Huron Signal.

GODERICH, MARCH 23, 1877.

Goderich Harbor Contract.

Mr. Farrow, having failed to make a case of Government jobbery out of the Goderich harbor contract, and having been promptly furnished with the papers for which he asked in consequence with the letting of the contract, is ingenuous enough to think that certain documents, which would prove some "crooked" work on the part of the Government, have been withheld. These documents, we are given to understand, are all that are necessary to prove the charge of corruption, which would leave us to infer that the returns furnished satisfy them, as far as these are concerned, that the transaction was an honest one. The question therefore is as to Mr. McKenzie's veracity, which the Tories are prepared to blindly impeach at any time. It is not sufficient to them that Mr. McKenzie has made a return of "all correspondence" regarding the matter, as asked, and since this return has failed to confirm their suspicions, they become all the more unreasonably suspicious.

From a letter before us in reply to queries regarding this matter, we have information which sets all doubts in our minds at rest. The first four tenders for the job were as follows:

John S. Tolton, Walkerton, $182,630.
Geo. Nesbion, Belleville, $200,375.
W. H. Ellis, Toronto, $212,156.
Moore, Clendenning & Wilson, Walkerton, $212,546.

Mr. Page, Government Engineer, of course had the awarding of the contract, virtually, and he assumes the responsibility of the affair. His statement, of course simply gives the substance of the correspondence laid before the House, but his readiness to assume any blame which may attach to the case relieves Mr. Mackenzie of the charge of collusion with Wilson & Moore, the recipients of the contract. Mr. Page says as an examination of his records failed to show Tolton as a contractor, and his name did not appear in the mercantile register. One of Tolton's securities was his brother, a farmer, and these facts, together with his (Page's) own knowledge of the probable cost of the work, convinced him that Tolton was not acquainted with harbor works. The contract was then awarded to the next highest, but this party failing to furnish the necessary securities, the next highest bid was accepted. Mr. Ellis, in the meantime, had secured a large contract in Chili and he refused to accept the Government's offer, consequently the contract went to Messrs. Wilson & Moore. Now the evidence is undeniable that contractors No. 2 and 3 were offered the work, consequently the idea of a collusion between the Government and Wilson & Moore is disproved, for if it was desired to give these gentlemen the contract the second and third contractors would not have had the opportunity which was offered them to accept the contract. It is somewhat significant, too, that Mr. Nesbion failed to furnish the securities and accept the contract at his figure, which, if Tolton based his calculations on anything like intelligent estimates, was a paying one. But, it is apparent that Tolton is more pleased than disappointed that he did not receive the contract, and rather counts himself fortunate that these circumstances saved him from possible bankruptcy. This is not sufficient, however, to induce him to interfere with his friends who take advantage of the affair so that they may have a slap at Mackenzie.

Since Mr. Farrow is not satisfied with the information furnished him, lest him continue his researches—it will tend to make him in some degree notorious.

Mr Attrill's Salt Shaft.

Our town cotemporary last week took occasion, in referring to the abandonment by Mr. Attrill of his scheme for salt mining, to accuse the Government of defeating the scheme. The language used was unquestionably premature, and was certainly not calculated to have any good results even as an effort to make political capital. For the reason that so many stories are afloat regarding the matter and that any public discussion of it at this stage would be premature, we refrain from going into the case at length. Suffice it to say that the negotiations for the use of the Shaft west of the harbor, have been conducted between Mr. Attrill and the Government, and in refusing that gentleman's request our chief magistrate were duly recognizing their duty as custodians of the public property.—To give to an individual the exclusive use of any public property is a matter that requires very serious consideration.

Now, however, the proper means are being adopted of negotiating with the Government for the desired concessions. The scheme is of national importance, and some of our leading citizens are preparing to present to the Government the desire of the community that Mr. Attrill's request should be conceded him. The importance of the undertaking will be fully presented in memorials from the Council and an independent one from the citizens, which we doubt not will have the effect of securing all that Mr. Attrill requires.

