

VOL. 1. NO. 268.

Savings Bank.

THE CANADIAN BANK OF COMMERCE... OPEN a Savings Bank Department at their Branch in Guelph this day.

FUNERALS.

WILLIAM BROWNLOW, UNDERTAKER... SHOP, in rear of the WELLINGTON HOTEL.

FUNERALS.

As usual in Town and Country. Coffins always on hand and made to order on the shortest notice.

MONTREAL OCEAN STEAMSHIP COY.

GUELPH AGENCY.

CANADIAN LINE—Quebec to Liverpool every Saturday.

CABIN—Guelph to Liverpool, \$75.00 and \$80.50.

Funerals, Funerals!

NATHAN TOVELL has to intimate that he is prepared to attend funerals as usual.

PAINTING, CLAZING, &C.

THOMAS BREADON DOUGLAS-ST., GUELPH, Painter, Glazier, Paper Hanger, &c.

GOOD WORKMANSHIP

Shop, - - Douglas Street, Next door north of Wm. Howard's Livery Stable.

THE BARCLAY SEWING MACHINE.

WITHOUT any exception, the Barclay Sewing Machine is the best in the world.

AT PARIS, ONTARIO.

is the best in the Dominion of Canada for general purposes.

1868.

Liverpool & London & Globe INSURANCE COMPANY.

This Company has been in existence thirty-two years, and during that period has met with success.

Wool, Hide and Leather DEPOT.

No. 4, Day Old Block, Gordon Street, Guelph, July 31, 1868.

Fire Crackers.

The best Fire Crackers that can be got for sale wholesale and retail at the

Dominion Store!

Upper Wyndham Street, next to the Wellington Hotel, Guelph.

FISHING GEAR

of all kinds for sale. MRS. ROBINSON Upper Wyndham Street, Guelph.

R. J. JEANNERET.

From England, (Established in London, Ont., 1842, and in Guelph 1865.)

WORKING WATCHMAKER AND JEWELER

Opposite the Market, Guelph. EVERY description of Watches, Clocks and Jewellery repaired in a superior manner.

SUMMER DRINKS.

JAMES McCULLOCH, I thank his customers and the public for the liberal patronage bestowed on him in past years.

Spring Brewery Depot

GORDON STREET, GUELPH. All kinds of Summer Drinks, such as Soda Water, Lemonade, Sarsaparilla, Ginger Ale and Ginger Beer.

STANDARD Life Assurance Company

(Established 1825.) Accumulated Fund £3,700,005 1s. 4d. Stg

DAVIDSON & CHADWICK,

Agents at Guelph. THE STANDARD strongly advocates the Bill now before the House under which Insurance Companies are required to make certain deposits with the Government.

NOTICE TO ADVERTISERS.

Advertisers having contracts with this office are notified that unless their contracts are in force by 12 o'clock, their advertisements cannot be altered until the following day.

Evening Mercury.

OFFICE.....MACDONNELL STREET. WEDNESDAY EVENG. MAY 27, 1868

A NEW PAPER.

We learn from the Flora Observer that Dr. Tuck of Drayton has gone for a visit to England and that on his return he will resume the practice of his profession in Guelph.

PROGRESS IN THE TOWN.

Hesperia is showing its enterprise the present season, several new dwellings and other buildings being in course of erection.

WESLEYAN METHODIST MEETING.

The annual meeting of the Guelph District was held in Flora on the 26th and 27th inst. Rev. C. Lavelle, Chairman of the District, presiding.

GRANT'S FIRST SPEECH.

A number of Republicans waited on Gen. Grant on Friday night last, and complimented him on his nomination for President.

THE GUELPH POLICE COURT.

Before T. W. Saunders, Esq., Police Magistrate. WEDNESDAY, 27th.—William Hoover was brought before the Magistrate this morning.

Crop Prospects.

It is many years since the crops in this Province gave such early promise of an abundant harvest as they do at present.

We will not quote the opinion of the "oldest inhabitant," for we have not come within hailing distance of the venerable individual, but so far back as our own recollection extends [and that is enough for purposes of comparison]

we do not remember to have seen the crops so far advanced, and looking so fresh and vigorous, or to have heard so many expressions of gratification, unmingled with a single word of complaint, at the harvest prospects.

The fall wheat, which covers a vast breadth of land throughout the country, has passed most successfully through a very trying stage, and it has stood the winter frosts and the keen cutting winds of early spring, come out unharmed, and shot into strong and even rank vegetation.

