally acknowledged to be among the best, but the tree is late in coming into bearing, and the yield for the first few years is not large. King of Tompkins County is gaining in favor as a profitable market apple, and the Baldwin is to be found in almost every orchard. The Roxbury and American Golden Russets are popular among growers generally. The early summer varieties are not largely grown in this section, orchardists generally being satisfied with enough for family consumption. The Red Astracan is the favorite with growers of early apples In fall varieties the Duchess of Oldenburg takes the lead with many although others prefer the Fameuse; the St. Lawrence also is looked upon by some as best entitled to first place on the fall list; Maidens Blush is grown largely and with profit. Among green apples the Rhode Island Greening and Newton Pippin are favorites; but red colored apples are considered of most value for market, especially for export to Europe where they command nearly double the price of green varieties. The flavor of the bright colored is more decided and generally finer than that of green apples.

Crab apples are grown in sufficient quantity for the supply of the home market, and there is no desire, I trust, to increase the dose, as I believe the crab to be too great a feeder and producer of worms to deserve increased cultivation. The Hyslop is the general favorite for preserving purposes, although the Moutreal Beauty has many friends.

Pears were a good crop, the specimens on exhibition were large and well developed in every way. Mr. W. J. Hayden showed a plate of Clapps Favorite, highly colored, large and perfect. Many pears showed signs of the early frost, which left dark spots and bands around them; otherwise they were all clean and perfect. As yet growers have not gone into pear culture in this section extensively enough to test thoroughly the most valuable varieties for our market. Doyenne D'Ete is pronounced one of the best early varieties; one of our best growers told me that this was the most reliable he had among his early list for profit. Bartlett of course, should be in every orchard worthy the name, being one of the best early pears. Osbands Summer and Tyson are well spoken of. In the fall varieties Buffam, Belle Lucrative, Duchesse D'Angouleme, Flemish Beauty, White Doyenne, Howell, Louise Bonne De Jersey, Seckel, Stevens' Genessee and Sheldon are the favorites. White Doyenne is claimed by some as the most profitable market pear in the fall list. Beurre Clairgeau, Beurre D'Anjou, Beurre Diel, Vicar of Winkfield, Lawrence and Winter Nelis are mostly grown for late fall and winter varieties. But some growers inform me that they do not find it so profitable to grow winter pears as the others, and that these trees are more liable to death by blight. They argue that the tree bearing a crop of early fruit has sufficient time to recover from the strain on its system (so to speak) after the fruit is picked and before the severe winter weather has come on. Not so with the tree that does not mature its fruit till late; it has no time to recover, hence the change in weather finds it in a more open and weakly state, and therefore more liable to catch disease. This may be one of the first steps towards preparing the tree for an attack of blight the following season, although my opinion would not agree with this theory, my experience being that blight affects early fully as readily as late varieties. Let those who understand the subject better deal further with these points.

