SOUTHAMPTON ELECTION CASE

The Committee met on Friday morning at 10 o'clock.

Mr. Patterson proposed to examine the Returning Officer in this examination. This matter should be considered in Committee. The matter had been taken up, and according to the law of Evidence which he produced, he could be entertained by the Committee. He submitted that his objection was tenable.

Mr. Patterson read over the statute authorising the examination of witnesses by Parliamentary Committees, and empowering such Committees to grant protection certificates to witnesses, whereby any criminating answers which might be elicited from them would be held powerless as evidence towards their indictment for any offence therefor. He contended that the phraseology of the Act could not be more comprehensive, and as such could be no doubt as to the admission of Mr. Carling's evidence.

Mr. Carling—I claim the right to call any witness I may think fit, and I do not affect by any question I may put. If we [illegible] and he refuses to answer, which might criminate himself, I am not upheld him in that course. I would insist upon and compel him to answer any relevant question asked. The course seems clear enough by which to proceed—for by it we can furnish him with a protecting certificate if he desire it.

Mr. Michael—It is just upon that point that I differ with you. I contend you can't give him the certificate would, in this case, be an all-sufficient protection to him. You can certainly grant him a certificate, which would act protectively as against any attempted criminal action, in our law Courts, against him. His evidence might, I don't say that it would, turn the case against him, and lose him the seat. In that case, would he not be criminating himself, to a next-to? And could you furnish him with a certificate, whereby he might be fortified against such a contingency as that? I fancy you would not be inclined to go that length.

The Chairman—I confess that I see a difficulty in admitting his evidence, Mr. Patterson.

Mr. Patterson—So far as I know, it is a new point, and only looking at it as such, can I see any difficulty. I urge my contention upon the statute, which most certainly seems broad and comprehensive enough to embrace the adoption of the view I take. The point appears to be a new one. But why can't this Committee take it up, grapple with and dispose of it? Are we to wait until others decide the point for us? However, I may say that, pursuing the amenity of our proceedings in this case, we seek no favour, no straining of the law or the statute, in our behalf. We desire that it should be construed in its utmost strictness.

The Chairman—Well, in my view of the matter, I can't see that Mr. Carling is examinable.

Mr Patterson—Very well, sir. I have no further evidence to offer.

The discussion then merged into a general and conversational one. After some time, the Chairman requested Mr. Patterson to go on examining the rest of his witnesses, and he would enlarge the decision as to the examinability of Mr. Carling until afterwards.

Mr. Patterson repeated that he had no further evidence to offer.

The Chairman—Then I must say that my impression is that the petitioner can't be held examinable. The point is a new one; yet looking at it from a purely legal stand point, viz., that of the broad doctrine of the law of evidence. I can't see my way clear in admitting the evidence. This is my view. I don't know how the rest of the Committee view the matter.

Mr. Gow—I think it is rather an arbitrary proceeding to dispose of the matter, confessedly at once a novel and an important one—in so hasty a manner and upon arguments adduced this morning before us, characterized with such crudity and vagueness.

Some time was then consumed in looking over such authorities as were available in the building.

An adjournment until to day was then broached.

Mr. Patterson said he did not desire an adjournment. He was prepared to go into the argument as to the merits of the evidence already adduced, if the decision of the Committee was against him upon this point. If on adjournment was made, he, of course, would take advantage of it to obtain further authorities on the point; but he did not anticipate any success therein.

After some further discussion, a gentleman present gave his recollection of a decision which bore precisely on the question, and in which the decision was in favour of Mr. Patterson's contentions.

The Committee then agreed to adjourn until 10 o'clock this morning, to enable counsel to consult the case suggested.

Mr. Gibbons and Mr. Carling were both present during the sitting of the Committee.

SATURDAY.

The Committee met on Saturday at 11 o'clock. After some further discussion as to the admissability of Mr. Carling's evidence, the Committee decided to allow his examination to proceed.

Isaac Carling, sworn—I live in Exeter. I supplied agents of mine with money to spend for the purpose of securing my election. Wm. Campbell and Mr. Elliott both received money from me. *I don't think* that I paid any one directly for their votes. I did not receipt any accounts as payment for votes, nor did I give any money's worth therefor. I didn't receipt an account for one Soldon nor for one Gottschalk. I didn't receive any account of the disposal of the money from my agents. (The witness declined to answer how much money he had spent, and the chairman upheld him in that refusal.) I think I gave Jas Miller money to pay for general expenses. It was for such a purpose that all the money was given. I don't know that I furnished one Fulton with any money. I believe he was spending money. I wasn't aware *at the time* that one Mooney was spending money for me at the election.—The money that I furnished I suppose was for hiring teams, etc. I gave no specific instructions. Treating and something or other were, I suppose, matters of expense. I don't remember making any remark to the second day in Goderich Township but had to "pay for it." I did pull up very rapidly at the Goderich Township poll on the second day, and I had to spend money to accomplish it. (This last answer was educed after some objections by Mr. McMichael had been overruled.) The money was spent through agents, not by myself. I didn't know at the time where Fulton got his money.

