

THE HURON SIGNAL

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FRIDAY, AUG. 8TH, 1884

THE BITTER BITTEN.

A CHINESE gun is a dangerous weapon when it goes off it usually kills more behind than it does in front. The West Middlesex election trial has proved to be a Chinese gun in the hands of Mr. Alick Johnston, the defeated Tory candidate. One hundred and twenty-seven, charges were thrown out on the evidence for the petitioner, and Justices Ferguson and Galt dismissed the case without deeming it necessary to call a witness for the respondent. During the examination of the petitioner's witnesses, the following facts came to light:

John Killstone was offered \$25, by one McKay, of Wendigo, to vote for Johnston.

D. J. Bodman, hotel-keeper, was paid for refreshments by Alex. Johnston, the Tory candidate, during the election.

Joseph Sabine was offered money by members of the Tory party, in West Middlesex, if he would vote for Johnston.

L. Westbrook was asked to vote for Johnston by Michael Leech, who offered him \$10 if he would do so.

Wm. Harrison was "approached" by J. C. Higgins, who was willing to pay him liberally if he voted for Johnston.

The above cases are sufficient to show that a boomerang has been at work up in West Middlesex, and that the recoil came so sudden that "Jumbo" Johnston hadn't time to step from under. A peculiar feature in connection with the printed evidence is that the Toronto Mail scrupulously avoided publishing any statements made by the electors who had been "approached" with the idea of having them vote for Johnston. The Mail pretends to give a report of the trial, but the report published by that journal is garbled from beginning to end. The Mail also suppresses the remarks of the judges in dismissing the case, for fear the respondent would be awarded a just meed of praise for having conducted a clean election, in what was the hardest contest ever fought in Western Ontario.

But even Martin J. Griffin won't be able editorially to lick the West Middlesex election trial into the shape of a Conservative victory.

Some of our contemporaries take exception to ministers taking the "stump" or appearing in public print in opposition to the Scott Act, and for the life of us we can't see upon what they base their contention. As a rule, preachers are good citizens, and under ordinary circumstances do things "decently and in order." One of the rights of true citizenship is the liberty to raise voice against what one considers to be an abuse. If a minister believes the present license system to be detrimental to the morals of his people, why should he be restrained from using his privileges as a citizen in the premises? Rev. Dr. Carry, of Port Perry, has come out strongly against the Scott Act, in a series of well-written letters, and although we have conversed on the matter with several of the liquor men of this section, we have not heard one of them say that Dr. Carry should stick to his pulp and let the Scott Act alone. If it is right for Dr. Carry to give vent to his honest convictions, why is it wrong for other reverend gentlemen to follow the dictates of conscience, and give vent to their feelings on the public questions of the day?

"Rise up Sir David Macpherson." Another tin-pot knight has been added to the Canadian list, and Hon. D. L. Macpherson, has been relegated to the past. But although we don't think the title of "Sir," prefixed to a man's name, of much moment, we would like to know what D. L. Macpherson ever did to entitle him to any consideration at the hand of the Home Government?

It is rumored in official circles that W. E. Meredith, the present leader of the Opposition in the Provincial Legislature, is to be given a judgeship, and that he will be succeeded in the leadership by Senator Joseph Burr-Plumb. Incompetent as Mr. Meredith has proved himself to be, the placing in his stead of the warbler of Niagara would certainly not put salt in the porridge of the Ontario Opposition.

The Halton News, the leading Conservative paper of the County, says: "There are as many, we believe far more, Scott Act Conservatives in Halton than there are anti-Scott Act Conservatives."

THE SCOTT ACT PETITION.

We are this week able to lay before our readers the number of names, by municipalities, on the petition for the submission of the Canada Temperance Act in the county of Huron. Ashfield was only partially canvassed, owing to a misunderstanding. The canvassers generally are hopeful of a vote much larger than that represented on the petition. There are some 16,000 names on the voters' lists, but the average vote polled is not higher than 10,500 or 11,000, owing to duplicate names, absentees, etc. The number of names appended to the petition is 5,000, and it is not expected that the entire vote will exceed 10,000. The temperance men are confident of a majority as large at least as that of Oxford. The anti-Scott Act advocates express no opinion as to the probable vote. The list has been carefully revised during the week. We are indebted to Horace Foster, of Clinton, the secretary of the Scott Act party in Huron, for the following figures:—

| Name of Municipality. | No. of Signatures. |
|------------------------|--------------------|
| Ashfield..... | 94 |
| West Wawanosh..... | 165 |
| East Wawanosh..... | 253 |
| Morris..... | 326 |
| Tumbarry..... | 310 |
| Grey..... | 193 |
| Howick..... | 399 |
| McKillop..... | 272 |
| Hullett..... | 355 |
| Colborne..... | 242 |
| Goderich Township..... | 314 |
| Stanley..... | 187 |
| Hay..... | 170 |
| Stephen..... | 289 |
| Uxbridge..... | 255 |
| Tuckersmith..... | 189 |
| Goderich Town..... | 227 |
| Clinton..... | 175 |
| Seaford..... | 116 |
| Wingham..... | 125 |
| Brussels..... | 97 |
| Blyth..... | 58 |
| Wroster..... | 38 |
| Exeter..... | 134 |
| Bayfield..... | 17 |
| Total..... | 5000. |

The Halton News of July 31st has the following interesting item:—"Jailer Vanallan complains that business in his line is dull, in fact absolutely ruined, as he turned the last prisoner out yesterday. This is one business which has assuredly been adversely affected by the Scott Act."