Plums were better than anticipated, but the ravages of the curculio made this, where saved, the most expensive of the horticulturists' crops. Many growers, becoming discouraged on account of the distructiveness of the curculio, are rooting out their plum trees; others have become indifferent, allowing their trees to take freedom of growth, curculio and black knot, I am sorry to note this, as I have yet confidence in the future of this valuable fruit, and I venture to hope that ere long the curculio will have been a pest of the past, or another insect will arise in its might and destroy the curculio, and the plum grower will once more be able to realize handsome returns as in years gone bye. We find that many other pests, some of them as formidable as the curculio, have come and gone, and often no reason could be assigned in fact for their sudden departure, It appears to be in accordance with the eternal fitness of things, that scourges as well as blessings should be distributed among men. I am not among those who would lay down my weapons and leave the field to the curculio; no, no; rather put forth fresh efforts another season; in every defeat learn new ideas to strengthen courage for a fresh charge, with improved weapons. Mr. J. Russell's plate of Pond's Seedlings were the largest and finest I ever saw; they were the result of much care, and attention to cultivation and feeding of his trees. Mr. Russell had a large crop, which he saved by constant care in jarring his trees and using the usual band to catch the curculio. Mr. J. McIntyre showed a plate of Smith's Orleans of unusual size and beauty; they were grown near a blacksmith's shop and probably the trees were dressed with the shop scrapings, which is one of the most valuable applications that can be given to a plum or pear tree, or indeed, any fruit tree. A large per centage of plums perished by rot, which proves actually more destructive than the loss from curculio. Various causes are advanced by growers, for this rot, and some of our leading Ontario entomologists tell us that the curculio has nothing to do with it. Many believe it to be the direct result of the sting of the curculio, on the ground that the rot spreads from a puncture that reaches into the stone of the fruit. I have not observed that this puncture spoken of is to be found in every plum affected by rot; if it does there may be something in this theory. By those who advocate this theory it is claimed that the first stung fruit either falls, or the puncture hardens and the fruit remains on the tree and ripens, but is generally shrivelled and defective. A Kincardine grower, who is a close observer, supports this theory, and says that plums stung when they have gained full size will invariably rot, but when stung while yet growing the spot stung will harden as already described. The more general belief is that the rot is the result of a fungus disease either in the tree itself or gathered from the atmosphere and affecting the fruit only.—Notwithstanding the falling off in cultivation, 2137 bushels of plums were shipped from Goderich the past season.

Grapes were not upon the whole as fine as we have had them at some former exhibitions; but when the season is taken into consideration the specimens on the tables were quite up to the most sanguine hopes of growers. There is no fruit that will so readily show the result of proper cultivation and care, in quality at all events, as the grape. But if glutted with too much strong food, especially in the shape of liquids, the berry no doubt *looks* fine and large, but it is watery and insipid, resembling the fruit of a wrung vine. Mr. J. H. Williams exhibited three seedlings two of which are well worthy of further cultivation, and I trust another season to meet with them on our exhibition tables, when a more thorough test can be made. The third seedling was too wild to commend itself for general cultivation.

The display of plants and flowers was large, as usual; indeed the largest and best I saw at any exhibition during the season, not excepting the Provincial exhibition or Western Fair. We have, in our Society florists of skill and excellent taste, as the arrangement of collections, the make of boquets, the display of varieties and blending of colors abundantly proves.

I attended the Provincial Exhibition at Toronto in September, where there was collected from all sections of the Province, one of the finest displays of fruits that has ever been made in Ontario. It was interesting to note the different tints, shapes and sizes of varieties according to the section where grown. Mr. John Russell took the first prize there for a plate of his Pond's Seedling plums; there was none either in plates or collections to compare with these for size and beauty, and their flavor was equal to the best. At the Walkerton Northern Fair, while the fruit display was large, and many first class varieties on the tables, I was struck with the large proportion of showy but useless apples exhibited, and the fact also that in the large majority of cases growers had either no knowledge at all of the names of apples, or they had them named incorrectly. Enquiring as to the whys and wherefores of this state of things, I got the invariable reply that the fruit was named as the trees were.

