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QUINN,
THE SHIRTMAKER.

SIXTH YEAR FRIDAY MORNING FEBRUARY 19 1886. PRICE ONE CENT

TAPPING THE SURPLUS.

A PROVINCIAL DEFICIT OF $401,000 FOR THE YEAR 1886.

Treasurer Ross Makes His Financial Statement—A Stationary Revenue—Looking for New Sources of Income—A Move Towards High License.

There was a full house but rather attenuated galleries when in the legislature, at 3.23 yesterday p.m., Treasurer Ross opened a large square box which lay on his desk and began his statement of the financial standing of the province. The treasurer held the floor for nearly two hours, and during that time he managed to get through a mass of figures. He was satisfied in assuming that the figures which he would present would be satisfactory. The last statement he presented showed that the expenditure was expected to exceed the revenue by $148,000, but he was happy to say that the position of the province at the close of the fiscal year was much better than he anticipated. The total estimated receipts from all sources for the year had been $2,585,148, while the actual expenditures were $2,697,420, or $112,271 more than was expected.

Referring to the items of expenditure the treasurer said under the head of civil government there was a slight increase. The estimated expenditure had been $181,444, while $184,254 was expended. For legislation $125,762 was spent, while the estimated figures were $120,850. This excess he attributed to the increased cost of sessional writers and printing. For the administration of justice, $20,671 more was spent than had been estimated ($334,252). The main item in this increase was on account of criminal justice in the different counties over which the government had no control. This, the treasurer contended, was a fair barometer of the commercial depression which now prevailed in the country. When times were hard there was more crime. For education $7735 in excess of the estimate ($525,829) had been expended. For public institutions $6114 less than the estimate ($619,685) was expended. The average cost of maintenance of inmates of all the public institutions had been reduced from $188.22 per head per annum in 1884 to $174.40 in 1885, and in the insane asylums from $133 to $123. The immigration expenses had been $912 less than the estimate, $19,900, and $24,281 less than in 1884. For agriculture and arts the expenditure was $668 less than the estimate—$160,445. The principal item in this expenditure is in connection with the Agricultural college and experimental farm at Guelph. For repairs and maintenance of public building $13,786 more was spent than estimated, $48,815. It cost $7669 to keep the rickety old parliament buildings in repair. For new public buildings the estimated cost had been $201,138, while only $155,720 were expended, and for public works $19,383 less than the estimate ($58,073) were expended. For colonization roads the estimate was $102,900, while $121,435 were expended. There was an excess of $3173 on the estimated expenditure ($102,900) on account of charges on crown lands. For refunds $1779 less than the estimate ($32,802) was spent, and under the head of miscellaneous the excesses of expenditure were $12,848. The estimate was $87,472.

It would thus be seen that the total expenditure under the supply bill was $2,693,525 and the receipts $2,697,420, leaving a surplus of $3894. [Applause.]

The treasurer next undertook to prove that the province was not living on capital, as had been charged by an honorable member, who had also held that the proceeds of the crown lands should not be touched, but should be set aside for permanent investments for the benefit of posterity. From 1872 to 1885 the total receipts from the sale of crown lands had been $2,809,186, less interest included thereon ($1,028,054), from woods and forests $7,630,902 (less $514,051 for ground rents), or a total of $8,897,983. Allowing for refunds and crown land department expenses there had been a net income from this source of $6,876,240. The province had invested in public buildings (asylums, prisons, jails, normal schools, agricultural and scientific colleges) $2,958,354; in public works and colonization roads $2,096,223; in railways $3,662,593, a total of $8,717,220, or $1,839,980 more than the total receipts from crown lands and woods and forests. [Applause].

The treasurer referred to the charges that the expense of collecting the crown timber fees was excessive. He said that it cost Ontario but $17 per $100 to collect these dues, while it cost the dominion $113 to collect every $100. [Sensation].

The new expenditures that the government had to shoulder since 1872 were next referred to. During these years their had been an expenditure of $458,800 in new public buildings and maintaining new civil service officers and servants, such as division court inspector, bureau of industries, revising voters' lists, shorthand writers for the courts, etc. The provincial board of health was also a new expense, costing the province $8000 annually. With regard to this the treasurer compared this sum with what it had cost Montreal for its smallpox outbreak. That city had spent no less than $150,000 for a single outbreak. The deaths in Quebec during that epidemic had been: Montreal 3500, suburbs 1500, other parts of province 3000, total 8000; while in Ontario for the year there had been only 138 cases and 18 deaths.