Mr. Devlin's movement in Parliament with regard to the representation of minorities brings before the public one of those measures which it requires years of discussion and agitation to mature. Its first prominent presentation to the the Canadian public was in the course of Mr. Blake's Aurora speech, but so many bold reforms were presented on that occasion that the matter received but a passing notice. The scheme is now to be investigated by an intelligent parliamentary committee whose opinions and researches will evoke some interesting discussions. It is too late in the session for a bill dealing with the case to be brought to a final vote, consequently no progress will be made beyond the securing of such suggestions and information as will constitute the basis of legislation in a future session. After all that has been said of the injustice of a system which frequently is the occasion of nearly one-half of the residents of a constituency being virtually unrepresented in Parliament, to alter it would be a difficult matter and possibly not be a move for the better. It is impossible to get rid of party contests, and if it were, it is questionable if such a consummation would be beneficial. Each party has its policy, and in defending the same the general weal is consulted. The earnest adherence to such an article of faith does justice to the general community—at least we have no reason to think otherwise, on looking at the history of the past few years. If party adherence to such distinctive policies happens in some individual instances to be bigoted, it is no reason why the present elective system should be objected to, but only points out that more liberal principles would not be inculcated in that individual's mind by a change in that system. The few characters of this kind do not affect materially the general result in political matters, for, except under the most remarkable circumstances, the Government policy represents the feelings of the majority of the people. Where the member is of more intelligent views than his constituents, he may be done to the advantage of all as the majority in such constituencies will be found to be in favor of liberal measures, for the Government policy is carried in the interest of the country and not with the view to place the Ministers or rights of an inferior minority. Besides these minorities have their representatives, indirectly, in Parliament, in the persons of the representatives in the House who are politically in accord with them. Any cases of local grievance would receive as warm an exposal from these as if the members were linked to the direct representatives in the House. It must also be considered that in the highest contests, the minority, if in accord with the Government than existing, has little to complain of, as of the opposite, there will be many of its members who voted against the victorious candidate simply for the sake of party who are quite contented with the rule of the majority. What scheme will be proposed for correcting the anomaly of representation, we are not prepared to say, but we believe that the idea is to permit the two candidates in the contest to divide the minority of votes to take their seats in Parliament, thus both political parties would have a chance of being represented. Such a scheme would work very poorly. A general contest would probably likely would take place. Then suppose each party would put forward two candidates and vote solidly for them, the result would be that the weaker political party would go unrepresented as before; or if, in selecting from the candidates put forward, the voters should vote straight for one party once and then plump their second votes for the other party, it would likely divide their support between the parties so that would be our result in the House! A new Government would have to be formed at every session, in all probability, for the majority would prevail, for party feeling being the chief motive of our electoral contests each voter would vote for one representative of his party and then, in close municipalities, his selection of the second man would mean the election of the minor party representative or a second one for the strongest party, a matter of the merest chance. But the matter has yet to be developed.

Mayor Walsh, of Ottawa, an Irish Roman Catholic, on St. Patrick's Day delivered an excellent speech in which he referred to the recent wailings about Scotch ascendancy and Tory intolerance. He took a sensible view of the matter, and while regretting that Irishmen were not so well represented in the legislative halls of the country as their numbers entitled them to be, they had reason to rejoice that they were not so poorly represented as their countrymen in the United States. As an example of the fallacy of the, by some attention to the nationality of the representatives of the different professions in the city. It was not Scotch ascendancy or Tory intolerance which was the cause of the small number of Catholics in the ranks. He admired, with Archbishop Lynch, the industry and perseverance of the Scotch, and reminded of the charge that they would do themselves credit by emulating the examples before them and coming to show Scotchmen for their success. A want of unity existed, and this was one of the principal causes of the fact of which Irishmen complained. That unity born of a desire to see Canada prosper should prevail among any nationalities such as those referred to.

Sir John's situation in connection with the Secret Service Fund matter is certainly humiliating. When, in the course of his examination before the investigating committee last week, he manifested such a remarkable degree of forgetfulness regarding certain of his transactions with that fund, his conduct was open to grave suspicions. The vague and somewhat prevaricating character of his testimony was such as to make the case appear more serious than at first supposed, and Mr. Mackenzie's plain duty is to see that the case is probed to the bottom. Sir John's offence as already proved is sufficiently worthy of condemnation, but the disclosure which have been hinted at as yet to be made may cause even those journals, which look upon Sir John as the embodiment of that spirit "unto whom all things are good," to have their unreasoning faith in him readily shaken.

Mr. Blake's new bill respecting the carrying of fire arms will be an effective measure and abolish a dangerous custom. It provides that any person carrying a pistol may be summoned to show cause for so doing, and if unable to give satisfactory reasons he is to be bound over to keep the peace; a person arrested while committing a burglary, theft or robbery with a pistol in his possession will be liable to a fine of $20 to $50 or three months' imprisonment; and any one pointing a loaded pistol at another person will incur the penalty of a fine of not less than $20 or thirty days' imprisonment. The last clause will have the effect of causing fewer of those unfortunate cases of accidental shooting by persons who "didn't know it was loaded."