Prominent among pests that afflict this country, I must not forget to name the fruit tree peddler. I refer more particularly to the genuine walking vocabulary, who carries a plate book or jar of fruit as well as a winning smile, a glib tongue, and usually represents some bogus nursery or tree brokers advertising themselves as nurserymen. We have frequent visits from these gentry in Huron, and the frauds they perpetrate upon the gullable public always form a long list. Within the past year I have noted a large number of swindles and the mention of a few will perhaps be interesting to those who are not already acquainted with the trickery of these travelling sharps. These who purchased the "Scotch Duchess," the "Paradise Blossom," and the "Lady of Lyons" gooseberries at fifty cents each will be pleased to know that these are one and all nothing more nor less than the Downing. The pear trees, sold for $2 each as the "Pride of France" are the Louise Bonne de Jersey. I might go on and mention a long list of bogus stock palmed off at high prices in this way. One agent sold a large lot of flowering shrubs, roses, etc. under high sounding names which have turned out to be not only common, but in many instances cast away stuff from some Hamilton gardens. While at Walkerton exhibition I met one gentleman who had purchased from one of these agents thirty apple trees for eight distinct varieties; the trees came, they looked fine, clean and healthy, but this season all fruited and proved to be Pumpkin Russets. Another gentleman got forty trees for assorted winter apples, but they now turn out to be twenty Talman Sweets and twenty Jelly Flowers. So far as I have been able to discover, these swindles are all perpetrated by agents who represent American firms. We have had a call from agents representing the firm of Stone & Wellington who advertise themselves as nurserymen in Toronto and Rochester. These agents took a large number of orders in the towns and villages in this county, and obtained large prices for the stock disposed of, more than double the prices that any of our many responsible home growers would charge. Rose bushes were sold at $1 each, that our local growers could supply at fifty cents. Now the actual facts regarding this firm are, that they are not nurserymen at all, as they represent themselves, but merely tree Brokers. They do not grow stock, but purchase from nurserymen, and probably take whatever stocks they can buy the cheapest, giving many names of their own invention to draw large prices. The stock they distributed in this vicinity last fall was that overgrown American stock, very fine in appearance no doubt, but certain to disappoint the fond hopes of the purchasers. It is strange, yet true, that, while local nurserymen and gardners cannot dispose of their stocks at any price, these strangers can gather up orders wherever they go, Common sense should teach any one to know that stock grown in our own climate is more likely to succeed than that grown in a warmer climate and different soil. Yet local growers, who deal honestly with the public, who give value for what they charge, and whose stock almost invariably turns out true to name, are allowed to starve; while strangers, who have no character to sustain, who are here to-day and away to-morrow, are patronised liberally. I believe our Societies are negligent in these matters; it is, or should be, one of the first objects of every such Society to put forth a determined effort to guard the public against swindlers who are ever on the alert to draw in their victims. Societies should more particularly impress upon their members the desirability of dealing only with well known Canadian growers. It is a serious matter to find, after paying a large price for fruit trees, after years of care and toil that they are inferior varieties, or mere trash. Nurserymen very naturally dispose of the poorest stock to these Brokers, stocks that they would not sell to their other customers, and Brokers care not what value they give orchardists so long as they themselves make a good profit in the exchange. Let those who tell us of the advantages of protection look into this matter and protect Canadian fruit growers. One of our Directors suggested sometime ago to me that, as a Society we should set our faces against all foreign and unreliable agents, and take steps to inform the public properly in these matters. The suggestion is a valuable one. If members of our Society would take the trouble of consulting any of the Directors as to the reliability or otherwise of agents who call upon them for orders, I believe much good could be done; information could easily be procured by the Directors to enable them to advise our members properly. As a Society we should strive to impress upon growers, within the scope of our district at least, the desirability of planting only the best and most profitable varieties. I hope, before another annual meeting, many instances can be pointed out where our Society has done good service in these respects.

There is nothing, perhaps, that helps to set off a home, a street or a farm so much as the planting of well selected shade and ornamental trees, and yet how few give any attention to this matter. Before the great fire, the city of Portland in Maine was admired by all travellers, more on account of the forest appearance it had, planted out as every street was with choice trees, than for its fine buildings; and the citizens lamented as much almost for the destruction of their trees as for their buildings in that sweeping fire. Every property owner should plant choice trees along the street or road running past his property; the cost is comparatively small, whereas the enhanced value this often gives to property is very considerable. A farm having fine trees planted along its front will attract the attention of any person possessed of taste, yet it is lamentable to see how few give attention to this finishing touch without which no farm or other property is complete. Goderich with its wide streets, would look a veritable paradise, if owners would give attention to this subject; indeed it almost seems a pity that property owners could not be compelled to attend to street planting for the credit of the town if not for their own. Besides the beauty and finished appearance ornamental trees give a place, they are useful for shade and as lodging places for the bird family. Of the trees planted in this section I find the maple, elm, basswood, horsechestnut and mountain-ash the favorites. The linden is a pretty tree but a slow grower.—Some people plant out trees from the woods, thinking that a saving is made in this way. Experience on the contrary has over and over again proved that it is cheaper as well as better to buy good nursery grown trees; they are more certain to live and always make handsomer trees.