The treasurer next presented to the house the sources from whichhe proposed to derive his revenue to carry on the business of the province as follows:

Subsidy from Dominion	$1,196,872 80
Interest on capital held and debts due by the Dominion to Ontario.	279,111 10
Interest on Investments	40,000 00
	$319,111 10
Crown Lands Department.	
Crown lands	$55,000 00
Clergy lands	5,000 00
Common school lands	14,000 00
Grammar school lands	1,000 00
Woods and forests	625,000 00
	$700,000 00
Public Institutions.	
Toronto Lunatic Asylum	$ 32,500 00
London "	7,500 00
Kingston "	2,800 00
Hamilton "	5,500 00
Orillia "	1,400 00
Reformatory for females	4,200 00
" " boys	600 00
Central prison	35,000 00
Deaf and dumb institute	200 00
	$90,100 00
Education Department	30,000 00
" (School of practical science	1,000 00
	$31,000 00
Casual revenue	32,000 00
Licenses	200,000 00
Law stamps	67,000 00
Algoma taxes	4,000 00
Drainage assessment	20,000 00
Municipal loan fund	49,891 22
Insurance companies' assessments	3,000 00
Assessment of counties re removal of lunatics	6,000 00
Agriculture and Arts association re Agricultural hall	2,000 00
Total	$2,720,975 22

The treasurer spoke of the item of revenue from license at some length. They expected $200,000 from this source, notwithstanding that the Scott act had been passed in several counties. They proposed to accomplish this by raising the price of licenses. To these tariffs the municipalities could add any amount they saw fit. Since the government had taken charge of the licenses it was its intention to pocket the increases. The government now takes one-third of the license. The new tariff would be:

DENOMINATION.	Old Statutory	1884	1886
Taverns and Shops.			
In cities over 20,000	$100	$160	$250
" " under 20,000	100	160	200
Towns	80	110	150
Villages	60	80	130
Townships	60	72	100
Saloons.			
In cities	100	160	300
In towns	80	110	250
Wholesale.			
In cities over 20,000	150	225	250
Under 20,000 and towns	150	225	250
Vessels.			
On the great lakes	100	125	175
Wine and beer	50	62	87
Inland lakes	60	85	100
Wine and beer	30	42	60

Beer and wine license, a fee in addition to that provided for 44 Vic. cap. 27, sec. 2, s. s. 4, of one-half that hereby added to tavern licenses.

The treasurer then announced that there would be a total deficit of some $401,000 for the incoming year. This could not possibly be avoided, as there were several new charges on the revenue. For new asylum accommodation, which was a strict necessity, $195,000 was required; for consolidating the statutes (which only occurred every ten years), $40,000 was needed; for expenses at Colonial and Indian exhibition, $13,000; for additional charges on the administration of justice account, $40,000; for the land improvement fund, $93,000, and for new buildings at the Model Farm, say $20,000. For meeting this deficit, in face of a stationary revenue, there were several courses open. 1. They could seek new sources of income by new modes of taxation. 2. Reduce the charges on revenue by withholding grants or transferring to municipalities a portion of the charge of maintaining lunatics. The latter had been suggested by Mr. Meredith. Ontario dealt more liberally than any other country in the world with this class of unfortunates. The government intended to meet the deficit by drawing directly on the surplus. He was happy to say that the province possessed such a surplus.

The treasurer submitted a detailed statement of the assets and liabilities of the province, which showed that after all liabilities presently payable were liquidated there was a clear surplus of $6,766,090.

Reference was then made to the economy that had been exercised by the government in public expenditure. During last year only $40,000 had been paid out of the surplus, and that sum went to Quebec. "The treasurer of that province," said Mr. Ross, "intimated in his last financial statement that Sir John Macdonald had admitted that it was nothing but right that the dominion should pay the costs of maintaining provincial rights in the courts. If this were carried out, Ontario would have a claim of about $100,000 against the dominion for expenses incurred in connection with the boundary award, the rivers and streams bill, the license dispute, etc" The treasurer hoped that the difference between Quebec, the dominion and Ontario would be speedily settled, but he feared that would have to be in the courts. He hoped the opposition would lend their valuable assistance in seeing that Ontario secured her rights in this respect. He had done everything possible to have the claims of this province adjusted. The treasurer then moved the house into committee of supply.

Mr. Creighton was the next speaker. He was sorrowful that so much delay had been exhibited in obtaining a settlement between the dominion, Quebec and Ontario. He considered that the delay was largely due to the inertness of the Ontario government, Mr. Creighton reproved that the province was now to have an independent audit of its accounts, and he criticised the policy of the government in disposing of its annuities to meet its railway requirements. He agreed with the principle of the increase in the license fees, but thought the municipalities should have the benefit of the increase. Mr. Creighton laughed at the so-called surplus of $6,766,090. The provincial railway and other assets were not available. The cash surplus only amounted to $700,000, and out of this $400,000 was now to be taken. Direct taxation was staring us in the face.

The debate was continued by Dr. McLaughlin, Mr. Carnegie and Mr. Balfour.

The house went into committee of supply, passed the item of $1750 for government house and adjourned at 10.05.

New Bills Introduced.