Cross-examined by Dr. McMichael—I gave no money for purposes of bribery.

To Mr. Patterson—I understand bribery to mean the buying of votes. I'm not aware that I treated that day. I don't think that I treated during the polling hours. When furnishing money, I expected that the whole of the money would be spent principally in hiring teams and perhaps treating. I gave no instructions at all to my agents. This concluded the evidence. The witness was most reticent in giving his evidence. Mr Patterson stated that he was prepared to go on with his argument on the merits of the evidence adduced, but had an appointment at Osgoode Hall which he could not evade. He, therefore, requested an adjournment until to-day, which was granted. The case will probably be disposed fo this week.

H. Dunlop is prepared to turn [illegible] overcoats, &c.

COUNTY COUNCIL.

The County Council of Huron met in the Court House, on Tuesday the 1st inst. There being present the Warden in the chair Messrs. Mallough, Armstrong, Farran, Young, Horton, Sheppard, Pollock, Leckie, Dobson, R. Brown, Pickford, Perkins, Morrow, Snell, Evans, Hannah, A. Brown, Kelly, Simpson, Greenway, Sproat, Walker, Messrs. Bishop, Creery, Helps, Girvin and Gaunt.

The minutes of last day of June Session and of the Special Meeting held in June were read and approved.

The Warden then addressed the Council on the following matters viz:—The erection of the new Maitland Bridge, Registry office, new roof for Court House, the appointment of a new Court House Keeper in place of Mr. Fraser, resigned.

The Council then adjourned.

WEDNESDAY, Dec. 2.

The Council met at 10 o'clock.

In addition to those present yesterday, there were Messrs. Coleman and Smillie in their places.

As the Warden was absent in Toronto, Mr Bishop was chosen chairman.

Moved by Mr. Evans, seconded by Mr. Gaunt, That the Treasurer furnish this Council with a statement of parties indebted to this County, in order that the Finance Com. may have an opportunity of examining the same—Carried.

Petition of Mr McLean and others—referred to Finance Com.

Reports of Mr Farrow and Rev. Mr. Daunt, L. S.—referred to School Com.

Presentment of Grand Jury—September Sessions—referred to Gaol Com.

Report of Mr Trainer, inspector of weights and measures, read and adopted.

Letter of J B McGann—referred to Finance Com.

Communication from Mr McLeod. do.

Letter from Mr Cameron, County Solicitor—referred to Finance Com.

A number of accounts were then referred to Finance Com.

Communication from Mr Cox of the *Signal* office—referred to Fin. Com.

Communication from Hugh Johnston referred to Finance Com.

Moved by Mr Perkins, seconded by Mr Pickford, That the council grant the sum of $200, towards erecting a Drill Shed in Goderich, for company No. 8, the money to be paid when the Drill Shed is approved of by the Government Inspector—Carried.

Moved by Mr. Girvin, seconded by Mr. Coleman, That the sum of $200 be granted by this Council, for the purpose of erecting a Drill Shed in the village of Dungannon, for company 9, the money to be paid when the Drill Shed is approved of by the Government Inspector.—Carried.

Moved by Mr. Greenway, sec. by Mr. Messer, That this Council petition the Legislature of Ontario, to repeal so much of the Act relating to the protection of sheep from dogs, as related to the municipalities paying for sheep, and that the Warden and Clerk be hereby instructed to memoralize said Legislature to that effect.—Lost by a majority of four.

The Council then adjourned till 7 o'clock, p. m.

THURSDAY.

After routine, the petition of J. W. Kerr was read and referred to the finance committee.

Moved by Dr. Coleman, seconded by Mr. Shephard, That this Council pay the sum of $3.00 to every non-commissioned officer and private of the 33rd Battalion to aid in defraying expences during Battalion drill in July last at head quarters. Ref. to finance committee.

Communication in regard to selecting jurors was read and ordered to be fyled.

Petition of Mr. Wallace be referred to the building committee for explanation.—Carried.

On motion of Mr. Pickford, seconded by Mr. Hannah, the sum of $4.00.00 was granted to the relief of the Red River sufferers.

Mr. Farran's resignation was read and accepted.

Application from Mr. Campane, gaoler for some articles of furnature for the gaol. Referred.

Moved by Mr. Girvin, seconded by Mr. Gaunt, That this Council grant the sum of $95.00 to West Wawanosh, that municipality having expended $105.00 on the boundary line between West Wawanosh and Kinloss. The Council of Bruce has granted the sum of $200.00 to be expended on said line on condition that the County of Huron grant an equivalent. Lost on a division.

Letter from Mr. McDermott asking for an office in the Court House was read and ref. to finance committee, as were also a number of general accounts.

The engineer was instructed to give a report on the Bridge across the Maitland on the 10th con. Wawanosh.

On motion of Mr. Mallough, The Clerk was instructed to prepare a By-Law to confirm By-Law 1, 1868, of the tp. of Wawanosh.