Lee, the man known as the leader of the Mountain Meadow massacre in Utah many years ago, expiated his offence on Friday by being shot. He made a confession which implicates some fifty leading Mormons in the bloody deed, and says that the deed was done at the instance of the church. Brigham Young, he further said, told his accomplices after the deed that it was a righteous act, but he counselled the participants to secrecy and prepared a report to the Government placing the blame of the massacre upon the Indians. Action will be brought against the implicated parties, and consternation will be brought to the Mormon camp.

The efforts of the "old country" butchers to injure the business of importing American beef are being steadily defeated. Their impositions on cattlemen have been exposed, the trick of marking the worst English beef that could be found as American beef and vice versa being fully explained to the public. It is announced that companies are being established exclusively for the purpose of importing and slaughtering Canadian and United States beef. Prices have fallen considerably since the importation of this beef began.

Last week an election, to fill the vacancy in the Quebec Legislature, took place in Kamouraska, when M. Dumais (Reformer) was elected by a majority of fourteen. This same constituency, a short time ago rejected the Reform candidate for the Dominion House by a majority of 43. Such fickleness indicates that personalas well as political influences pervade there.

Under the new bill to extend the franchise to farmers' sons, those wishing to avail themselves of its privileges should at once see that their names appear on the assessment roll. If the roll is already completed, they can appeal to the Court of Revision and secure the appearance of their names on the voters' list. See to this!

In The Charlevoix election on Friday, the recently unseated member Mr. Langevin was re-elected by a greatly reduced majority. Mr. Tremblay, the Liberal candidate, has reason to congratulate himself on the signs of re-action in that constituency.

The Secret Service Fund.

THE REVELATIONS SO FAR.

SOMETHING MORE WANTED.

Ottawa, March 24.

Much as people decried the reference of the Secret Service moneys to the Public Accounts Committee, they could see from recent developments, that the time had arrived for some steps to be taken for investigating the expenditure of these large amounts voted year after year for several years previous to the resignation of the late Government. The Public Accounts Committee have had the matter under their consideration and revelations have been made which if not startling, should certainly claim the serious consideration of all true friends of honest government.

The discoveries made may be classed as follows:

1. That the total amounts of the sums deposited to special account for secret service from Secret Service votes since Confederation was $125,000. The several years which aggregate this amount were deposited with the Bank of Montreal at Ottawa at the following dates: June 5, 1868, $26,000; July 1, 1870, $10,000; Dec. 6, 1872, $10,000; June 27, 1871, $35,000.

2. That the total amount of the sums expended on Secret Service amount, including the refund of $25,879.01 made in April, 1875, was $133,398 83 from the date of Confederation, or $8,398.83 in excess of the amount chronicled from the Secret Service votes, and that this sum of $8,398.83 was a portion of the Secret Service vote of 1866, and belonged to the Province of Canada, but was added without the authority of Parliament to the Secret Service fund of the Dominion.

3. That unexpended balances were not surrendered at the end of the fiscal year in accordance with English usage, but were kept continuously in the possession of the Government and allowed to accumulate.

4. Then the Secret Service Accounts were not charged nor the unexpended balance paid over to their successors in office by the outgoing Administration in 1873, in accordance with the English precedent, but that at the time the late Government resigned Sir John A. Macdonald retained in his possession until December 19th, 1875, an unexpended balance of Secret Service funds amounting to $22,179.0c.

But aside from all this other matters have come to light which deserves public attention. Just before the Assembling of Parliament in the session of 1873, in August, 1873, it appears that Sir John Macdonald went to the Bank of Montreal and obtained every retired cheque and all existing vouchers for the expenditure of the Secret Service moneys and destroyed them. What was his object is a legitimate object of speculation, but until Sir John tells himself no one will ever know. Another very serious matter is that contrary to the order of Parliament no accounts for these moneys were kept. The House passed a resolution compelling the Ministry to keep an account of these moneys, which account was to be nominally audited by two members sworn to secrecy, but this order was disregarded and no account whatever was kept of these very large amounts, so that to account for $36,83 of the people's money have been spent and no one knows how. In this matter Mr. Langevin is somewhat the only mixed up. Sir John informed him at the time of his resignation that there was a balance at the bank to the credit of the Secret Service Committee, but he did not inform the new Government of this fact upon their taking office. More than this, he allowed Sir John to expend the $8,000 without the Finance Minister's knowledge. The whole transaction appears to have been done between Sir John A. Macdonald and an under officer of the Government, and it certainly seems from this that either Sir John was the most presumptuous of the Ministers or that he found it more to his own interests to transact business with a subordinate.