In the house Mr. Monk introduced a bill to amend the consolidated municipal act. It is apparently the intention of the rural members to amend this unfortunate act out of existence. Mr. Mowat introduced three bills which were all read a first time: An act for improving the practice of conveyancing, and amending the law of property; respecting returns of convictions by stipendiary and police magistrates; respecting criminal justice accounts payable by the province.

Legislative Committees.

Chairman Gibson presided at a meeting of the private bills committee yesterday morning. The act respecting the village of Beeton, in the county of Simcoe, was considered. A bylaw for the separation of the village from the township of Tecumseth, was passed by the county council. Legal objections having been taken, the bylaw was quashed, though the village in the meantime was in the exercise of the powers of incorporation. The act declares the bylaw incorporating the village to be a legal and valid bylaw to all intents and purposes. After full discussion, in which counsel took part, the committee decided to report the bill. The bill incorporating the village of Huntsville was also reported.

The railway committee (Hon. Mr. Pardee, chairman) also met. Consideration of the bill to incorporate the Georgian Bay and Lake Huron Railway company was resumed. On suggestion of the chairman clauses 41 and 47 of the bill were struck out and the following inserted: "The said company shall have power to make traffic and running arrangements, either or both, with the Wellington, Grey and Bruce railway, the Grand Trunk railway, the Georgian Bay and Lake Huron railway, the Toronto, Grey and Bruce railway, the Canadian Pacific railway and the Northern railway companies if lawfully empowered to enter into such arrangements, or for crossing or connecting with the railways of the said companies, or any of them, upon terms to be agreed upon." The bill was reported as amended. A bill extending the time for the commencement of the Midland Junction railway for two years from the passage of the bill, and the time of completion for four years from the same time was also reported.

When the house met in the afternoon, both of these reports were presented and adopted.

Budget Notes.

Coburg owes the province about $80,000. The town, so the treasurer said, is to be let off with $27,000.

The provincial annuities are a considerable mystery to many of the members.

Mr. Ross was in good form and spoke with more distinctness than usual. He, however, did considerable fumbling over the papers in his box. The treasurer was attentively listened to and frequently applauded.

It was when Dave Creighton got in his big licks that the desks were made to rattle to the echo. The little editor from the Sound was in prime form and delivered himself grandly.

It is a notable feature of the debate that all the members who followed Mr. Ross in the debate, with the exception of Dr. McLaughlin, were Editors. Mr. Creighton edits the Owen Sound Times, Mr. Carnegie edits the Peterboro' Review, and Mr. Balfour the Amherstburg Echo. The member for Essex is a great roarer.

Mr. Ross says we have a stationary revenue, the charges on which are steadily growing. "How can the revenue be increased?" will probably attract the attention of this or subsequent parliaments.

The treasurer made a slight mistake in one part of his speech which he did not correct until after recess. He said, and he said it four or five times, that it cost the province but 17 cents per $100 to collect our crown timber and lands dues. He meant $17.

Mr. Ross spoke from 3.23 till 5.15. This is rather brief for a budget speech—but rather acceptable to the house and the press gallery.

PARLIAMENT REASSEMBLES.

Mr. Gladstone Makes a Statement of His Intentions.

LONDON, Feb. 18.—Parliament reassembled to-day. Mr. Gladstone stated in the commons that after the government had concluded the financial business they would be able to state a part, if not the whole, of the Irish measures they intended to introduce. He expected to be through the financial business about March 22. The government had no intention of renewing coercion in Ireland. Mr. Gladstone said he would follow the Eastern policy inaugurated by Lord Salisbury.

Lord Hartington took a seat behind the treasury bench. He was loudly cheered by the conservatives. The crowd outside of the parliament buildings, which usually gives an enthusiastic reception to the prime minister, only faintly cheered Mr. Gladstone upon his arrival. There is a general feeling of discontent over the meagreness of the government's statements regarding its proposed Irish measures. The fact that the government made no announcement of its program for the introduction of bills affecting Ireland is taken as an indication that the cabinet is still undecided as to what course it shall pursue.

Lord Randolph Churchill and the rank and file of the tories abused and worried Mr. Gladstone and provoked from the prime minister a dignified speech in which he said that the government had a severe and difficult task, which it would endeavor to perform as resolutely and as speedily as possible.

In the house of lords Earl Granville announced that the government would not introduce any Irish measures before the first of March. Lord Salisbury said he would wait to see what changes six weeks would make in the policy of the government. His remark was greeted with cheers. In the house of commons Mr. Gladstone said the desire of the government was to propose to the house measures of a positive and substantive character dealing with Ireland, respecting social order and the questions of land and the future government of Ireland, including a method for such government.

The house resumed the debate on the address in reply to the Queen's speech.

Lord Salisbury, commenting on the announcements by Mr. Gladstone and Lord Granville, complained that the government is "treating parliament and a powerful interest with singular levity."