People generally reckon on more or less of the fall wheat being "winter-killed," and it is very seldom except in fields lying in low-lying situations that brown spots of greater or smaller area are not discernible when the vegetating influence of spring has set life into the plants that were torpid, but not dead.

This year so far as we have seen and heard the effects of winter are not visible, and the fall wheat renews its course towards maturity with a feebler start than it has had for a number of years.

We may add that its present favorable condition is by some attributed in no small degree to the excellent state of the ground when it was sown—the result of the beautiful weather which lingered so long with us last fall.

It is usual with such prospects to indulge in glorious anticipations of the future, but we do not remember to have met with any convincing proof of the wisdom of forgetting the proverb, "There's more in a slip between cup and lip."

The more people moderate their expectations the less frequently and severely are they disappointed. There are the prospects of a well-kept, un-favorable harvest weather, and a decline of prices; any or all of which might arise to crush the hopes that run so high.

All the reports which have reached us orally of the state of the crops in this vicinity are of the most cheering character, and we are assured on personal observation that the crops, fall wheat, as well as the grain sown in spring, in the townships of Guelph, Waterloo, Woolwich and Wellesley look splendid, and give most flattering promises.

All our exchanges that have yet noticed the crops bear similar testimony to the prospects in their several localities. We make extracts from a few of them:—

A farmer of great experience told us that he never knew a season which promised such a bountiful harvest, and unless something untoward occurred, the harvest would be an abundant one.

The farmers in this neighborhood are well satisfied with the results of the season so far. The backward season has given them ample time to get the spring crop in the best condition.

Reports from all parts of the county speak favorably of the prospect.—Milton Steam Press.

The rain which has fallen during the past two weeks has greatly brightened up the crops in this neighborhood, and wheat especially looking well.—Wind River.

We are happy to announce that all kinds of crops never presented a more promising appearance than they do at present, in this neighborhood. Fall and spring crops are growing luxuriantly under the influence of the very favorable weather we have enjoyed for several weeks past.—Caledonia Post.

The husbandmen, as well as the public generally, have every reason to be thankful for the encouraging appearance of the crops throughout this section of the Province. The winter and spring wheat, oats, &c., promise to mature then an average crop, while the lay crop will be the largest known in this county—at least present appearances indicate that.—Ingersoll Chronicle.

The amount of grain sown this year is larger we believe than ever before, and the prospect of a splendid crop is most encouraging. The fall wheat, in particular, looks remarkably well.—Huron Signal.

All wheat never looked better, and is growing beautifully; while the spring crops are also making a very good appearance.—Galt Reporter.

In this county, so far as our observation extends, the fall wheat looks most promising. Very little if any of it has been winter-killed, and the rains and genial sunshine of the past few weeks has done much to make it sprout out.—Litchfield Banner.

Both spring and fall wheat look remarkably well, indeed could scarcely look better, and this we are informed by their general appearance all over the county.—Bruce Herald.

GUELPH RIFLE ASSOCIATION.

The annual meeting of this Association took place last night in the Town Hall. There was but a small attendance; Geo. Elliott, Esq., was called to the chair.

After a few introductory remarks respecting the prosperous state of the Association, Mr. Newton, Secretary, read the financial statement for the year. The amount received for members' subscriptions, sale of ammunition, amounts received from different individuals for purses, &c., is \$199.20c.

The amounts received for entries at various times at \$139.00—making the total receipts \$338.20. The amount expended in rent of range, fixing ground, putting up targets, &c., printing, ammunition, amounts paid in purses, and other expenses, foot up to \$273.08, leaving a balance on hand of \$60.12.

The following officers were then elected: President, Judge Macdonald; Vice President, Geo. Elliott; Secretary, J. Treasurer, E. Newton; Managing Committee, Dr. Howitt, Peter Gow, Col. Higginbotham, James Hamilton, D. McCrae, Alex. McKenzie.

Mr. Outhbert gave notice of a motion to amend the By-laws so that all retiring Presidents be ex officio members of the Managing Committee.

Mr. George Hoagh gave notice of a motion to change rules 11 and 12 to the regulations of the Rifle Association, that the rules of the Association as Secretary.

Mr. D. McCrae also gave notice of a motion to amend the rules by striking out the part relating to the practice at 100 yds.