DOMINION PARLIAMENT.

Ottawa, March 19.

Mr. Devlin moved for a Select Committee to inquire into the minority representation system. He quoted from Hon. E. Blake's Aurora speech, in favor of the scheme. In the discussion Mr. Blake, while still holding to his former views, felt that neither the House nor the country was prepared for such a measure. He suggested some alterations to the motion, which being done it was adopted.

A discussion arose upon the superannuation of the collector of customs at Whitby, in 1875, at the age of 75, the Opposition contending that the pension was quite active and that it was needless to have superannuated him.

In the Senate Senator Campbell's resolution censuring the Government for their application on the 24th December, 1873, to the Imperial Government authorities for an addition of six members to their present number, under the provisions of the 26th clause of the Confederation Act, was brought up. It was contended that the power thus permitted was only to be invoked in case of a serious political emergency—a dead lock between two branches of the Legislature. As was to have been expected from a body composed for the most part of appointees of the late Government, the division would be a party one, and was as follows:—contents, 38; non-contents, 23. This is an exact showing of the political parties in the Senate.

Ottawa, March 20.

Hon. Mr. Laflamme's amendments to the Inland Revenue Act were read. They provided for the imposition of a license duty of $30 on each importer or manufacturer—not a manufacturer of beer, wash or spirits, or a rectifier of spirits—of stills, worms or other apparatus suitable for the manufacture of beer, wash or spirits. It was also proposed to divide brewers into four classes, according to the capacity of their manufactures, and to license accordingly. The lowest class was to be divided into two classes and the smallest one would only be required to pay $50 instead of $100. The resolutions were reported and ordered to be read a first time.

The House went into committee to consider the following resolution: That it was expedient to amend the Act to impose License Dues on Compounders of Spirits; to amend the Act Respecting the Inland Revenue, and to prevent the Adulteration of Food, Drink and Drugs. The resolution was reported, read a second time, and a bill based thereon was introduced and read a first time.

Mr. Blake moved the second reading of a Bill to amend and repeal certain laws making breach of contract or service criminal, and to provide for the punishment of certain breaches of contract. The Bill was similar to the bill lately passed in England. Certain breaches of contract would be still declared criminal, such as those affecting life or liberty, the stoppage of gas or water and the detention of trains on railways.

A lengthy discussion ensued, and a motion was made to give the bill a three months hoist, which was lost on a division of 123 to 46.

Ottawa, March 21.

A petition was presented by Mr. Schultz praying for the extension of the Dunkin Act to Manitoba.

A motion was made for certain returns regarding the sale of postage stamps. Mr. Hutington stated that the regulation debarring city postmasters from selling stamps was adopted on account of defalcations by clerks entrusted with sales.

A large number of private and other bills were introduced, among them one authorizing the collection of harbor dues at the port of Kincardine was read a third time and passed.

Ottawa, March 22.

The House went into committee on an Act to Amend the Act for Suppressing Gambling Houses. Mr. Blake proposed to amend the Bill so as to make the penalty for being found in the house $20 instead of $200, and not more than $100, and, in default of payment, imprisonment for a period not exceeding four months. The amendment was adopted, and the Bill passed.

The bill to amend the act respecting steamboat inspection was read a second time. The amendments proposed require at least two boilers on steamers to permit second-class engineers to manage boats on any of the lakes, and fix the inspector's fee at $8.

The tariff debate was resumed for a time.

It was announced that the Senate had amended the Bill respecting Offences against the Person by making the minimum term of imprisonment for criminal assaults upon young girls, five instead of two years.

Ottawa, March 23.

After the transaction of some general business, the tariff debate was resumed. Dr. Orton's amendment making protection for farmer's sons lost on a division of 74 to 113. Sir John's adjournment motion was also lost by a vote of yeas 70, nays 119, and the original motion was carried on a division of 120 to 69.

The Dunkin Act.