The tories vainly tried to goad Lord Rosebery, the foreign secretary, to speak on the situation in the east, which is very critical.

The Weakness in the Government.

LONDON, Feb. 18.—The impression is gaining ground that the present cabinet will prove unworkable and that it will be impossible to hold it together. Joseph Chamberlain denies that there is any dispute or difference of opinion concerning the government's policy toward Ireland between himself and his colleagues in the cabinet.

On Change.

LONDON, Feb. 18.—A feeling of agitation prevailed on the stock exchange to-day, owing to a lack of confidence among business men in the stability of the Gladstone government. The wildest rumors have been in circulation. One of them was that Lord Rosebery had resigned, and another that the Greeks had crossed the Turkish frontier. These reports were denied, and towards the close a recovery took place in the market.

Rowing on Rollers.

Wallace Ross and Fred. Plaisted gave a unique exhibition at the Princess rink last night on the Courtney rowing machine. The machine is a curiosity in its way, furnished with a sliding seat, and in working it, all the motions of an oarsman are illustrated. The gentlemen made splendid time and kept the large audience in a high state of excitement all the while. Mr. Ross supplemented the performance with grotesque imitations of different styles of rowing, and Mr. Plaisted did some clever club swinging. Mr. Hanlan discharged the duties of referee in great style, and at the same time was very much pleased with his rivals' performances. Ross and Plaisted will do the same thing over again for the remainder of the week.

A Seamen's Riot at Bristol.

BRISTOL, Feb. 18.—A riot occurred here to-day between British and foreign sailors, growing out of jealousy. The captain of the steamer Jersey City, who had been attending the marine board in order to ship a crew of foreigners, was followed and hooted by a crowd of unemployed seamen. The foreigners became alarmed and fled, the English pursuing and assaulting them. The riot was finally quelled by the police. The Jersey City is without a crew and is unable to sail.

The Epstein Bankrupt Stock clearing at half prices at the Bon Marche.

OUR OWN COUNTRY.

Items of General Interest Received by Mail and Wire.

The flood in the Moira is subsiding.

Waterloo county is over-run by a horde of swindlers.

Diphtheria is very prevalent on the Coulonge.

Andrew Gray, of Chatham township, was killed by the falling of a tree.

Aleck Mann, 16, was killed at Lindsay yesterday by being run over by a train.

The spire of St. Andrew's church, Halifax, was struck and split into match-wood yesterday.

The outlook for the lumber trade in the Ottawa valley has not been so good for years as it is at present.

In the county of Elgin within a period of six months three ladies have presented their lords with triplets.

Eckerdorff & Co., of Montreal, have assigned. Seven forged notes uttered by the firm have come to light.

J. T. Hamilton of Muskrat lake shot three bears in one den. The largest is five feet from tip of nose to rump.

Our exchanges fairly bristle with items about counterfeit $2 bills which seem to be in circulation all over the province.

Anprior had six hotels under the Crook's act. Under the Scott act you can buy whiskey in almost every other house.

Mr. Caldwell, M.P.P., has purchased the water-power at Kingston Mills for $30,000, and intends erecting a large mill there to be lit with electricity.

Mr. R. Cook, of Lemonville, fell a distance of eight feet coming in contact with a cutting box and breaking five of his ribs, one of which penetrated his lung and caused death.

The Y. M. C. A. secretaries' conference opened yesterday in Hamilton. The following gentlemen were present: Cole, Budge, McCulloch, Saunders, Burford, Williams, Kuhring, Heath, Webb, Brewer, Lonsdale and Grand.

There is a bas relief in the church of St. Marie de la Beauce, Que., measuring 8x3 feet and representing a landscape in Judea, with the Virgin and Child, which was among the spoils brought back from the Crusades by King Louis IX. of France, otherwise called St. Louis. This historical relic was, it seems, brought to this country among a quantity of other valuable paintings by a Mr. Cloet, then a wealthy Quebec merchant, who presented it to Rev. Mr. Vallade, his godfather, who was then cure of St. Marie. It is added that another historical relic is in private hands in St. Marie, in the shape of a statue of St. Louis, bearing the date of 1415, which was found in a well-preserved condition imbedded in the sands of the Chaudiere river about 40 years ago.

ABOUT LIQUOR LICENSES.

THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE WILL NOT REDUCE THEM.

A Lively Debate—Mayor Howland's Irritation—He Tells the Members What they Should Do, but they Don't.

The executive committee yesterday considered the report of the special committee, to whom was referred that portion of the inaugural address of the mayor, which related to the liquor traffic. This report came up in council Monday night, but was referred to the executive committee on a technicality. There were present, Mayor Howland, Chairman Defoe, Ald. Steiner, Saunders, Pepler, Woods, Elliott, James, Carlyle (St. Thomas) and Irwin, members of the committee, besides Treasurer Harman, Ald. Baxter, Maughan, Shaw, Fleming, Hunter, McMillan and Denison, who testified by their attendance the interest they took in the question at issue.