From experiments made the past two years by fruit growers in this section I am inclined to think that the benefits of salt are not generally known or appreciated. One grower applies it under his plum trees thick enough to kill the grass, and declares, if applied in the fall late, many insects are destroyed; he also asserts that the fruit is improved, but thinks the most noticeable advantage is on apples. Mr. W. J. Hayden, of Ashfield, has experimented for the past two years and reports that a liberal top dressing of salt and unleached ashes in the fall in his orchard has had the effect of destroying many noxious insects, and he finds his fruit free from spots, brighter and better marked, with quality more decided.—The experience seems to conclude that salt should be applied broadcast as a top dressing in the fall of the year at the rate of about a barrel to the acre.

Drainage is a subject either not properly understood by tillers of the soil, or not understood at all, and yet I am safe in saying that it is the key-note of success in horticulture as well as agriculture. There is nothing that will return so large a dividend to the tiller as proper drainage, for it turns the otherwise dead soil to life, mingles together the various properties of which it is composed, making the earth sponge like so as to draw in moisture from the air, instead of cloggy, damp and dead as it used to be. Drainage is not, as some suppose, solely for the purpose of carrying off surplus water. On a well drained field after a heavy rainfall, or in spring when the snow melts away, much of the surplus moisture settles away, the warm air follows it into the soil, leaving in the proper place that which enriches the earth and feeds vegetation, the ammonia, carbonic acid, &c. Manure on undrained low land is often productive of more harm than good; it produces rust in wheat, rot and mildew in fruits. Grapes are very frequently destroyed with mildew caused by manure turned into dead soil, or indeed by the dead soil alone where an excess of moisture exists Well drained soil retains and uses more moisture than undrained soil, for in the former the moisture is continually moving by the action of the air and performing important service, whereas in the latter case there is no motion whatever of moisture in the earth, excepting where that on the surface is evaporated, when the crust of the earth becomes baked, the pores (so to speak) clogged up, and life extinct. In fact the benefits of thorough draining are so apparent that the dullest intellect in the land can hardly fail to comprehend them upon the slightest reflection.

Thus far of the winter season nothing can be recorded of much importance to horticulturists, and little more need be remarked but to caution those who desire to be careful of young trees to tramp the snow around them well so as to prevent mice from barking them.

Before closing I would suggest that the Society should hold an early summer exhibition at such a time that the small fruits and flowers and early vegetables could be shown. This would be productive of good by kindling a deeper interest in the cultivation of small fruits which have been generally neglected hitherto.

Annual meeting of the West Riding Agricultural Society.

The annual meeting of this society was held in the Court House, Goderich, on Wednesday last, when the Secretary read the following annual report which was adopted. Your Board of Directors for the past year take much pleasure in submitting the following report of their proceedings during the past year, and also of the position of the society financially and otherwise. Your Directors have held six meetings and three shows during the year. The first show was held at Smith's Hill, on April 11th; it was for entire stock, horses and bulls. The show was much above the average both in number of entries and also in the quality of the animals shown. The second show was held in the Town of Goderich, on Sept. 18th and 19th. Although the entries were somewhat less than last year, yet in excellence and in quality it was far superior in every department, very plainly showing the rapid strides in advance which the County of Huron is making. The display in fruit and flowers would do credit even to the Porvincial Exhibition itself; so likewise would that of ladies work, The third show was held in Goderich, on Thursday, Dec. 19th It was for fat poultry and fat hogs, dressed; and fat cattle sheep. There were about 30 more entries than at the exhibition last year, and there was a very decided improvement in the appearance of the poultry.