On the evening of the 20th inst., Mr. W. J. Boscor delivered a lecture to a large audience in the temperance hall taking as his subject the Dunkin Act. Mr. James Thomson occupied the chair and Mr. Young, assisted by Miss Barnes, supplied music. After the meeting had been opened by prayer and singing, the chairman introduced the speaker who asked all present to lay aside selfishness and partyism and combine in elevating our fellow beings to a higher and nobler position by pointing out the great evils of the liquor traffic. We see the effects of liquor on the body and surely the mind is affected likewise; instead of elevating the mind and morals it act to degrade and destroy both body and soul and hurry its victims into an untimely grave. Moderate drinkers claim to live as long and in some instances longer than those who do not indulge in liquor, but these are exceptions which only go to prove the rule; the man who lives a moderate drinker for many years does so contrary to the laws of his being. If the father lived and died a moderate drinker the son has no warrant that he could follow in exactly the same course, the tendency is always to run to greater excess. The influence of the liquor traffic is in direct opposition to that of the church; the latter teaches uprightness, love and holiness but the former drags down its victims to death and hell through a fearful life of unhappiness, degradation and crime; it does more injury to the church of Christ than all the other evils combined. He read from official reports the returns showing the astonishing fact that, of the occupants of our asylums, penitentiaries and gaols about seven-eighths are the victims of intemperance, and that the liquor traffic is responsible for three quarters of the paupers. Let those who claim that the liquor traffic income in taxation cannot be dispensed with consider these matters and they will see on the contrary that our taxes would be lighter than they now are if we abolished the traffic. Crime and pauperism. If men would look at the liquor traffic in the same light as they consider other business they would not uphold it for a moment. Take away the revenue derived from liquor traffic, where labor and capital come in contact with the raw material there is no income tax. The revenue from the value of grain used for the manufacture of liquor was $1,444,825.56; for the purchase of foreign liquor for the same purpose we expended $8,425,880. We paid $3,968,417.78 for liquor made out of material given in foreign countries, and more than two and a half times what we paid for home grown barley manufactured into liquor. We do not find men stand up and argue that the liquor traffic is good, but they do argue that it is so to what is the proper mode of carrying out temperance principles.

He contended that license laws were not the best, and in support of this quoted instances from various sections of the States where both license and prohibition laws had been tried and the former proved useless or nearly so, when compared to the latter; where a prohibitory law had been repealed and a license law substituted the returns for Connecticut and other States show an increase in crime and pauperism of from 30 to 60 per cent. We have had license laws for a great many years and there is no perceptible check on crime notwithstanding the stringency of these laws, therefore we should have recourse to some other law. It is argued that we have no right to enforce a prohibitory law as it would be curbing the rights of the subject, but he would ask if the anti slavery act was not prohibitory? The anti-slave prohibitory law on record was that which says "Of the tree of good and evil thou shalt not eat." We have a prohibitory law by which liquor and other things may be closed on Sunday, and will any one say that this law is not good? A prohibitory liquor law would be a great extent put a stop to drinking, and license to the many dens of iniquity from the traffic. He read an extract from the report of the Brewers' Association in the States in which they lament the great injury done by various States that have been the cause of stopping a large number of breweries and distilleries. He also read from statistics showing that under a prohibitory law industry and pauperism were greatly lessened and taxation reduced. The Dunkin Act is prohibitory and it is in force. It is an act on the Statute book. Many objections are taken to this act, some say that by it we are violating our civil rights. But this is nonsense for the party who obtains a license only gets it for one year at a time, and even then it is subject to many conditions, and beyond that he has no more right to that a further contract with the country.

The pamphlet issued by the Licensed Victuallers contain several objections to the Dunkin Act, and several threats, all of which any reasonable man can see are groundless, based on false conclusions. They threaten that in case the act is adopted hotel keepers will charge 25 cents for a glass of recommendation, and in the meantime farmers are told that their produce will not fetch half the price it would if the Victuallers Association were in power and that taxation is consequently that instead of an increase there would be a reduction under a prohibitory law, the item for administration expenses which is another by the licensed victuallers resulting from the liquor traffic, under a prohibitory law by reducing three-quarters and many other expenses either only. Taxation according to returns for relief purposes in Toronto, $4,000 decline in assessment, chargeable to liquor and they propose to increase according to religious statistics, men as more worth to society than others. The Dominion revenue from liquor, according to the claim of the licensed victuallers, derived from a population of 3,800,000, and in the year 1875 amounted to $6,500,000, and in the year 1876 to $6,000,000. The revenue at a municipal point of view, the amount paid by the licensed victuallers for licenses, and all moneys collected