On Friday night last a brakeman named Scully, of the Northern Railway, was sent to flag a train, and was run over and killed. At the inquest it was found that Scully had been on duty for twenty-three consecutive hours, had been overcome by sleep while waiting on the track for the approaching train, and had so lost his life. The railroad that works men twenty-three hours at a stretch should be forced to increase its staff.

The Clinton woolen mill was one of the industries that was to become a great institution under the N. P. It recently went where the woodbine twine—liabilities up in the thousands; assets, nil. We sympathize with the company, but have this to say: If the manager of the concern had less faith in the N. P., and a more thorough knowledge of business methods, the factory would still have been in operation in Clinton. And the Clinton woolen factory is not the only industry in Huron upon which "Hic pro" has been written through the influence of the N. P.

The petition against the return of Hon. G. W. Ross, M.P.P. for West Middlesex, was tried at Stratford on Tuesday last, and was dismissed with costs against the petitioner. This disposition of some of the crowing that was indulged in by the Tory press relative to what they would show of Grit corruption in West Middlesex, when the case came before the court. "Jumbo" Johnston, the petitioner, will be a sadder and a wiser man now, than before the case was entered. If a counter case had been pressed it is not unlikely that Johnston the candidate, Meredith the Opposition leader, Mackintosh, of Ottawa, Roddy, Fringle and Parsell, of Cobourg, Craigie Boyd, of Norfolk, McLean, of St. Thomas, and a host of other Tory pets, would have nearer disqualification than did the Hon. Minister of Education.

A short time ago the Tory journals all over the province, headed by the Mail, were denouncing West Ontario for submitting to an "outside candidate," in the person of James D. Edgar. The "machine system" was denounced, and every effort was made to attract a local Reformer to bolt, and run in opposition to the nominee of the Convention. On Monday last the Conservatives of Lennox tendered the nomination for that county to Geo. T. Blackstock, a young Toronto lawyer, of no political experience, and thus far we have failed to discover a paragraph in any Tory paper denouncing the "machine system" in Lennox. There is this to be said in favor of the nomination of Edgar as against that of Blackstock, that the former is an experienced parliamentarian, while the latter is a mere tyro. We are waiting for Martin J. Griffin to tear passion to tatters in denouncing "outside candidates," in Lennox through the columns of the Mail.

The equalization of Goderich was recently reduced by Judge Toms to \$875,000, and notwithstanding that fact, it is still nearly double that of Clinton, which, according to the New Era, is "the centre of the universe," and the most important town in Huron county.

It is rumored that Mr. D. Doty, the popular Collector of Customs at Goderich, has been superannuated, and that deputy R. Radcliffe, who has charge pro tem. of the Clinton office, will be promoted to the vacancy. Mr. Radcliffe is an old-time public servant, and very efficient one, and we, in common with his many friends, shall be glad to find the rumor so far as he is concerned.

So says the Wingham Advance. But the Advance, for a Conservative organ, is lamentably behind the times. It is, we believe, quite true that Mr. Doty has been superannuated, but it is not true that Mr. Radcliffe has been appointed his successor, and it is absolutely cruel for the Advance to harrow his feelings in this way. Mr. Radcliffe has been made to feel the correctness of the old adage: "There's many a slip between the cup and the lip." He was an applicant for the post and had good backing, and strove claim, out the appointment rested with Mr. Thomas Farrow, M. P., and he, patriot-like, preferred sacrificing one of his own blood relations, and had his brother, Mr. Asher Farrow, formerly a school teacher at Bluevale, appointed, and poor Radcliffe was put off with a promise of something good in the future if he swallows his disappointment and remains true to the faith.—Seaford Examiner.

Old Clear Grit Dead.

We stated last week that the famous stallion, Old Clear Grit, the property of George Whiteley, of this town, had met with a serious accident in Toronto. Although the accident was a severe one, it was at first hoped that the injury inflicted might be sufficiently healed to enable the veteran to continue in his career of usefulness, but on Monday night it was found that he made no improvement and it was decided to put him out of his misery. It was a hard task, and caused Mr. Whiteley a bitter pang to consent to the only, if heroic, remedy for his suffering. Every precaution had been taken to prevent just the thing that had occurred at the time of the accident, but the mare proved ungovernable, and lashing out at her master, she caused the old fellow dead, and finally he was hit on the head with an axe. Even then he exhibited great tenacity to life, but the struggle was brief, and at last he succumbed. Clear Grit was about 24 years of age. He was got by imported English blood, and was the property of the Rock Parson, to place in your hands a solitary but indisputable specimen of the work we did in those days, and the way in which we did it, and I think you may perhaps perceive it to have been some what different from the method adopted in our good town now-a-days. The professed purpose of obtaining a similar result.

At the meeting in the British hotel, in 1852, which I have already alluded to, I was unanimously named as chairman of a corresponding committee to carry out the object of the meeting, but the committee resolved to have a committee of fifteen in number (something like our present big "baker's dozen" in high places). I at once refused to be one in a committee numbering over "five." The meeting, however, persisted in trying 15, 13, 11, 9, 7, having a wrangle of each, and I was, at last, elected. I was then elected, and some of them began to soundly abuse me for my "stubbornness and self conceit," but, on my moving towards the door they stopped me, and agreed to number "5." But, when I asked of them to nominate Mr. Moderwell, as saying, "take the thing in the cause I was well aware of, they would not do so, but appointed Messrs. 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