The Secretary then read the financial report which shows as follows:—

RECEIPTS.

Balance in hand from last year	$179.32
Members subscriptions	88.00
Admission fees to exhibition	206 58
Legislative grant	700.00
County grant	100.00
Rec'd from Goderich Horticultural Soc'y	529,40
" " Colborne Branch Society	87.00
Donation from A. M. Ross, M. P. P.	40.00
	1930,80

EXPENDITURES.

Prizes for horses $192.75, cattle $135, 0 sheep $116.00	$443 75
" pigs $68 poultry $45 25	113 25
" grains and seeds $71, roots and other hoed crops $29	100.00
" dairy products and growing crops, $27.50	27.50
" fruits $101.75, plants and flowers $33.25, vegetables $8.50	143.50
" agricultural implements $67, manufactures $52.05	119.05
" ladies work	93 55
" ploughing match	60 00
Portion of Legislative grant paid other societies	423 00
Sundries for fixing building, grounds lights, &c	55 69
For agricultural publications	3.50
Paid Goderich Horticultural Society for withdrawn names	24.00
Working expenses including services of Secretary, Treasurer and assistants	221.56
	$1816,85

This leaves a balance in hand of $113.95.

The meeting then proceeded to elect officers and a board of directors for this year, resulting as follows:—Mr. Young, although pressed very strongly, refused to take the position of President, giving as his reason the fact that he was no longer an active agriculturist, and he thought one should be chosen who was possessed of broad acres and actively engaged in agricultural pursuits. The meeting reluctantly acceded to Mr. Young's request to allow him to retire from the Presidents chair. The unanimous choice then fell on Mr. W. J. Hayden of Ashfield who was elected President. This choice is a good one as Mr. Hayden is a gentleman who takes a very deep interest in both agriculture and horticulture, and one who will attend diligently to the duties of his office. Mr. Humphrey Snell of Hullett was re-elected 1st vice President and Mr. John Salkeld of Goderich Township 2nd vice-President. Both are gentlemen well qualified for the office and whose influence for the good of the Society will be felt and seen to great advantage. The result of the ballot for the nine directors was the election of Messrs. George Cox and Charles Naftel for Goderich Township; Mr. S. Andrews for Goderich; Messrs. Wm. Young, P. Carroll, J. A Varcoe, R. D. Scott for Colborne, S. Medd for Wawanosh and John Govier for Hullett. Messrs. Arch. Dickson and Wm. Campbell were appointed auditors.

The board met and unanimously appointed Mr. Varcoe, Secretary and Mr. Scott, Treasurer for this year.

Local News.

ABOUT TOWN.

TO ADVERTISERS,—We shall, next week, issue about double the number of copies of the SIGNAL that we usually do.

A large amount of local and other matter is crowded out this week.

ON Tuesday of last week a team of horses ran away and made for Polley's new livery Stable. They made an unsuccessful attempt to get in by the window.

MAYOR DOYLE informs us that he will attend at the Town Clerk's Office on Monday, Wednesday and Friday of each week at 9 a. m., to dispose of such magisterial cases as may be brought before him as Mayor.

BAD BOYS get free rides on farmer's sleighs and get hurt sometimes. In front of Sheppard's Book Store last week a Son of H. H. Smith's while sitting on the front of a sleigh was kicked and severely injured in the face.

THE Ladies of the Christian Temperance Union particularly request a large attendance at their open meeting, to be held in the Temperance Hall, on Tuesday, Jan. 28th, services open at half past seven, Hoping each member will act as a special committee to invite their friends.