The first clause, recommending that the city be divided into two license districts, each with its own board of commissioners and inspectors; and that the government be urged to greater vigilance in the suppression of illegal liquor selling was passed, with an unimportant amendment. The second clause, recommending that the money now in the hands of the city treasurer, arising from penalties for violation of the license act, and the money to come hereafter from the same source, be placed at the disposal of his worship to secure the better enforcement of the license act, was, on recommendation of the chairman, altered so as to provide that the sum in question be placed to the order of the chairman of the police commissioners.

The third clause recommended that a bylaw be introduced increasing the license fee for shops and taverns by $20 each, and limiting the number to be issued in the city to 68 shop and 200 tavern licenses.

Here the trouble arose. Ald. Steiner objected. The chairman suggested that the report should go to the council without recommendation on salient points. The question should be given a fair discussion in council. A recommendation of the executive on any matter involving expenditure would require a two-thirds vote for reversal. In the discussion that was to follow a majority vote should rule. Ald. Pepler felt strongly on the question of reducing the number of licenses. He moved:

That inasmuch as the license commissioners have full power to reduce the number of licenses, it is therefore deemed inadvisable that this council should take any action in the matter, as it is clearly out of their province, as a duty, so to do; and that there be no arbitrary reduction of the number of licenses without compensation.

The motion continued by recommending that the government be urged to exercise greater vigilance in the suppression of the illegal trade. Ald. Pepler spoke along the line of compensation, in case of a summary cutting down of the number of licenses. Such a course as he proposed would ultimately have a good result and would do away with any necessity for compensation. He considered his worship's intentions honest but he sometimes went the wrong way about things. The chairman repeated his first suggestion. He did not want to "embarrass" the council in its deliberations. Ald. Steiner took umbrage at the word "embarrass." He wanted the committee to report. They were there to report and it was their duty to do so. They were men who had views and should not be afraid to express them. Ald. Irwin also desired a report to be sent in. He was in favor of raising the fee and leaving the reduction in the number to the inspectors. Ald. Irwin afterwards changed his mind and voted for the recommendation.

Mayor Howland addressed the meeting. He had been at first unwilling to speak, but there were a few things he wished to say at this juncture. He was satisfied that moderate drinkers in the city could be accommodated at as few as 20 places. To support any more there must be drunkards. There were more than 26 saloon keepers in the city who violated the law. A reduction would increase the value of a license, and respectable license-holders would be protected, as they should be. A special committee had embodied their views in their report. The matter came to the executive to be dealt with only from a financial standpoint. He therefore considered it the duty of the committee to send the report to council without recommendation. Ald. Pepler expressed himself as willing to withdrawn his motion, but the discussion proceeded.

Ald. Jones moved that the part of the clause providing for a reduction in the number of licenses be struck out. He subsequently withdrew his motion. Mayor Howland spoke again. The people had plainly expressed a desire for a radical change in such matters as the committee were then discussing. It was the duty of the committee as far as possible to meet this desire. The opponents of the clause did not seem to be at all influenced by this speech. The meeting about this time became disorderly. Caucuses were held in groups of two or three. Everyone was talking at once. Ald. McMillan, the chairman of the committee, whose report was under consideration, sat at Mayor Howland's elbow and the two discussed. His worship commenced to expostulate with Ald. Steiner for his conduct in refusing to let the clause go through. "My good gracious, Mr. Mayor," said Ald. Steiner, "I'm no child. I know how I have voted." His worship, who had used the word "cowardly" a few times in an undertone, at length audibly characterized the action of the committee by that epithet. Several members put down their foot, hard. They would not be called cowards. The chairman smoothed matters. "Well, gentlemen," said his worship, graciously, "I'll take back all the hard things I have said to you. But really, I must entreat you to let the clause go through unrecommended." The committee did not see it in that light and Ald. Pepler's amendment was carried.

This clause was the backbone of the report. The remaining four recommendations, previously published, were passed with slight amendments. The council will grapple with the question to-night.

The recommendation of the special committee on the local improvement by-law to the effect that the by-law be re-submitted to the people; and the recommendation of the works committee to repeal the by-law providing for the placing of conductors on one-horse cars were passed without comment.

Dynamite Waste.

READING, Pa., Feb. 18.—A great and alarming sickness exists in numerous families residing along Bernhardt's creek, north of this city. There is a gradual wasting away of the system, as in consumption. At first the physicians were puzzled, but have just discovered that the chemical waste from a dynamite factory runs into the creek, the water of which all of the families use.

Medical skill seems powerless to arrest the flow of blood from a slight wound on the gum just under the upper lip of a two-year-old child in Kingston, and he is slowly bleeding to death.

