

# THE REPORTER.

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## THE REPORTER

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BETHUEL LOVERIN,  
Publisher and Proprietor

### Fire Protection.

There seems to be a growing feeling among our citizens that we should have a better system of fire protection. While we are prepared to admit that good results have been accomplished by the formation of a system of police surveillance and the partial protection of buildings by having chimneys, flues, &c., occasionally inspected. Still, we feel that something more is required in a village the size of Farmersville. Nearly all of the workshops and a good many of the dwellings, stores, &c., are constructed of wood, and some of them are old and the chimneys are necessarily defective. If a fire should break out there is now no organized system of water supply and no person having authority to direct matters at a fire. What we want is a thorough system of fire alarm signals, an organized and thoroughly trained fire company, and last, though not least, a fire engine. No doubt, some will murmur at the expense these things would entail upon the inhabitants of the village. In reply to these objections, we would say that the rates for fire insurance are correspondingly higher in places without fire protection than those that are protected. We believe that the decrease in rate for insurance would in a few years more than pay for an engine. A business man residing on Main St. informed us a few days ago that the decrease in the rate of insurance on his property if we had proper fire protection would be from \$4 to \$5 per year. We do not believe that there is a resident of this village who recognizes the need of something being done in the matter of affording better protection against the ravages of fire, and would be willing to contribute towards the purchase of a fire engine, if invited to do so. We believe that when the water-works are fully completed in Brockville, the corporation will sell one of their hand engines, and no doubt at a reasonable price. We cannot too strongly urge upon the people of Farmersville the necessity of moving in this matter at once, as it is possible some morning we may awake to find a large portion of the village in ashes. For, if a fire should occur in any of the blocks of wooden buildings on Main St., no

power that we now possess could prevent the whole block being destroyed, and if unfortunately a high wind should be raging at the time, there is no telling where the damage would end. Should we be so unfortunate as to have such a fire, we would then feel that the golden opportunity had been allowed to pass, by taking advantage of which much valuable property could have been saved.

### Riel in Rebellion.

Despatches to the Globe from Winnipeg and St. Paul, on Monday and Tuesday last, brought the startling intelligence that the exiled Riel, of Red River rebellion fame, had again placed himself at the head of a body of rebellious half-breeds, and that the lives and property of white settlers in Prince Albert were threatened. Riel is said to be in command of 1,500 half-breeds and Indians. The rebels have seized the Indian stores at Duck Lake, and cut the telegraph wires. The Mounted Police are concentrating their forces near the scene, and Commander Irvine with a large force armed with cannon, is on the march. Men are being enlisted as fast as possible. The 90th Battalion has received orders to hold itself in readiness for immediate action. There is intense excitement in the North-West. The difficulty arises over the non-settlement of land claims.

### The Soudan.

The British have been massing their forces at Suakim and Korti, and have been busily preparing their encampment, where they will await the autumn before commencing to smash the Mahdi. But the Mahdi apparently is not disposed to allow them to become acclimatized before engaging in battle, and is therefore harassing them at every point. Another power which we think will force the Mahdi's hand is that in order to retain the faith of his followers in his character as a prophet he must make progress in his march to the Red Sea, despite the presence of the British. The Mahdi's followers are eating up their own resources and are becoming dissatisfied at the delay. On the 21st the troops in the zereba at Hasheen shot and shelled the rebels on adjacent hills and dispersed them. On Sunday, while detachments of the English and Indian infantry were making a zereba seven miles from Suakim, they were suddenly surprised by a rush of Arabs who had been massed and concealed in the defiles west of Hasheen. The English formed a square as quickly as possible, but the camels, mules and horses were driven back in confusion on the troops, causing a stampede, and amid clouds of dust the Arabs penetrated the square. Meanwhile, the marines and Berkshire regiment maintained a continuous fire, holding the enemy at bay, while the charge of

cavalry and fire from the guns at the Hasheen zereba checked the onslaught of the Arabs, which at the outset threatened a serious disaster to the British. An unofficial estimate places the British killed at 52 and the wounded at 85. Nearly all the casualties were due to spear-thrusts received in hand to hand encounters. The Arabs got between the transport train and zereba, speared the men of the transport corps and killed the animals. They fought savagely, refusing to give or take quarter. Gen. McNeil is blamed for not taking precautions against a surprise. It is now thought that the Mahdi will force the British into precipitating the issue.