MRS. TAYLOR, of the Nile, who died last week was the relict of the late Mr. Robert Taylor, who was accidentally killed a couple of years ago by a large boulder, which he was trying to bury, falling upon him, The cause of her decease was dropsy.

ACTING on the principle of John A.'s rise in market prices of produce and stocks, a denizen of Clinton 'rised' as he thought one morning last week and had the family prepare breakfast. It turned out to be the evening of the same day on which he had retired. This "rising" business is getting mixed—going backward as it were.

GRAND MASQUARADE CARNIVAL.—At the Skating Rink on Thursday evening 23rd jan. 1879. Ladie's, Gent's, Misse's and Youth's will appear in Costume. Prizes will be given to those who most excel in the different classes. For particulars see colored posters. To-morrow Evening at 7. 30.

Markets are dull, and everything low in price, and Picture framing has been reduced in price to suit the times, at Saunders, Variety Store. Positively no person allowed to sell pictures lower or do framing Cheaper than Saunders. "Noted as the Cheapest House under the Sun."

TEACHERS INSTITUTE.—The semi-annual meeting of the West Huron Teacher's Institute will be held in the public School, Exeter, on Friday and Saturday, 24th and 25th Jan, 1879. Interesting subjects will be taken up by Inspector Miller and several Teachers. On Friday evening Dr. McLellan will deliver his popular lecture on the Future of Canada.

AULD LANG SYNE not good for the lawyers. Three old residents of this vicinity met the other day and were talking of the evil days upon which we had now fallen. Upon comparing notes there was only one of the trio who had ever engaged a lawyer or was ever sued and all of them had been here from forty to fifty years. Messrs Hugh Sturdy Charles Walters and Thomas Dark are the parties.

INDUSTRIAL DESIGN.—Mr. H. Howell has produced, and copyrighted in Washington and Ottawa, a self-fitting Chart, for basques, dresses, wrappers, &c. We were shown a sample one and to our uninitiated eyes it looked as though anybody that could read ought, with the aid of this chart, to be able to cut a "perfect fitting" garment. The chart is of heavy card board and is gotten up quite artistically and we believe Scientifically. We believe Mr. H. intends canvassing the town for the sale of it.

The best known remedy for all affections of the chest, lungs and throat, is Gray's Syrup of Red Spruce Gum. It has been tried by thousands of persons suffering from the above diseases, and in every instance it has given immediate relief. In cases of troublesome, tickling cough, where the patient passes sleepless nights, one or two doses of the Syrup has such an effect that rest ensues and the cough speedily disappears see advertisement. 1666

CURLING.—The slippery game has been well patronized this season and the ice is in splendid condition for play. On Wednesday last the yearly match between the Water Rats and Land Rats took place. It was expected generally that the former would win, having the best average players, but the pluck of the latter was strong, and keeping cool they put in some fine shots, vanquishing their opponents in the following score:—

WATER RATS.	LAND RATS.
Capt. McGregor	Henry Horton
Capt. Robertson	Thos. Hood
Capt. Dancy	H. Cooke
M. Hutcheson,	H. H. Smith
skip 14	skip 17.

On Thursday two matches were played as follows:—

Rink No. 1.	
T. J. Moorehouse	Capt. McGregor
A. Mc. D. Allan	Jas. Thomson
H. Cooke	Henry Horton
Arch Dickson,	D. C. Strachan
skip 19	skip 27.

Rink No. 2.	
H. H. Smith	Capt. Robertson
E. Martin	Thos. Hood
M. Hutcheson	Capt. Dancy
Sheriff Gibbons,	P. Adamson,
skip 20	skip 22

Each of these matches was for a bag of flour to be given to the poor of the town.

Friday a match was played between the following rinks for a bag of flour to be donated by the losing skip to the poor of the town.