FRIDAY.

Council met pursuant to adjournment, Mr. Bishop still presiding in the absence of the Warden. The minutes of yesterday were read and approved.

Report of the committee for the erection of the Registry office was read and adopted.

Report of the Finance Committee was read as follows:—

FINANCE COMMITTEE.

Messrs. Simpson, A Brown, Helps, Young, Coleman, Pickford, Mallough, Parsons, Horton, Farran, Bishop, Kelly and Smillie.

Your Committee takes leave to report on the several documents submitted, as follows:—

1. To a Referring to letter of J. H. Taylor claiming $4.50.—We recommend that the claim be refused, as it seems to be a matter which the Municipality of West Wawanosh is liable for.

7. Petition of Donald McLean and others, praying to have two months rent of Toll Gate near Ainleyville remitted.—We recommend that prayer of said Petition be refused.

11. Referring to letter of J. B. McGann.—We can see no reason to change our opinion in relation to the claim, and that same is fully paid.

13. Referring to letter of G. R. McLeod.—We recommend that same be referred to the County Engineer, with instructions to report upon the facts relative to claim at the January meeting of the Council next year.

14. Referring to McCameron, Esq., Solicitor's Report.—We find it satisfactory and recommend that it be filed.

15. Account of McCameron of £13. 5s. for conveyancing, etc, be paid.

16. That the account of D Gordon for repairs to Court Room, of $7.00 be paid.

17. That the account of the Rev J Ferguson of $35.30, as Local Superintendent, be paid.

18. That the account of the Municipality of Goderich for work done on Bridge Hill, amounting to $180, be refused; but, that a grant of $37.50 be made in full for same.

19. That the accounts of T J Moorhouse for stationary, supplied to the Treasurer, Clerk and Engineer, of $46.36 be paid.

That the Account of J Walker, $2.12 for repairs to Court House be paid.

21. That the account of C Rumball of $70, for Water-Line for Brides be paid.

22. That the account of the Rev W Daunt, of $17.00 as Local Superintendent be paid.

23. That the account of Mr Amann for chairs, for Court House of $18.00, be paid.

24. That the account of the Star Office of $12.40 be paid.

25. That the account of Mr. Farrow, Local Superintendent be paid $14.50

26. That the account of Thomas Nairn and others, for work on Town Line of Osborne, amounting to $182.77, be paid out of the Boundary Line appropriation, Osborne.

27. That the Account of Messrs J & J Story for Tinware for Court House, of $14.1, be paid.

28. Referring to letter of W T Cox.—We recommend that the action taken by the Audit Committee be sustained, and we recommend that $75 be granted said W T Cox, for damages sustained by him through the removal of a portion of the County printing from him by the Government.

32. That the account of G Pendergast and others, of $183.40, be paid out of the Boundary Line appropriation of the township of Tuckersmith.

33. That the account of Wm Read of $40.74, be paid out of the Boundary Line appropriation of West Wawanosh.

35. That the account of Joseph Hall of $191.88, be paid out of the Boundary Line appropriation of Grey.

36. That the account of Wm Anderson and others, of $30 be paid out of the Boundary Line appropriation of Turnberry.

39. Referring to petition of Alexander Grant, we recommend that a grant of $250.00 be paid the petitioner owing to a loss sustained in building Maitland Bridge by the accidental falling of a portion of the superstructure.

40. Referring to letter and account of James Tuney, same deliverance as No. 39

47. Referring to petition of J. W. Kerr, we recommend that the Solicitor be instructed to receive $200 from the petitioner, and not press petitioner further at present after such payment is made without an order from Council.

49. Referring to petition of J. Armstrong, we recommend that the Solicitor be instructed to receive $100 from the petitioner and not press for the balance of judgment providing said petitioner pays his own costs of Queen's Bench suit.

48. Referring to motion of Dr. Coleman, we recommend that the motion be granted.

55. That the statement shewing arrears due on Toll Gates, although large, we are glad to see are being cleared up.

56. Letter of B. Campaigne, Gholer, we recommend that it be referred to Court House and Gaol Committee.

59. That the account of Wm. McWhinney and others of $276.64 be paid from boundary line appropriation of Ashfield

60. That the account of A. M. Ross, Treasurer, for expenses to Toronto of $13 be paid.

61. That the account of Geo. Old and others of $131.68 be paid from the boundary line appropriation of Colborne.

62. That the account of W. T. Cox, for printing etc, amounting to $66.67 be paid.

63. That the account of J Scott and others amounting to $130.11 be paid from the boundary line appropriation of East Wawanosh and also an account of $9.00 balance of appropriation of 1867.

64. That the account of J Smart of $1.00 for clearing trees on Gravel Road be paid.

65. That the account of L J Brace of $420 be refused but that there be paid $200 conditionally that he gives a clear receipt to the Municipality for all work done, and all demands whatsoever under the contract for building the Maitland Bridge, said terms to be made as an offer to him and without prejudice if not accepted.