Come early and capture the bargains. Clearing at half prices at the Bon Marche.

THE MILLERSBURG, PA., SENSATION

A True Statement of the Affair—The Supernatural Manifestation Purely Mythical.

The World, in common with most other Canadian and American papers, published some time ago an associated press despatch from Harrisburg, Pa., relating how one of a party of young men, who had engaged in some horrible mockery of religious services during a drunken carousal, had been visited by some supernatural manifestations which so frightened him that he died shortly after a raving maniac. The Harrisburg Daily Telegraph, after relating the above story, publishes the facts as follows: This article was widely copied, and attracted much attention. Since then the postoffice at Millersburg has been flooded with letters of inquiry and newspaper clippings, the letters nearly all asking for an explanation; and some of like character have been received at the Harrisburg postoffice. Hon. J. B. Seal, publisher of the Millersburg Herald, considering the reputation of that town at stake, investigated the charge, and in the last number of his paper gives an explanation, which he prefaces with the assertion that the sensational article must have emanated from a diseased brain. He says that there was a jollification at one of the hotels during the holidays, at which drinking and singing was indulged in, and that under the influence of drink some even attempted to dance. "But as to the charge of engaging in sacrilegious services, this is denounced as untrue. With all the contradictory and conflicting rumors, we can find no evidence that would substantiate the charge. As to the appearance of his satanic majesty and the maniacal throes and death-bed agonies of Samuel Matter immediately following, this is entirely false. Deceased died three weeks afterwards from natural causes, and was buried a week prior to the time when this should have occurred."

AN INNOCENT MAN CONVICTED.

The Value of a Colored Stranger's Evidence.

HAMILTON, Feb. 18—At the police court this morning Andrew Dillon, Nancy Wheeler, Richard Thompson, J. H. Inglehart, Fred Morrison, Neil A. Mc Lean, Andrew Roach, A. J. Wooten, Carl Biaazs, Thomas Armstrong and Ben Lester, hotel-keepers, were charged with a breach of the license act in selling liquor during prohibited hours. The information on which the cases were based was laid by John Coby and John M. Welch, two liquor spies from Toronto, who have been working this city for some time past.

In last July John McLaughlin and Thomas Sheridan were arrested, charged by a young negro named R. C. O. Benjamin with robbing him of a gold watch and chain. McLaughlin was found guilty and sentenced to three years' imprisonment on Benjamin's evidence, although he strongly protested that he was innocent. The watch the negro claimed was presented to him by a colored Masonic lodge in Brinkley, Arkansas, but G. S. Lynch-Staunton, who defended the prisoner at his trial, has received a letter from the secretary of the colored Masonic lodge in Brinkley, stating that they know nothing of Benjamin, and that they never presented anyone with a gold watch. It was believed at the time of the trial that McLaughlin was committed unjustly, and his innocence is now established. An endeavor to obtain his release will be made at once.

Institute of Chartered Accountants.

The annual meeting was held in board of trade rooms last night. Vice-President W. F. Findlay, Hamilton, presided in absence of President McCabe.

The financial report was read by Secretary Wells; it showed a balance of $222 on hand. The following officers were elected: President, Wm. McCabe; vice-presidents, W. F. Findlay, Hamilton; E. R. C. Clarkson, Toronto. Council—J. J. Mason, A. G. Ramsay and H. S. Stevens, Hamilton; G. A. Somerville, Guelph; J. W. Johnson, F. C. A., Belleville; J. Danks, London; G. F. Jewell, F. C. A., London; James Pollock, Brantford; D. Higgins, W. H. Cross, H. W. Eddis, R. T. Coady, S. B. Harman, Hugh Scott, P. G. Routh, W. A. Douglas, R. H. Tomlinson, Toronto; Henry Lye, Cobourg. Auditors, J. McA. Griffith, and T. H. Monk, Toronto. E. R. C. Clarkson read a brief paper on several topics in the course of which he suggested the giving of a course of lectures by the institute. In the discussion that followed this proposal was received unfavorably.

A Factory Burned.

STRATHROY, Ont., Feb. 18.—This morning about 5.30 a fire broke out in H. E. Ketchum's rake, snath and cradle factory, a wooden structure with brick warehouse. The building containing machinery and stuff in course of manufacture, which was totally destroyed. Loss about $20,000, insured for $6600, on factory and machinery, $5600, in Western; on warehouse and contents, $500 each, in Waterloo Mutual.

JOTTINGS ABOUT TOWN.

The Baptist Union will meet in Toronto Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, April 28, 29 and 30.

Prof. Macintyre, M.A., of Brantford, will lecture in the Bond street church this evening on "Horatio—Lord Nelson."

The Rev. E. A. Stafford, of the Metropolitan, and the Rev. H. P. Hobson, of the St. James' cathedral, will address the cottage meeting in Temperance hall to-night.

