

May.
The robin, the forerunner of the spring;
The bluebird, with its joyful carolling,
The restless swallows building in the eaves,
The golden buttercups the grass the leaves
The lilacs tossing in the winds of May,
All welcomed this majestic holiday.
—LONGFELLOW.

THE ACADIAN

WOLFVILLE, N. S., MAY 1, 1885

PORT WILLIAMS BRIDGE.

Owing to circumstances we were unable to visit the new Port Williams Bridge until this week. This accounts for our not giving it a notice before. But now we have seen it, and although reports from persons who had crossed it had come to our ears, we must say we were utterly unprepared for what we saw. While admitting that this is an age of progress, and that one must needs be up and doing who would keep abreast of the times, we certainly were astonished when our eyes first beheld this wonder of the latter part of the nineteenth century. It is really the most remarkable bridge we ever saw and even modern structures, like the Avon River Bridge, at Windsor, and "Mud Bridge," of our own beautiful town, fade into insignificance beside it. Like the first it has a hump in its back, and like the latter it is approached only in the balmy days of July and August if one would get there dry shod. Like these two remnants of a barbaric age, it has its quota of grumblers—men who find fault because it is only 8 or 10 feet above the level of the highway; men who have the audacity to object because it is easier for a camel to pass through the knee of an idol than for two light wagons, much less two loads of hay, to pass on it; men who will predict that, although built of iron, it will last but a few years and then assume the delightfully unsteady movements of its illustrious wooden predecessor; men who will persist in asserting that the man who planned it must have been drunk or crazy; men who cannot imagine why those piers were not built up to the bridge rather than have the top of them five feet below high water mark; men who have the assurance to affirm that the sapling timber put into the abutments, with the bark on them and the spaces between filled with muck will probably rot before the structure is completed. But such men do exist. Such men make such remarks in an audible undertone about the bridge and we cannot help thinking they are more than half right. We have done considerable writing about the dyke approach to that bridge in days gone by and we now again state without fear of contradiction that it is one of the worst pieces of road in the County and probably the most travelled. If the rate-payers of Cornwallis and Horton are satisfied we ought not to say anything, but we don't believe they are, and the quicker they show their dissatisfaction in some tangible form the better for their comfort. Now the whole place is disgraced and we do hope it will be remedied at a very early day.

N. S. FRUIT GROWERS' ASSOCIATION.

The regular April meeting of the N. S. Fruit Growers' Association was held at Kingston commencing on Tuesday afternoon, the 21st, and was a decided success. More than ordinary interest was manifested in discussing the subject of fruit culture, in successfully growing, gathering, and preparing the same for market. In reference to the proposed bill before the Dominion Government regulating the size of Apple Barrels, and to their being manufactured of certain kinds of wood, a resolution was passed approving of the same, but protesting against the exclusion of certain kinds of wood in their manufacture. The first day of May was named as Arbor Day, and all members of the Association were requested to observe it each and every year, by planting ornamental trees about their homes. A committee was appointed to enquire into the present facilities for exportation, with a view of making more satisfactory arrangements for the future.

A lot of interesting matter has been crowded out of this issue.

HIGHWAY LABOR.

The importance of good roads does not admit of a question. They promote comfort and enjoyment and save time and money. Hence the large sums which are spent in their construction and maintenance. In our province all the means that can be spared from other indispensable services are devoted to this object. But the roads are so numerous and other claims are so imperative, that only a small part of what is needed can be drawn from the public treasury. Other provisions have therefore been required, and laws have been enacted, designed to supply the deficiency. The form in which the needed funds are provided is by a direct tax levied on holders of property and some others, which taxes are expended by officers appointed for the purpose, according to statutory regulations.

Throughout the country, parts of the province the public roads are divided into districts of two or more miles in extent, over each of which an officer is placed, called a Surveyor of Highways. His duty it is to call upon each individual in the district, liable to do highway labor, either himself or to pay his certain number of days or to pay his proportion of the money required. But there is a modification of the law in the case of certain villages and of the towns generally. These are considered to be of sufficient importance to require more than one officer to perform the duty; for where the population is great and business extensive, there is the more need of care, as regards the streets and roads. Consequently two or more Commissioners of Streets, as they are called, are appointed to the service. These commissioners constitute a Board having a common fund, made up of the taxes levied on the district. One of the number, as treasurer, disburses the moneys under the direction of the Board. This, at least is the intention of the law, although it is said that in a certain Village, not a hundred miles from Wolfville, it has not always been observed. It will scarcely be believed, though it is declared to be true, that the commissioners have at times resolved that they would not act as a Board but each would act independently; collect and expend such part of the taxes as he pleased, do the work when and as he chose, or not do it at all, and thus entirely defeat the intention and object of the law. It is provided also by the Statutes that an account shall be rendered to the proper authorities of all the moneys levied and disbursed by each Board of street commissioners, in the same manner as by the Surveyors of Highways. But here again, if report speaks truly, the law has been disregarded and deliberately broken, though the commissioners severally have engaged under oath to enforce it in the case of others and to comply with it in their own case.