66. That the account of G. M. Trueman for Auctioning Toll Gates and Timber of $16 be paid.

67. That the account of John Grigg and others of $134.69 be paid out of the boundary line appropriation of Stephen.

68. That the account of E Holmes $8.25 be paid for printing.

69. That the account of J. C. Detlor & Co., of $7.05 be paid for furnishings for Court House.

70. That the account of John Doyle of $16 for hauling wood from Gaol to Court House be paid.

71. That the account of T Brown and others of $25.91 be paid out of the boundary line appropriation of Howick and that of A. McMichael and others of $180.45 be paid out of same appropriation.

72. That the account of P. Murphy and others of $25 be paid from special grant towards building bridge on boundary between Huron and Middlesex.

73. That the account of Wm Parsons and others of $174.20 be paid out of the boundary line appropriation of Stanley.

74. That the account of Thomas Henderson and others $20.00 be paid balance of grant of 1865 boundary appropriation of Morris.

75. That the account of Wm Armstrong and others of $20.00 be paid from balance of 1866 of boundary line appropriation of Morris.

76. That the account of Mr. Turnbull and others of $138.93 be paid from the boundary line appropriation of McKillop.

77. That the following accounts of County Engineer be paid, viz:

No. 1	A Hawkins spreading gravel	$46.00
2	S Clark timber for Manchester bridge	24.95
3	L Hardy covering culverts London Road	25.00
4	T Johnston building G R near Belmore	841.41
5	John Ross building Ashfield G R	378.38
6	Geo Payne repairing Blyth Road	62.50
7	T Downey repairing Seaforth Road	8.40
8	R Hanna " "	8.80
9	T Johnston repairs Blyth Road	318.70
10	T Johnston " Brucefield Road	334.07
11	G Biggar plank Seaforth Road	14.00
12	A Governlock do "	72.50
13	J Gemmil repairing bridge	11.00
14	T Gregory do do	65.70
15	Corporation of Seaforth for Lock-up	200.00
16	J Leach plank on culvert bridge	5.50
17	M Campbell of $76.75 be refused, but that the amount certified by the County Engineer be paid	20.50

81 That the account of Messrs Sheppard & Strachan of $26.11 for supplies for Court House be paid.

83 That the account of Thomas Henderson and others of $178.12 be paid boundary line appropriation of Morris.

94. That the account of Mr Mead and others of $100, and the account of D Hay and others $109.99 be paid from the Boundary Line appropriation of Goderich Tp.

97. That the account of Wm Armstrong and others of $213.46, be paid from By appropriation of Hullet.

86. That the account of John Read and others of $100 be paid from special grant for boundary between Huron and Perth.

85. That the account of H Gardiner & Co of $2.80 for Pitch, be paid.

40. Referring to account of James Tunney, referred back, your Committee finds that the matter has reference solely to the Municipalities of the Townships of Hullet and Goderich, and that the County Council can take no action in the matter.

110 That the account of Rev H Gibson Local Superintendent, of $22.50 cents, be paid

102. That the account of J Gaudet of $2 for gravel road repairs be paid.

99. Referring to letter of J B McGann—we recommend that a grant of $100 be made to Mr McGann's Institution, and that the clerk be instructed to transmit the same, and inform Mr McGann that it is not so given as a balance due. But in support of of his Institution which has dealt satisfactorily by us.

That the account of W C Chewett & Co. for Registry Books. $34. be paid.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

W. W. FARRAN, Chairman.

The Council went into committee of the whole, Mr. Snell in the chair.

Moved by Mr. Pickford, seconded by Mr. Perkins, in amendment to No. 64, that the finance report be not granted on the grounds that we have nothing to do with the sub-contractor. Amendment lost on a division.

Moved by Mr. Morrow, sec. by Mr. Sproat, That No. 40 of the finance report recommending this Council to grant $3.00 each to volunteers of 33rd Battalion be laid over till next session no funds having been provided in the estimates of this year for that purpose.—Carried.

Moved by Mr. Girvin, sec. by Mr. Gaunt, in amendment to No. 6 of the finance report that it be not granted but that the sum of $4.00 be paid to John Taylor for his services under the Engineer on the boundary line between East and West Wawanosh. Lost on a division.

Mr. Bishop resumed the chair, when the report as amended was submitted, and adopted.

By-Law to confirm By-Law No. 1, 1868 of the tp. of Ashfield, was read and passed.

Letter from Mr McGann, was read and fyled.

Reports of several minor committees were read and adopted.

Moved by Mr. Leckie, seconded by Mr. Simpson, That this Council desires to record its entire approval of the conduct of our worthy Warden and the members of the committee associated with him in the selection of the site for the new Registry office, in resisting with such energy and promptness, the attempts made to force the Council into the purchase of property the title to which was not satisfactory, and which would most probably have involved this Council in litigation and consequent expenses, and the Council trusts that this expression of approval on the part of the people's representatives at this Board will be accepted by Mr. Gibbons as a set-off against the calumnies, and aspersions sought to be cast upon his conduct and character in connection with this matter.—Carried.