Mr. McKenzie moved, seconded by Mr. Baker, that Mr. Newton be allowed \$10 for his services as Secretary.

Mr. Newton said he was obliged to the mover and second, but he hoped they would withdraw the motion.

Whatever services he had rendered had been freely and willingly given, and it would be sufficient compensation to him to know that he had in any way helped to further the interests of the society.

The motion was accordingly withdrawn, and it was then moved by Dr. Howitt, seconded by Colonel Higginbotham, that the thanks of the Association be tendered to Mr. Newton for his valuable services.

Carried unanimously. A similar resolution on motion of Dr. Howitt, seconded by Mr. Lane, was also carried, conveying the thanks of the Association to Dr. Howitt, the retiring President, for his efforts in connection with the Rifle Association, and in endeavoring to get Rifle Associations organized throughout the County.

This closed the business, and after a vote of thanks to the chairman, the meeting dispersed.

The New Series of School Books.

I observe by a late edition of the Evening Mercury that one of my brethren of the press has written up some of the views held forth in my previous letter on the new series of school books.

The point at issue seems to be those nursery rhymes and tales contained in the primary books of the series. Now instead of meeting my objections, the "Ignoramus" goes on to give his experience with regard to the matter.

Those rhymes are impressed upon the young mind, and they exactly bear me out in my previously expressed opinion, that they impress (young) "superstitious" and "superstitious" themselves upon the mind in such a way as to exclude and render "useful" what might be infinitely more useful.

A certain learned philosopher once said that "children should be taught what would come useful to them in mature age."

Now brother Ignoramus (you see we both belong to the same great family of Loel) surely, would not wish to infer that nothing would be found to occupy the minds of the rising generation, more useful than such rhymes as "Mother Hubbard and her dog," and others of a similar nature, which although useful in teaching a child how to read, might be replaced by some more useful moral principle.

This, Mr. Editor, is what I consider the only serious defect in the new matter comprised in the series, and as all the other points of your correspondent's communication are merely extensions of the hints previously thrown out, we cannot disagree upon them.

Yours, &c., HILLSBURG, May 22nd, 1868.

Pasture Agri-culture Ground

To the Editor of the Mercury. Sir.—While on a visit to the village of Aberfoyle on Saturday last, we could not help admiring the beautiful fence erected round the Pasture Agri-culture Ground.

The fence was inspected that day by a Committee appointed for the purpose. The inspection being over, and every part of the fence proving highly satisfactory to them, great credit was attributed to the contractor, Mr. McFarlane, for the manner in which he completed the contract, for which was the lowest tender.

After this the Committee adjourned to Mr. B. Johnson's Hotel, and the Directors being present Mr. McFarlane was paid for his contract, and in return he handed over the handsome sum of \$500 towards the coming show.

Yours, GLOBE OBSERVER. PASTURE, May 27th, 1868.

ANOTHER NEW FEAT.—Another deriding performance is promised at Niagara Falls this season, which will rival the most thrilling accomplishments of the rope-walkers, or—nothing less than a tight-rope over the Horseshoe Falls.

The foolhardy individual who has contracted to perform this feat is one Charles Ockford, who has heretofore figured as a skating champion at Detroit, and who last winter accomplished the task of skating sixty hours continuously.

A party of noble-minded Americans, ready to contribute to the cause of science, have engaged to raise a purse of \$300,000 as a reward to the adventurer. The contract for building the boat in which he is to imitate the conduct of the "noble red men," who used to present an occasional sacrifice of some one among them, has been let to the Good-year Rubber Company for \$1000.

LATEST FROM OTTAWA.

The rumor is again current that there is to be a settlement of the Intercolonial Railway route shortly. The Hon. Wm. Cayley, it is reported, is to be appointed Collector of the Port of Toronto.

Considerable activity has prevailed in the Inland Revenue Department, in consequence of the recent descent by Messrs. Roman and Davis upon the western breweries, distilleries and tobacco manufactories.

It is reported that Buckley is to be admitted to bail by direction of Sir John A. Macdonald. The Orange party in Ottawa are a loud in their denunciations of him, and accuse him of cowardice.

The "artful dodger" is evidently in a fix trying to preserve harmony between the Orange and Green. A private of the Rifle Brigade on guard at the gaol on Tuesday, was observed making signals to Whelan, and in consequence put under arrest.