Another branch of the subject should not be passed over unnoticed. It is well known that the rains and frosts of the autumn or spring are the principal agencies by which roads are injured, and that after the frost comes out of the ground in March or April, the roads are almost always bad and frequently in a dangerous state. This then is the time of all others that they should be attended to and partially, at least, repaired; besides, a dollar then spent will often save twenty or perhaps fifty, as witness the experience of Wolfville last year. But as a rule, nothing is done till the crops are in, and a time of leisure before haying has come. Then the careful, observant guardians of our roads and streets kindly issue forth from their retirement and make a slow of doing something—something which ought to have been done weeks or months before. A few days are spent in the operations, and then all—commissioners, overseers and workmen—go to sleep again, till the moon has twelve times revolved around the earth, and brought a leisure time once more.

Apr. 27, '85. TAX-PAYER.

CORRESPONDENCE.

To the Editor of the Acadian.
MR. EDITOR.—I have observed during the past few days, that it is no uncommon sight to see from one to four bicycles on our sidewalks at one time to the an-

noyance and inconvenience of pedestrians. I have always been led to suppose that the sidewalks were intended for foot persons and that the highway was the proper place on which to drive or propel carriages. I should be obliged if you or some of your readers versed in the law would inform me through your columns if any person who may desire to ride a bicycle has a legal right to use our sidewalks for that purpose. If they have not, would the commissioners of streets kindly give notice that bicyclists must use the road and not the sidewalks when wishing to exhibit themselves in that way, and oblige, yours truly,
PEDESTRIAN.

In answer to the above we quote the following:—"Every person who shall drive any carriage or ride over a side path, or roll or place heavy articles over or on the same to the injury or obstruction of the side path, shall for every offence forfeit not less than one nor more than eight dollars."—Revised Statutes, 4th series, Chap. 49, Sec. 14.

Our North West Rebellion.

WINNIPEG, April 24th.—A dispatch has just been received from the west announcing the opening fight of the campaign.

General Middleton with the advance detachment on the right bank of the Saskatchewan, encountered the rebels 15 miles south of Batoche's Crossing.

Two hundred Indians and French half-breeds lay in ambush in a ravine and opened a heavy fire on our troops.

The casualties upon the side of the volunteers are pretty large on account of the surprise.

Gen. Middleton had a rifle bullet fired through his hat.

The battle began about nine o'clock this morning and was in progress about one o'clock. The rebels set fire to the prairie, but a rainstorm put the fire out. The general at once surrounded the ravine and the hope is expressed that none of the rebels have escaped.

OTTAWA, April 25th.—The following is the official statement of the engagement at Fish Creek of the 24th April:

Fish Creek, 25 miles north of Clark's Crossing, April 24th.—Have had an affair with rebels at this spot, on the east bank of river. My advanced scouts were fired upon from a bluff, but we managed to hold our own till the main body arrived when I took measures to repel the attack, which was over about 2:30 p. m. We have captured several of their ponies and have three or four apparently Indians and half-breeds in the corner of a bluff who have done a great deal of mischief, being evidently their best shots; and as I am unwilling to lose more men in trying to take them, I have surrounded the bluff and shall wait until they expend their ammunition to take them.

CLARK'S CROSSING, Sunday, April 26th.—Sergeant Dalton of Bolton's troops, courier for General Middleton, has just arrived here and brings exciting news. He says Friday's fight was a great deal more disastrous to the rebels than was at first supposed, and that Middleton's forces won a decided victory. It is positively known that twenty-five half-breeds and Indians were killed, as that number was counted dead upon the field. Among the dead was the body of General Dumont, the rebel leader, who was killed by a bullet towards the close of the engagement while urging on his men.

CLARK'S CROSSING, April 27.—Couriers which left Gen. Middleton's camp yesterday afternoon arrived here last night. They report no fighting yesterday. Everything had been made ready for an attack. Guns had been brought to bear on the rebels' stronghold in the ravine, and troops were formed in line of battle. Previous to the attack commencing scouts were sent forward to reconnoitre, when it was found that the rebels had abandoned their position and retreated during the night.

The report, said to have been confirmed, is by many discredited, as they assert that he was seen riding off the field at the close of the engagement. The report that 25 rebels have been found dead is also thought to be exaggeration. So far only 4 or 5 of their dead have been seen. The deaths of our men so far number nine.