Capt. Robertson,	Capt. McGregor,
Henry Horton,	Thos. Hood,
Capt. Dancy,	M. Hutcheson,
C. R. Dunsford,	W. H. McFadden.
skip 18.	skip 24

Saturday Goderich and Seaforth clubs, two rinks each, met on the ice of the latter club to contend for the Caledonian medal. Goderich won by 30 shots in the following manner:

Goderich Rink No. 1.	Seaforth Rink No. 1
Capt Robertson,	A. Halle,
Jas Thomson,	A Davidson,
H. H. Smith,	C. Willson,
Capt. Dancy,	J. Lyons,
skip 29.	skip 13
Rink No. 2.	Rink No. 2.
Thos. Hood,	J. Laidlaw,
Henry Horton,	J. Willson,
C. Humber,	M. R. Counter,
M. Hutcheson,	J. Hatt,
skip 29.	skip 15.

SOCRATES in passing through the busy marts of Athens exclaimed—"How much is here I do not want." The ladies do not philosophize after this fashion, but have their thoughts more intent upon the latest Parisian and Toronto styles. Mrs. Copeland, a few doors east of the Post office, has a fine stock of Millinery and Fancy Goods. In examining her stock customers invariably exclaim, "How much is here I DO want, and how cheap." Look for advertisement next week.

LOST on Thursday evening last, a gold breast pin, representing a printer's stick. The finder will be suitably rewarded by leaving it at this office.

An old resident of our town, Mr. Jas Bisset, died last Saturday morning at about 8 o'clock, aged 70 years. Deceased came to this country from Aberdeen Scotland, settled in Goderich about forty-five years ago and has lived here ever since. He was a carpenter by trade, a very industrious, conscientious mechanic and a good citizen; a prominent member of the Presbyterian church in former years taking an active part in its Sunday school matters. Of modest demeanor, unassuming and affable in his manner, his kindly heart caused him not only to be generally respected but to secure a warm spot in the hearts of a very large circle of friends, a great many of the older of whom he has outlived. He was buried on Monday, the funeral was largely attended.

CONFIDENCE GAME.—On Monday while Mr. Sloane was paying some money to a young man, in his office at the Colborne hotel, two other parties who had been hanging about town for some few days, took quite an interest in the proceeding, and when the young man was about to leave they called his attention to a patent lock they were offering for 50 cents. The merits of the lock were called in question, when the owners challenged the young man to open it. One young man, who was *accidentally* around about that time, took him to one side and in *strict confidence* showed him how easily it could be done, young man thought so too. After getting posted he bet the owners eight dollars he could open the lock in fifteen minutes. *Strange to say* he failed, and lost his eight dollars. Mr. Sloan interfered and got seven dollars of the money refunded. The name of one of the scamps is Kain. The police should see after both of these gents. The confiding youth should also be kept more under parental care.

MEETING OF THE GODERICH HIGH SCHOOL LITERARY AND SCIENTIFIC SOCIETY.—This took place on Friday evening of last week. The President elect for the ensuing term, Mr. Bruce, delivered a very lucid inaugural address, and, though a "bashful" young man, acquitted himself creditably. There were readings by Miss Moore, Miss Strauble and Miss McQuarrie, and Mr. Tisdale. Music by the Misses Acheson, Cook and Trainer. An original composition, entitled "Canada First," was read by Mr. Cressweller. The subject was well treated, a distinct and well sustained pourtrayal of facts and opinions pertinent to the topic was easily discernable during its delivery. The theme was patriotically dealt with. A debate had been arranged for. It was resolved: That the Press had been more beneficial to mankind and civilization than the Steam Engine, Mr J. C. Robertson lead the affirmative, supported by Mr. Morris, Mr. Macgillivary took the negative, supported by Mr. Young. Mr. Sheppard presided. Messrs. Robertson and Morris fortified their contention with an abundance of facts, figures and opinions evidently collected with much care. Messrs. Macgillivray and Young brought all the "steam power" they could to destroy the position of their opponents, and notwithstanding that considerable research for material was apparent, and that much skill and dexterity were exhibited in the use of this material, Messrs. Robertson and Morris could not be ousted from their stronghold. The chairman took this view of the matter and declared the affirmative made good. The proceedings closed with the singing of the National Anthem. We are sorry that want of space prevents fuller attention being given to the details of the very interesting programme of the evening. In a short time this Society intend giving a public entertainment. The real merits of the members, as well as the object which the society have in view, should command the support of all good citizens.