The turkey of the gaol has been dismissed by the Sheriff, although an Orangeman, in consequence of his not exhibiting proper vigilance. Lacroix, the witness for the Crown against Whelan, was taken ill on Tuesday at the gaol, where he is detained for safety. He is not dangerously ill.

On Monday night, at a dance in a hotel in the lower town, Turner, who gave evidence against Whelan, was present. A party asked him to come outside. Turner hesitated, when a person said he wished to warn him against certain persons in the room. Turner then went out. When the door was shut, the man said: "You are the d—d witness who informed against Whelan," and aimed a blow at Turner, which he parried, and was about to draw a pistol, when two confederates rushed from behind the fence, and caught Turner's arm, throwing him on the ground, and commenced kicking him about the head and face.

Patrick Looney and Robert Hilliard were arrested as two of the party; they were brought before the Police Magistrate next morning, released and gave bail.

Magdala before the Battle.

The Abyssinian correspondent of the New York Herald, writing on the 4th of April, from the banks of the river Bashila, ten miles from Magdala, says:—

On the top of the plain directly at the mouth of the pass leading into the Jeddah his camp had been situated. The wicker tent, made just as the Pawnee Indians make theirs, still stood as when their owners occupied them, the remnants of the straw bundles, on which the Abyssinian army fed their animals, were scattered near each rough wigwam, the ashes of their fires still remained to show us where the African soldier cooked his humble meal, and a large circular space, cleared of rock and rubbish, marked the site of the Imperial tent.

From the appearance and size of the camping place, which stretched over an area of twenty square miles, we judged that the royal army must have numbered over 10,000 men. It was quite an interesting sight, and imagination was busy conjuring up hosts of scenes and incidents in connection with the Abyssinian camp.

We might have been able to point out the place where deserters were executed by crucifixion, or where the thief was pegged to the ground, or where the murderer suffered the extreme penalty of decapitation. Frequent mounds of stones testified that death had taken place in the camp, and the oblong slabs of stone with the Amharic hieroglyphics recorded the manner of death.

Truth compels your correspondent to state that he is truly sorry for Theodoros. What I have heard of him from a captain or commander of his army stamps him as a genius. Two solid walls of rock, ranging from one to seventy-five feet in height, flank a precipitous road thirty feet wide, the commencement of the long descent down to the bed of the Jeddah. This road had been blessed by the engineers of Theodoros' army, through solid shell rock, which formed the summit of the Wadda plateau.

The road, still of the same width, continued to wind along in a zigzag manner for the distance of three miles, until we arrived at the dry bed of the Jeddah, which was 400 yards in width; it then wound up along the spine of a sloping hill, whose summit formed a kind of terrace half way to the summit of the plain of Talata.

From the terrace, which was about half a mile wide, the road, bordering on each side by the rocks scraped from it, ascended very abruptly nearly at an incline of one or two feet, forming sharp angles, until it reached the top of the plain.

On the southern side of the Jeddah, from its bed to the very summit of Talata, was five miles. Had not Theodoros prepared the way for the English army by this magnificent piece of engineering it must have been delayed here for three or four weeks until a path could have been made.

As it was, fourteen hours were occupied in crossing from side to side by one brigade numbering 3,000 men.

Even Theodoros did not cross the Jeddah ravine without some loss for the skeletons of 125 donkeys were found on this remarkable road, and our Abyssinian guides, some of whom were present, say that the Negro used to ride a swift white mule backward and forward, some times lending a hand to haul up his cannon, and then labouring with might and main laggards who shirked duty.

Here is a subject on which artists may expand their genius, painting Theodoros on his mule, surrounded by thousands of his soldiers, constructing the road across the Jeddah ravine. Napoleon crossing the Alps has been a favorable subject for an ambitious painter, but we think this work of Theodoros would be a more striking one, after having witnessed the difficulties by which he was surrounded.

An English army in his rear, Menekel, King of Shoa in his front, Wuyshun Gobayze hovering on his left flank, with Wodo Gallas and Auzbo Gallas on his right.

THE RIFLE MATCH.—In speaking of the match for the Ladies' Cup on Monday, we should have mentioned that last year it was shot for at three rounds, while this year competitors fired five rounds.

QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY COMMITTEE.—The Queen's Birthday Committee will meet in the Town Hall this evening at 7:30 to settle up the business.

Mr. Buchanan, late President of the United States, continues to remain in a very precarious state, and it is feared

BY TELEGRAPH

Despatches to the Evening Mercury

BY ATLANTIC CABLE.