The Council then adjourned.

SATURDAY.

The Council met at 9 o'clock.

Moved by R. Brown, seconded by Mr. Creery, That this Council having taken steps by providing through contract for the County Printing so as to have the same done in the most economical manner, and whereas, the Government has removed a portion of such work and has instructed another party to do the same with the presumed intention of paying for the same. The Audit Committee are hereby instructed, in the event of any claim being submitted, to them of any printing so given out by the Government, to refuse to audit or certify for payment any such account or claim. Carried by a majority of eleven.

Moved by Mr. Horton, sec. by Mr. Smillie, That the Clerk be instructed to write the Government, and the Clerk of Peace the action of this Council in reference to the County Printing.—Carried.

The Council then adjourned.

Meeting of Teachers.

The fourth meeting of the Goderich Branch, of the Huron Teachers' Association was held in the Central School, on Saturday last the (5th) inst. H. D. Cameron Esq. President, in the chair. For a local association there was a good attendance; and the meeting was interesting and instructive throughout. In the absence of Mr. Duff, Mr. Shannon was requested to act as Secretary. Mr. Symington, who, was appointed to read an essay on the best method of teaching Geography, stated that he was not prepared to proceed; and on motion was requested to take up the subject at the next meeting. Mr. Preston, Grammar Teacher Goderich, then proceeded to review the merits and defects of the new authorized Grammar for Canadian Schools, his criticism was most searching and thorough, was very ably handled, and convinced all present that he is thoroughly master of that branch of science. Many new and instructive ideas were elicited; and on the whole the criticism was productive of good, several members joined in the discussion, and who, in the main coincided with Mr. Preston. Mr. G. A. Simmons, then read an essay on the benefits to be derived from 'Teachers' Associations' for which he received a vote of thanks from the meeting. For the next meeting, Mr. Ward, was appointed to read a paper on the best methods of maintaining order in school room; Mr. McKellar to illustrate his method of teaching mental arithmetic; and the president elect was requested to deliver an inaugural address. It was then moved by G. A. Simmons, seconded by J. Preston, That Miss MacMahon, be requested to de[illegible] on some subject connected w[illegible] at the next meeting of this [illegible] Association the [illegible] election of officers [illegible] Moved by H. D[illegible] A. Simmons, [illegible] elected President [illegible] was elected Vi[illegible] Simmons Secy. wh[illegible] Kellar Delegate to [illegible] at Seaforth. On m[illegible] seconded by Mr. [illegible] was unanimously [illegible] dent and other of[illegible] during the past yea[illegible] adjourned till the fir[illegible] next.

"The Attorney G[illegible]

To the Editor of the Huron [illegible]

Sir,—Happening to be [illegible] last, I dropped into the C[illegible] of hearing the examination [illegible] prisoners lately apprehended [illegible] abetting in the murder of the [illegible] I had known Nicholas Mu[illegible] lifetime and had heard so[illegible] the Coroner's inquest, I was [illegible] a confirmation of the many [illegible] ing the nature of the evidence [illegible] discovered by the officers and [illegible] How far my curiosity was satis[illegible]