All who intend to hear Ovide Musin should place their names on the subscriber's list at Sucklings at once, as March 1st is positively the only opportunity of hearing him this season.

The local board of health met yesterday and considered several claims for damages done by the health officer to the property of people afflicted with smallpox. It was decided that $20 should be offered Wm. Moore, one of the claimants, in full of account. The new chairman, Ald. Drayton, fills the chair well.

The star at the next Monday Popular concert will be Miss Juliette Corden, of New York, who is described as "possessing a clear, high soprano voice, which she uses with a delicacy of expression; her technique and executive abilities in florid music has been pronounced wonderful, and she will in a short time rival with some of the leading artists of the day."

Arrangements have just been completed by Anchor Line whereby the magnificent steamships City of Rome and America will form a fortnightly passenger express, commencing April 14, between New York, Queenstown and Liverpool. This arrangement will not interfere in any way with the present Londonderry and Glasgow service.

The choir of St. Helen's church, Brockton, held a very successful concert at Eagle's hall, Weston, Wednesday evening. They were assisted by several singers from the city, among whom were Miss Meyers and Miss Sheahan and Mr. McCloskey. Miss Fanna Mitchell and Miss Harte were the accompanists.

The charge of perjury against Geo. T. Smith was investigated before the police magistrate yesterday. B. B. Osler, Q.C., represented Benjamin Barter, the private prosecutor, and Dr. McMichael, Q. C., and C. A. Howland were counsel for accused. The magistrate decided that a case had been made out, though not a very strong one, and committed defendant for trial, accepting Mr. Smith's own bail.

John Daniels, a farmer living near West Toronto Junction, was committed for trial for cruelty towards a boy named James Owen, one of Dr. Barnardo's proteges. The boy was engaged by Daniels for three years. It appeared he was in the habit of attending a Salvation army meeting, which Daniels forbade him to do. Last Monday night he visited a neighbor who was a member of the army. Daniels went after him, and after taking him from the house, beat him brutally all the way home.

THE QUO WARRANTO.

Commercial Honor and Social Purity Discussed by Two Citizens.

The whole thing in this quo warranto amounts to this said a lawyer to a merchant yesterday that Mr. Howland was unfortunate in business and lost all his money and some of that of his friends. He had to give up his property and even now it is a question whether his old creditors would allow him to hold anything. It was by reason of these business reverses that his father-in-law bought in the house and turned it over to his daughter. And it is in regard to the holding of this house that the issue is raised. Now, said the lawyer in continuation, commercial probity in a commercial centre like Toronto is of just as much importance as what is called social purity, and on the commercial side his worship has a weak record. He has had his business misfortunes, and he must take the brunt of them; and if he has not yet got a sufficient discharge and cannot hold property in his own name, then he can only blame such business reverses.

Practically what you say then, said the merchant, is this: that if Mr. Howland had paid his debts in full there would have been no quo warranto.

That is it, exactly, said the lawyer.

And you'd further contend, said the merchant, that Toronto is much more in need of commercial honor than she is in need of a social purity crusade.

You catch my meaning, said the lawyer.

Changes in Civic Rules.

The special committee to consider alterations in the city council rules was held yesterday. Present were Ald. Defoe, in the chair, Maughan, Turner, Steiner, Carlyle (St. Andrew's) and Baxter. The bylaw to regulate council proceedings was considered. The committee decided to strike out the clause providing for the amending of the section for calling council meetings; the clause recommending the repeal of the section providing that unless there be a quorum half an hour after the time appointed for meeting, the council shall stand absolutely adjourned till the next day of meeting; the recommendation to repeal the section providing that as soon after the hour of meeting as there shall be a quorum the mayor shall take the chair, and the recommendation that the chairman of the executive in the absence of the mayor shall preside at council meetings and attend to all regular business. It was decided to recommend that the mayor be ex-officio a member of all special as well as of all standing committees.

His Worship as a Bondsman.

Editor World: Your issue of to-day contains a reference to certain proceedings in a case in the police court yesterday, to which the following paragraph was gratuitously added:

"Mayor Howland put in an appearance to act as one of the bondsmen. He was asked if he was worth $500 over and above the amount of his liabilities. His Worship said he would not swear that he was worth five cents."

I was counsel in the case in question. The mayor did not present himself in court to act as a bondsman, consequently he was not asked whether he was worth $500 over and above his liabilities; and he did not say that he would not swear that he was worth five cents. The alleged conversation is pure invention.

Toronto, Feb. 17. O. A. HOWLAND.

[With reference to the above The World would say that if the item is not correct it was misinformed and did not intend to do Mr. Howland an injustice. Benjamin Barter, one of the parties to the suit, called at The World office on Thursday night and said he was present when Mayor Howland was asked the question. It is now in order for Mr. Barter to explain.—ED. WORLD.]