WINNIPEG, April 28th.—The total force now in the North-west including mounted police is over five thousand and with those engaged in the transport service would make in round numbers five thousand five hundred men and about two thousand horses.

In answer to numerous inquiries we have to say that Sheridan's Cavalry Condition Powders are a pure article. We know them to be so. They are as much superior to all others as a good thing is superior to a worthless one. Small packs 25c, large cans \$1.00.

ANOTHER LIFE SAVED.—Mr. W. Morrison writes: "I have been suffering from pain in lungs and chest. Unable to do work for three months. Have tried Emulsion and other medicines without benefit, in fact became weaker daily. I was induced to try EAGAR'S PHOSPHORENE, and from first dose I commenced to improve, appetite returned, pain left my lungs and I am now as well as ever."

There is no remedy known to science that will so speedily and so effectually cure or relieve lumbago, chronic or acute rheumatism, swollen or stiff joints as Johnson's Anodyne Liniment, used internally and externally.

THE BOOKSTORE!

Eagles' Building, Wolfville, April 9th, 1885.

Dear Fellow Citizens and Citizenesses:

Ahem! Hear ye while we assert the most astounding truths. We have combed our hair and performed our obligations, and now appear before you clothed and in the last suits we possess. But, in spite of all these great natural advantages, we have determined to be great public benefactors.

Owing to the war in Egypt, the impending war with Russia, and the North-Western Rebellion, and the fact that we may be called out at any minute to defend our beloved Country, and possibly to be numbered with the missing, with the missing mother but never found among the slain, Not for Joe!

We have determined to sacrifice all our Magnificent Stock of Fine English Room Paper at Less than Cost.

Oh ladies of this beautiful County of King's be advised ere it is too late in the season, that we are selling the same paper for 10 cents that is sold elsewhere for 15, and it is full width too. Our other papers are marked down to like proportions. We are selling American Gilt Papers (19 inches wide) at 50 cents and every one else charges 65.

Why? do you ask. Well, we must reduce our stock and are determined to do it at any cost.

Come early and often. The trouble has commenced and people are ready to scold for our papers. Don't bring the children this time for you will need to devote all your attention to the large lot of patterns, numbering over One Hundred in all.

We want you all to have first choice, and if you come at once you will get it. Beware of cheap imitations and have none but the genuine.

We are not remarkable for the good looks of either ourselves or our staff, but we have a good rat-trap and the neatest display of everything in our line to be found in this county. And our Room Paper, Oh my!—But do come and buy it.

Yours till death,

WESTERN BOOK & NEWS CO.,
A. M. HOARE, MANAGER.

P. S.—A nice wife and family, in good repair, will be taken in exchange for Room Paper.

1885-CALDWELL & MURRAY-1885

To our Customers in Wolfville and elsewhere.

We have not had time to paint our Store, whitewash the hitching post, or straighten up our wood pile this spring, but we have cleaned up the old paint, washed the windows, and are selling that unsightly pile of wood as quickly as we possibly can.

What has kept us so busy? Why we have been selecting, receiving and putting in display one of the finest stocks of Dry Goods, Boots & Shoes, and Furniture, etc. that we have ever had the pleasure of showing in this place before.

We are a good deal like the proverbial singed cat, better than we look, and don't try to look better than we are.

We now ask you to come in and see for yourselves that we can back up what we advertise.

Seasonable Dry Goods,

In Dress Goods we have a splendid variety of shades in the following fabrics:—Ottomans, Nun's Cloths (plain and fancy), Serges, Satens (plain and fancy), Galateas, Pequas, etc.

House Furnishings

LACE CURTAINS, LAMBREQUINS, BORDERS, CRETONNES, DAMASES, TABLE LINENS, NAPKINS, TOWELS, &c.

DOMESTICS

GREY and WHITE COTTONS, PRINTS, SHIRTINGS, SHEETINGS, HESSIAN, OSNABURG, &c.

Cents' Furnishings

READY MADE CLOTHING, HATS & CAPS, SHIRTS, COLLARS, TIES, ETC.

BOOTS & SHOES

WE HAVE GIVEN SPECIAL ATTENTION TO THIS DEPARTMENT AND HAVE A FULL ASSORTMENT.

FURNITURE and CARPETS

Just come and see the improvements we have been making in our Furniture Store. Nothing stale or old to be seen, everything fresh and sparkling.

Come and see for yourselves and if you buy

WE CAN SAVE YOU SOMETHING!
CALDWELL & MURRAY.
WOLFVILLE, APRIL 16.

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