The facts, as I have been able [illegible] conversations about town and [illegible] the Justice's Court, appear to be [illegible] lows: About ten days ago, on the [illegible] Clark a warrant was issued by so[illegible] Peace, for the arrest of David Donovan [illegible] and James Kehoe and wife, and two others. These persons were arrested and were, with convenient speed, taken before Messrs. Coleman and Hayes, two Justices at Seaforth, and—now mark the sequel—on their appearance, the Justices asked for evidence for the Crown, when the person upon whose "belief" all has been arrested stated, not *upon oath*, that the Crown hadn't any evidence against the parties, but he thought they might be able to produce sufficient evidence to put these persons on their trial. Pretty! Pretty! Very! [illegible] done—a remand to prison for eight days the extreme limit, I believe, the law allows. Mark—not a fact sworn to yet, either in information or examination. The man Clarke merely thinks there will be evidence, which he is pretty sure will convict. The prisoners are lodged in gaol under the warrant of commitment, which, as I am informed, commanded the gaoler to have them in court on that day before the Stipendiary Magistrate or such other magistrate as should be then present. On Friday, in obedience to the warrant, they were brought before two Justices of the Peace, neither of whom was the Stipendiary Magistrate. As soon as the court opened, the County Attorney, on the part of the Crown, stated that the Stipendiary Magistrate had met with an accident which prevented his attendance, and that he, the County Attorney, was ordered by the Government to get a remand for some days. The Attorneys for the prisoners urged the impropriety of this on the ground, that, as no evidence yet appeared against the prisoners, they were at least entitled to be heard, if not discharged, and that the unfortunate illness of the Stipendiary Magistrate could have no effect on the proceedings as The Justices sat neither as the agents of Mr. McMicken, nor as prosecutors, but as Judges determining between the Crown and the prisoners. The magistrates, however, thought they had a right to re-commit if they chose, for two reasons, firstly, because a crime, in this instance a murder, having been committed by somebody it was their duty to ferret out the criminals, and, therefore, having apprehended persons who, as this deponent is informed, are guilty of the crime, they have a right to retain them in custody, to ascertain whether any body will bring forward evidence to support the information, and secondly, information having been laid sufficient to justify an arrest, though, as I understand, neither the Justices had ever seen the information, therefore they had a right to assume that there was sufficient evidence to put them on their trial, and had a right to commit the prisoners until they found evidence—not sufficient evidence, but evidence of any kind. The County Attorney with the logic and learning which characterises him on all occasions advanced with great force the argument "well the Government has ordered us to get a remand and we've got to do our duty. I'm acting under the authority of the Attorney General." The Justices appeared very strongly impressed with the arguments urged by the learned County Attorney and readily granted the required warrant of commitment. Not a witness was examined, not a fact was stated, upon oath or otherwise, that affected the prisoners, although both *the man who laid the information, and the constables who have been instrumental in procuring evidence were present in court and might have been examined* at least to a sufficient extent to establish something of a criminal nature against the prisoners. Now these statements, if true, read somewhat strangely at this time of the day—six prisoners, two of them mothers with children in arms, and leaving large families unprovided for at home are hurried before a magistrate and on the *guess* of a person of whom the magistrates knew nothing, are all incarcerated for a period of eight days for further examination—no not further examination—but to complete evidence, but to begin to hunt up evidence. At the expiring of this time the prisoners are again brought up before two other magistrates for further examination—no, not that—merely to be coolly told, that a man had broken his leg and for this powerful reason they six individuals supposed to be entitled to the rights of British subjects, were to be deprived of their liberty for five days longer. The thing would be ludicrous were it not of such a serious nature. Suppose the Stipendiary Magistrate had broken both legs now long should the prisoners have been remanded? Or the question might arise in a still more intricate form. Given, the relative value of a leg of the Stipendiary and of the Attorney-General; then, if a Justice may commit our prisoner for five days for two legs of the Stipendiary Magistrate for how long should a Justice commit six prisoners for two legs of the Attorney-General? Think of it, and call on Babbage. Let these prisoners, therefore, be humbly thankful that Sanfield is steady on his stumps, and let them, if they regard their liberty, frequently pray that every official in the land may remain sound in wind and limb, until their next public appearance. The idea that the absence of a particular Justice, from any reason whatever, dissentitles a prisoner, against whom no evidence appears, to his right to an investigation, and confers upon the sitting Justices the power to commit as long and as often as they choose is certainly amusing. The Stipendiary Magistrate has, in this case, precisely the same jurisdiction that any other Justice has, and he does not in any case differ from an ordinary Justice of the Peace except in the territorial extent of his powers. The Justice who sat on Friday were competent to deal with the matter in hand; some of the Crown witnesses were present, and the prisoners were anxious for an examination but the lurid arguments "I've got a telegraph from the Stipendiary Magistrate and he's hurt himself," "I'm acting under the authority of the Attorney-General" and "well we've just got to do our duty you know" were sufficient to override every consideration of justice and humanity and consign six persons, apparently innocent, to prison for several days. As far as appears at present these prisoners are as innocent as you, sir, of the crime charged against them. They are entitled, not to any favor, on that account, but to the right which the law gives them of insisting upon being speedily tried and square before the world. Should any one believe that they are actually guilty, that is *no reason why we should deny them justice*, and, on the other hand, should any one believe them actually innocent, *this is no time for sympathy*. They ask no favor in demanding an investigation. They merely ask the right which belongs to them as subjects, as it is limited form bring the case home to yourself, Mr. Editor, and see how you like it. Some person lays information before a Justice of the Peace that he "suspects and believes" that you have committed a crime. Now if two of Her Majesty's Justices may bring you before them, and, without the means of knowing anything concerning the evidence against you, may commit you for a period of eight days; if two other Justices at the expiration of this time, equally ignorant, in their judicial capacity, of any criminating circumstances should again commit you for five days at the request of the County Attorney—if all this could be done with impunity, it is quite time that the law should be modified for the protection of the innocent, and that Justices should be taught to know the length of their tether. There appears to be no reason whatever for the action of the Seaforth Justices. There is just as slender an excuse for the Goderich magistrates. "The Attorney-General orders it!" Pray, who and what is the Attorney-general, that he can deprive six persons of their liberty for even one hour upon his mere behest? Who, and what, are Justices of the Peace that they can overrule, in obedience to those whims, every principle of law and humanity? "The Attorney-General ordered it!" says the County Attorney again. Suppose he did, are you Mr. County Attorney so stupid as to suppose that if the Attorney-General wanted a reward, he intended you to omit all the ordinary steps for obtaining it, which decency, prudence, and a knowledge of the law, would dictate? and do your honors kneel with such weak submission at the feet of an official, who happens to be a grade higher than yourselves, but who is not a truer man than either of you, that you can afford to compromise your reputation for honesty? I should like to say "No." I would not be understood to insinuate that any of the Justices who have unfortunately figured in this affair have been actuated by personal spleen. I believe they have not been influenced by any such motives. I assume that they did what they thought was right; perhaps they had a right to commit these parties; but whether they did or not the consequences of their action are very serious to the persons now in gaol on that warrant. It strikes me that humanity is right and the Justices wrong. It may be otherwise. If, however, the County Attorney has done any wrong I can readily excuse him, on the same grounds on which certain classes of persons are by the law freed from responsibility for even criminal acts. I have no doubt the County Attorney acted according to the best of his knowledge, and it would be very wrong indeed to hold him responsible for the sparing manner in which a kind Providence has seen fit to deal with him. Had this been a private matter, affecting only the individuals concerned I should not have felt at liberty to draw public attention to the subject; but it is a question which affects what each of us holds most dear—personal liberty and security. For this reason the conduct which I have referred to, if I have truly set it down, calls for very severe remarks and condemnation. It is a good thing to have officials zealous in the detection of crime, and the prosecution of criminals; but it is a very bad thing when the functions of any official are prostituted in the violation of personal liberty even when the performance of his supposed duties leads to the detection of wrong doers. "Let Justice be done, though the heavens fall." A great crime has been committed. Some one is guilty. Let the Crown and private individuals use their utmost endeavor to discover the offender. If evidence cannot be discovered sufficient to commit for trial, it seems a very reasonable suggestion, that no further imprisonment should take place, than is necessary to ascertain the absence or presence of evidence in legal form. If a contrary course be taken, many wrongs will ensue, liberty will be sent shivering in the cold and Justice will be debauched to serve the ends of corrupt or over-zealous officials.