Over $60,000 worth of choice goods clearing at 50c. on the dollar at the Bon Marche.

A Deputation from Ottawa.

A powerful deputation from Canada's capital will shortly wait upon the government to ask for legislation enabling county councils to purchase, by arbitration or otherwise, all macadamized roads, also to ask for amendments to the municipal act to give city municipalities more power and control over expenditure for the maintenance of police, public and separate schools, and other educational institutions to the support of which the ratepayers are obliged to contribute; and lastly, to get the land titles act of 1885 to apply to the city of Ottawa. The co-operation of Toronto is asked by Ottawa in gaining these measures.

A Crematory in Toronto.

A sub-committee of the markets and health met yesterday afternoon to consider the advisability of establishing a crematory. Present: Ald. Shaw (chairman), Johnston, Verral, James and Fleming. A communication was read stating that the proprietors of the Bee Hive Destructor of England were willing to construct a 5000 load destructor for £1000. Andrew Engle, of Metz, Iowa, proposed through his agent, V. B. Whipple, to erect a new patent crematory on trial, and to remove the same if not found satisfactory. No action was taken, the committee wishing to have further information on the subject.

Police Court Yesterday.

William Spencer of the colored fraternity was sent down for three days for stealing cordwood. Harris Hyman and Frederick Timms, charged with stealing lead pencils from Selby & Co., were remanded until Wednesday. Margaret Heatly was fined $25 and costs or 30 days for selling liquor without a license. Henry Taylor was sentenced to ten days' imprisonment for stealing small sums of money from William Wilson. William Harper, 13 years of age, was again up for stealing a bundle of newspapers from Edward O'Brien's doorsteps. He was sent to jail for four days.

A Withrow Boom.

There is the usual haste on the part of the public to count chickens before they are hatched. Last night the speculators were discussing Mayor Howland's successor in case the quo warranto succeeded. Ald. Withrow (by acclamation) was the man most generally mentioned. The opinion that the quo warranto will hold is sustained by nearly all the best lawyers in the city.

Scarlet Knights.

At the annual communication of the Royal Scarlet chapter of Centre and East Toronto, the following companions were elected officers for the ensuing year: W. comp., in command, Frank Somers; Ex comp. in command, Harry Lovelock; chaplain, Robt. Kirk; scribe, Wm. Lee; treas., Ald. John Low; herald at arms, D. Ross.

The New Asylum Accommodation.

Among the items in the provincial estimates for this year is one for $195,000 for additional asylum accommodation. Of this sum $125,000 will be expended in enlarging the asylum at Orillia and the balance will be expended on the cottages at the Hamilton asylum.

He is So Glad.

—The weather has settled again, and old Jack Frost once more makes the hired girl fill the self-feeder clean to the brim. No auction goods. No moth-eaten furs. No goods sold that have been altered over and over again since the battle of Queenston Heights. All this season's make and style. Dineen takes the lead in furs as well as hats. Corner King and Yonge streets. x

THE BALANCE OF POWER.

CONSERVATIVES RESOLVED TO VOTE WITH THE PARNELLITES.

An Enthusiastic Tory Caucus—A Determined Opposition to be Offered to Home Rule—The Liberals to be Forced to Show Their Hand.

LONDON, Feb. 18.—The leading members of the conservative party met at the Carlton club to-day to confer upon the course the party shall pursue in regard to Irish affairs on the reassembling of parliament. Lord Salisbury presided, and Lord Randolph Churchill and 150 other prominent Tories were present. The meeting was very enthusiastic. The speeches made indicate the intention on the part of the conservatives to offer the most strenuous opposition to any measure presented by the liberals conceding home rule in Ireland.

Lord Salisbury predicted a union with the conservatives of that section of the liberals which follows Lord Hartington and Mr. Goschen. He urged conservatives to do all that was possible to bring such a union into effect. Some of the speakers commented severely on Lord Randolph Churchill's attack upon the Catholics and his intimacy with members of the Parnellite party. The meeting resolved to make home rule a test question in the house of commons, and for this purpose will support the Parnellites in their demands to have it precede land reform.

ENGLAND AND GREECE.

An Inquiry From Italy and France.

LONDON, Feb. 18.—The French and Italian governments having asked Lord Rosebery, minister of foreign affairs, whether he intended to order an English attack upon the Greek fleet, Lord Rosebery replied that England would act only in concert with the other powers. The latest orders despatched to Suda Bay are to the effect that no active measures shall be taken by the fleet there without the special permission of all the governments interested.

Another Belleville Bigamist.

BELLEVILLE, Feb. 18.—Horatio Hoskin, formerly a well-to-do farmer at Fredericksburg, has been arrested in Welland county for bigamy. He married Miss Ella Belch of Belleville in 1879. In three months she left him on account of his brutality. He then sold out, moved to the Niagara district and for a second time entered into the married state. His second wife tired of him after three weeks