London, May 26.—Michael Barrett, the Fenian, who was convicted of causing the Clerkenwell explosion, was executed this morning.

Vienna, May 26.—Telegrams have been received here giving the particulars of a formidable revolt which has just broken out in the Province of Bosnia in Turkey.

London, May 26.—The Commission appointed by resolution of Parliament to investigate and report on the condition of the laws of England bearing on the subject of naturalization, and the rights of expatriated subjects, has been formed and is composed of the following members:—Lord Clarendon, President; Chas. Abbott, Secretary, and Messrs. Karshak Philmore, Forster, and Harcourt.

Paris, May 26.—Marshal Niel in an official report declares the Chassepot Rifle to be the best firearm known. He alludes to these guns as now being manufactured in the Government arsenal at the rate of 1,600 a day, and that all the infantry of the French army are now supplied with this rifle.

Berlin, May 26.—Prussia has taken the initiative in the proposed general disarmament. By command of King William a reduction is to be forthwith made in the Landwehr of the kingdom.

London, May 26.—The Epsom summer Race Meeting commenced to-day with numerous attendance and excellent running. The first race was the Woodcock stakes of 10 sovereigns each, with 2 sovereigns added for two-year olds; won by Mr. Morris' "Belladrum."

American Despatches

Cincinnati, May 26.—First race of three years old was won by Richelle two mile heats time 3:38.

Cincinnati, May 26th.—The excitement over the McCool and Coburn fight increases. Bets were offered for 1 on McCool. Abe Hieken, champion of light weights of England and Jim Donovan of Chicago, will fight on the same line. The battle commences to-day near Cold Spring Station, Indiana, on the line of the O. and N. Railway, about 45 miles from Cincinnati.

Washington, May 26th.—A great many members of Congress called on Mr. Stanton and urged him to hold to the War Office. He said he could not do so. He will not go to the War Office again except as a private citizen.

New York, May 27th.—The Herald special in reference to the siege of Tientsin by Chinese rebels, says that Tientsin threatened to assault the town and attempt to carry it by storm. This places the Imperial capital, Peking, from which Tientsin is 70 miles distant, at the mercy of his followers by giving them the control of the point of confluence of the Zou and Peiho or Peiho Rivers. The rebel force move from their position to the agricultural districts, and had threatened the villages lying around Tientsin. The city is defended by a garrison of 20,000 men. Three steamboats were laid in the river, and Tientsin, charged with the duty of protecting foreigners and foreign interests, is in duty will be performed in a vigorous manner, as in Tientsin besieged the famous treaty with the Confucius government, which accorded to the foreign ministers a right of residence in Peking, besides many commercial advantages, none of which the governments of Europe and the U. S. permit to be impaired by rebellion or native dissension. The insurgents for the most part carry their wives and children with them, and reported as numbering 120,000 souls.

SHEEP SHEARS.

A large variety of SHEEP SHEARS of various qualities, and approved patterns now selling at

JOHN HORSMAN'S

FERGUSON FIRE BRIGADE.—We learn that this Fire Company, which is now in excellent condition, is expecting that for all the members will arrive in a few days from Scotland, and that they soon be in possession of a Bell crane West Troy, U. S. These are all equipments that are wanting at present.

READERS AND MOWERS.—Fair visiting town next Fair day will do well to look in at Sharpe's Seedstore and their assortment of agricultural implements; they keep nothing but what stood the test of practical experience.

The Wool Machine, manufactured by Massey of Newcastle, David Striton, M.P., writes as follows:—Guelph, April 11th, 1868.—H. A. Massey, Esq.: I am glad to inform you that the Mower Reaper which I purchased from you last summer has given entire satisfaction and after a lengthened experience in use of such machines, I have no hesitation in giving it a decided preference.—D. STRITON, M.P.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.—J. I., the members you sent us last time as answers to the military problem you proposed, are correct, but they were received in our hours too late for publication in our week's issue. Correct solutions to second problem have been received from H. McKay, Jerseyville, "A Tyro," No. 1, Guelph township (taught by Carroll), and Thos. Gregory, Rockwood.

A SAD CASE.—Alfred Perry, of Guelph, received a telegram from his brother-in-law, who had been found dead on one of the Islands in Lake Superior. He had left behind there to attend to a house in the beginning of winter, and a small supply of provisions, and a mule was unable to return on the winter setting in with snow, and he left a wife and children.