Yours &c.,

E. O. FOOTE.

Goderich, Nov. 28th, 1868.

—In blasting a drain opposite the Court House, Quebec, on Monday morning, a piece of rock, weighing 200 pounds, was driven with great force into the room of the Superior Court, passing through the double windows, and falling in front of one of the chairs on the bench generally used by the judge. Fortunately the bench was unoccupied.

BLYTH.

Presentation.—The ladies of the Presbyterian Church in this Village, resolved on giving their pastor, (Rev. Arch. McLean), an agreeable surprise. A large party of the congregation arrived at his dwelling about 8 o'clock, on the evening of the 13th, and having introduced themselves, took possession of the house. Having congregated in the largest room, Dr. Thompson, on behalf of the ladies of the congregation, presented the Rev. Gentleman with a rich carpet and other valuable articles of parlour furniture, together, with an appropriate address—to which he gave a suitable reply.

A Brighter Magistrate.—A paragraph appeared in the last *Signal* under the heading a "Bright Magistrate" and describing the literary efforts of a certain J. P. in the township of McK. Our township joins our corners McK., and I think we can boast of a Brighter Magistrate—ours is a man of great prudence. He had some sheep and one of them happened to die. By a slight stretch of the imagination it was easy to arrive at the conclusion that the death of the sheep was caused by some hungry dog—dogs have acquired such a strange taste for mutton of late. Of course in such case the Council should be called upon to pay for the deceased sheep, and in order that the death might be the means of bringing as much money as possible into the family treasury, it was found convenient to call the sheep "my son's," and father being a *justice*, assisted by another wise man, held an inquest on the remains, and returned the prudent verdict that the Council should pay $5 for the sheep, and $3 to father and the other wise man for their great loss of time and trouble in relation thereto.

FRANCE.

Riots in Paris—Reported Assassination of Napoleon.

Associated Press Despatch.

London, Dec. 5. (2 30 p. m.)—There are vague rumors afloat in this city of a general seizure of newspapers and conflicts between troops and mobs at Paris. These rumors, though not confirmed, have caused a panic in commercial circles in this city.

New York, Dec. 2.—A report of the killing of Napoleon in a riot in Paris has sent Gold up to-day one cent, and caused great excitement. It is claimed that the report is certainly true.

SEAFORTH.

(Regular Corresponden[illegible])

Markets.—Not much grain coming in yet, the sleighing was pretty good on Saturday, when a good many loads of pork came in. The figure for pork is high and they who know think it will be much higher.

The Market house is nearly finished.

On Friday a little boy fell through the ice and would likely have been drowned but for the timely assistance of some larger boys who succeeded in getting him out

Teacher's Association.—A meeting of the Seaforth local Teacher's association took place last Saturday, Mr. A Dewar in the chair. The minutes of last meeting were read and adopted. Mr. Varcoe lectured and examined on Geography. Mr. Dewar lectured and examined on Grammar. A very interesting and instructive discussion took place on both subjects. The following resolutions were passed, 1st That Mr. Dewar, at next meeting again lecture on Grammer. 2nd That Varcoe lecture on Ancient history. 3rd That next meeting will take place on the 2nd Saturday in February 1869.

Stewart's Dry Goods Store.