The Late Judge Brough.

It is this week our painful duty to chronicle the death of Secker Brough, Esquire, formerly Judge of the County Court of the County of Huron, which took place at his residence, in Goderich, on Tuesday evening, Jan. 14.

Mr. Brough was born in the county of Carlow, Ireland, in the year 1813, and was the yougest son of Constantine Brough a Deputy Lieutenant for that County and Justice of the Peace. At an early age he entered Trinity College, Dublin, and upon completion of his studies there, came out to Halifax, Nova Scotia, to join his uncle the late General Brough, R. A., then Commandant of the Garrison at Halifax. While there he was offered the Professorship of Mathematics in the University at Windsor N. S., but declined the appointment. He finally resolved upon entering the legal profession, and for that purpose upon coming to the Province of Upper Canada, whither he had been preceded by several family connections, among others the late Archdeacon Brough and the late Chancellor Blake.

Upon arriving in Toronto he entered the office of Messrs. Hagerman & Draper, then practising in partnership.

He was called to the bar in 1840, and shortly afterwards became partner of Mr. Draper, with whom he continued to practise until until the elevation of that gentleman to the Bench.

During this period Mr. Brough was engaged in many of the leading cases of the day, and was employed in several confidential matters by the Government, among others the negotiations of a settlement with the authorities of the state of New York of certain differences occasioned by the disturbances on the Niagara frontier.

Upon the establishment of the Court of Probate for Upper Canada, he was appointed Judge and continued to hold the office until the abolition of the Court and the Court and the distribution of its functions among the various County Surrogate Courts. Mr. Brough for several years had one of the most extensive practices at the Chancery Bar, and took a very active and prominent part as a bencher of the Law Society. In 1859 he was appointed Queen's Counsel Finding that failing health required him to seek some less active occupation than his practice at the Bar, he applied for and obtained in November, 1866, the office of Judge of the County Court of the County of Huron. Constantly increasing infirmity of health obliged him at length to abandon that position in the summer of 1877.

Although on several occasions requested by the leaders of both political parties to allow himself to be nominated for a constituency, and although a most influentially signed petition was presented to him requesting him to come forward as representative for Toronto, in the Upper House, he always refused to take any active part in politics, beyond certain contributions to the press.

The disease which terminated fatally on Tuesday last, was one of long standing involving the brain and spinal cord

At a meeting of the Bar and County Officials of the County of Huron, held in the office of the Deputy Clerk of the Crown, on Wednesday, the 15th day of January, 1879, the following resolutions were passed:

Moved by Sheriff Gibbons seconded by Judge Toms, and resolved:

That the Bar and County Officials of the County of Huron desire to express their deed regret at the death of Secker Brough, Esquire, late Judge of the County Court of the County of Huron, and so long and favourably known in the County and Province at large, and the sympathy they feel with his widow and family in their recent bereavement.

Moved by M. C. Cameron, Esquire, seconded by John Davison, Esquire, and resolved:

That the Bar and County Officials attend the funeral of the late Judge Brough in a body.

Moved by Henry MacDermott, Esq., seconded by B. L Doyle, Esq., and resolved:

That a copy of the foregoing resolutions be sent to Mrs. Brough, and published in the local papers.

W. H. McFADDEN,
Secretary.

A GOOD ALL WOOL NAP OVERCOAT,
LINED WITH TWEED,
MADE TO ORDER FOR $10.00,
At H. H. SMITH'S.

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VERY CHEAP,
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