### The Death Roll.

#### FERGUSON.

Another old land-mark has been removed in the person of Mrs. Ferguson, of Junetown, who died on the 7th at her son's residence. This old lady came from Glasgow, Scotland, with her husband in 1821, and was at her death 84 years of age. Her partner died 29 years ago, since which time she has lived with her son. She was the mother of 6 children, 26 grand-children, and 27 great-grand-children. She was for many years a member of the Baptist Church, and was highly respected. Many friends as well as two sons mourn her loss. The funeral took place on Monday, the 16th inst., and her remains were followed to the grave by a large concourse of friends. Rev. D. C. Sanderson conducted the services.

#### BAILE.

At his residence, Junetown, on Thursday, March 11th, Benjamin Baile, aged 88 years. Mr. Baile emigrated to Canada from the County of Wexford, Ireland, 63 years ago, nearly all of which time he has resided in the Township of Yonge. He had a family of two sons and three daughters. He was an earnest and zealous church member for over forty years, and was universally respected.

#### STAFFORD.

Suddenly, on Monday morning last, the 23rd inst., of congestion of the lungs, George Stafford, in the 40th year of his age. The funeral services were held on Tuesday afternoon in the Methodist Church, the funeral sermon being preached by the Rev. Mr. Sherman assisted by Rev. Mr. Blair. Mr. Stafford has been a resident of the village for the past 20 years, and has been in the employ of Mr. D. Fisher as carriage painter for 17 years. He was a prominent member of the lodge of Oddfellows in the village, who were unremitting in their attendance during his illness, and when the grim monster, death, removed their brother from among them they showed their appreciation of his worth by taking entire charge of the funeral obsequies. Invitations were at once sent to all the members of the order in the district,

who responded by sending delegates from Brockville, Mallorytown, Delta, etc. Jno. R. Reid, P. G. M., officiated as master of ceremonies, and at the grave read the beautiful and impressive service of the order. Mr. Stafford was three times married, his first wife being a daughter of the late N. C. Brown; the others were sisters, daughters of G. K. Brennan. Of a quiet, retiring disposition, his many good qualities and Christian virtues made him universally respected. He leaves a wife and one son, a lad of tender years, to mourn his loss.

#### JOHNSON.

At Independence, Missouri, on the 20th inst., Capt. Riley Johnson, in the 67th year of his age. Capt. Johnson was for many years a resident of this vicinity, and was known to a great many of our readers. We have gleaned the following brief items relative to his life: Mr. Johnson was born in the State of New York. Some 28 years ago he owned and kept the Johnston House in Ogdensburg. At the time of the American Rebellion, he organized a company of volunteers, serving in the capacity of Captain for four years. He was captured by the rebels and confined in Libby prison for 21 months. He, with about twenty of his fellow-prisoners formed a plan of escape, that of digging an underground passage from the prison. The plan succeeded, and 112 persons escaped, but he being sick could not avail himself of the means of escape, and generously offered his chances to a fellow-prisoner, who succeeded in escaping. Shortly afterwards he was exchanged and honorably discharged from the army. Returning to Ogdensburg he again kept hotel for a number of years, but finally sold out and removed to the township of Yonge, purchasing the farm of the late Daniel Phillips. Here he resided about four years, when he disposed of the farm to his brother Charles, and moved into the village of Farmersville. About four years ago, owing to financial difficulties, he suddenly left this section, and had never been heard from until Saturday last, when the news came over the wires announcing his death. Mr. Johnson was a member of Rising Sun Lodge of A. F. and A. M., and the lodge telegraphed the brotherhood to that effect. A reply was at once received that the Order had forwarded the remains to Ogdensburg, where they will be interred. Capt. Johnson was twice married, his first wife being a native of the Township of Matilda, by whom he had three children, all of whom are living. His second wife was Mrs. Lamb, mother of Mr. J. P. Lamb, druggist. Of a kind and generous disposition, he was honored and respected by all who knew him, and the writer can bear personal testimony to his worth and strict integrity. The deceased had many friends in this vicinity who will regret his death.