The extension to this magnificent retail dry goods store, now the largest in the world, was opened to the public yesterday morning 24th. Notwithstanding that but little had been given to the public of the fact, the stream of visitors, as well as purchasers, was great during the day. The establishment now covers more than two acres, and occupies the entire block between Broadway and Fourth-avenue and Ninth and Tenth streets.

The largest entire edifice in Europe devoted to the same object is that of Morrison, in London, which is less than half the size of Stewart's store.

The building is six stories in height, and has a basement and sub-cellar below ground to the depth of twenty-two feet. The latter is to be used for the storage of goods, and is connected with the upper part of the edifice by four elevators. Under the sidewalk on Ninth-street are four boilers for generating steam, by which the building is to be heated, and for raising the elevators. The basement floor is lighted from the street, and also from the skylight done. The basement will be used for the sale of oil-cloths.

The first story is the salesroom for nearly every kind of dry and fancy goods, except carpets, cloaks, shawls and millinery. It is divided into sections, as was formerly the case in the old part, and is simply an extension of the latter. Each section is devoted to especial descriptions of goods. From the centre of this story, rises to the height of 100 feet, the great dome, topped by a flat skylight. It leaves a space sixty feet in length in the middle of the remaining floors. The second floor displays cloaks, shawls, dressing-gowns, ready-made dresses, corsets, baby linen, children's clothing of all kinds, &c., &c. Like all the others, it contains wash-rooms and saloons for the use of customers. The third story contains carpets and kindred articles. The fourth and fifth are devoted to the preparation of all descriptions of garments except men's outer clothing. The sixth floor is to be used for storage. Upon it are two tanks for supplying water to the building, containing, together, 700 gallons. The roof is of tin, and inclines 12 feet from the dome to the eaves.

The windows of the establishment are of plate glass. Those on the ground floor each contain but a single plate, costing about $600. The gas gets are lighted simultaneously by an electric battery, creating a most brilliant effect. Those upon the pillars of the dome are not yet placed, but will be during the present week. The entire interior is white. The monotony is everywhere amply relieved by the brilliant colors of the goods. The ceilings all to be frescoed, and the partitions in the front part of the first story to be removed. The view of each entire floor will be obstructed only by the numerous columns. These are of iron, and are adorned upon each of the four faces with alto-relievos of two Cupids, and with vases of flowers. The designs are unvarying and the God of Love, twice repeated, is everywhere to be seen. Considering that ladies are to be the chief spectators, this constant suggestion of the tender passion may not, perhaps, prove painfully monotonous. Six hundred clerks, male and female, are employed in various sales departments, and six hundred women are occupied in the preparation of clothing.

The house contains a population equal to that of a small town.

—The Ottawa *Times* thinks that the procession on the reception of Sir J. Young was "bungled." It did not pass down the streets intended, owing to the fault of "somebody."

—The anniversary of the death of John Brown, the Virginia martyr, was observed by the colored citizens of Hamilton on Wednesday evening. A large number of white persons were present.

The New British Ministry.

London, Dec. 6.—The "Times" this morning says: The new ministry will be completed this p m., and believes the following have already been settled upon:—

Earl Russell will have a seat without a portfolio.

Earl Clarendon, Secretary of State, for the Foreign Department.

Right Hon. Robert Lowe, Chancellor of Exchequer.

Right Hon Edward Cardwell, Secretary of State for War.

John Bright, Secretary of State for India, and President of Council of India.

Henry Woods, High Chancellor.

John Duke Oleridge, Solicitor General.

Fortescue Chief Secretary for Ireland.

Hugh Culling Eardley Childers, first Lord of the Admiralty.

London, Dec. 5.—The *Times*, in an editorial on the Alabama claims, argues against the Government's yielding to the new demand of Mr. Seward, that the question of international law be submitted to the commission

John Bright refuses the Secy. of stateship for India.

Sir John Young at Ottawa.

The new Govenor General of Canada, Sir John Young, took the oath of office at Ottawa, on Tuesday last, which was administered by the Chief Justice and Judges Wilson and Morrison. The city was gaily decorated with flags and triumphal arches. One of the arces had the arms of Sir John Young, which are three piles of sable, each charged with a trefoil or; on a chief of the second, three annulets of the third. Crest a demi-lion rampant charged on the shoulder with a torfoil, and holding in the dexter paw a dagger. Motto—Robori prudentia pisata. His Excellency and Lady Young were driven in a double sleigh. It is estimated that fully 10,000 people were in the line of procession. His Excellency reached the Senate Chamber about o'clock, amid the firing of artillery and the ringing of bells. During the ceremony of swearing in, about 500 ladies and gentlemen were on the floor of the Senate Chamber, and 1,000 in the galleries. Hon. Mr. Wood read the address from the Ontario Legislature.

Shocking Murder in McGillivray.

A MOTHER KILLS HER CHILD WITH AN AXE.

Yesterday afternoon, a married woman, named Emma Snowdon, residing in the Township of McGillivray, was lodged in the county