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Guelph Evening Mercury
OFFICE:.....MACDONNELL STREET

WEDNESDAY EVEN'G, JAN. 8, 1868.

THE COMMERCIAL BANK.

A general meeting of the shareholders of this Bank was held at Kingston on Tuesday, when the statement of liabilities and assets, as at Dec. 13th, was read. The total liabilities are $1,831,173 and the assets are $5,831,173. The chairman read a report stating that the Directors had received an offer from the Merchants' Bank to amalgamate with the Commercial Bank on the basis of one share for three, or in other words, taking the stock of the bank at 33⅓ per cent of its par value, and that after mature consideration the Directors had decided on recommending the shareholders to accept it. He remarked that it might be asked how they could recommend such an offer after the recent valuation of the stock at 60 cents on the dollar, but it must be remembered that assets in liquidation were not the same thing as assets in a bank carrying on its usual business. A telegram from Mr. King, on behalf of the Bank of Montreal, was received and read. It is as follows: "In case any terms for sale or amalgamation are proposed less favourable than the following at the Commercial Bank meeting to-day, this Bank is willing to enter into negotiations at about 30 cents on the dollar, leaving the Milwaukee bonds for the Commercial Bank shareholders, provided the published statement of assets and liabilities are found on examination to be correctly stated and valued." Mr. King's offer was looked upon as a bunkum one, and the report recommending the adoption of the offer of the Merchants' Bank was then carried almost unanimously. The Merchants' is a strong bank, presided over by Mr. Hugh Allan, and the new stock will probably command a large premium at an early day. The arrangement is the best that could be effected under the circumstances.

The Pres—Important Libel Suit.

The libel suit against the London *Times*, which ended last month and resulted in verdict for the defendant, is another step and an important one in the struggle of the press for freedom to publish news. Most people will be surprised to learn that it is still a question whether a newspaper may print reports of the debates in Parliament without being liable in damages in whatever was uttered by the speakers. In either House the words are privileged, but whether the privelege extended to the printing of them next morning, nobody could say with certainty. Mr. Rigby Wason is the public benefactor who has brought this question to an issue. Thirty years ago, Mr. Watson contested the borough of Ipswich with Mr. Kelly, and was beaten. Mr. Kelly, then a rising barrister, became subsequently Sir Fitzroy Kelly, Attorney-General, and is now Lord Chief Baron of the Exchequer, the third judicial office in the United Kingdom. Shortly his appointment his old antagonist Mr. Wason, presented to the House of Lords, through Earl Russell, a petition alleging that the Lord Baron had been guilty, 30 years before, of pledging his honor as a gentleman to a statement which was false, and praying for his removal. It is only just to Mr. Wason to say that he had made the charge at the time, Mr. Kelly had promptly challenged him for it, and Mr. Wason took refuge from a duel in the protection of the police. The bringing forward of the accusation after this lapse of time provoked a debate in the Lords, in which Mr. Wason's charge was proved to be wholly groundless, and in which he was pretty roughly dealt with by the Lord Chancellor, Lord Derby, and Lord Russell himself. Next morning *The Times*, as a matter of course, containtd a report of the debate. Mr. Watson's exasperation at the failure of his long-cherished attack on his old enemy was so extreme as to lead him to attempt criminal proceedings against *The Times* for publishing the debate, and an article commenting on it. His application at Guildhall for a warrant was summarily refused, and he then commenced the civil action which was tried this week.

The case seems preposterous enough on this statement of it, yet it is plain, from the charge which the Lord Chief-Justice of the Queen's Bench delivered to the jury, that the right of *The Times* to publish its report stood in need of judicial affirmation. His Lordship discusses the subject at length, finds it impossible to doubt (indeed there was no evidence to prove the contrary) that the report was a fair one and says: "That being so, I am prepared to direct you in point of law that it was a privileged publication, and one which cannot be the subject of an action. I believe that this question now presents itself for the first time for adjudication in that plain and simple form which it now takes." He adds that there may be *dicta* to be found in the books which have a different tendency, the larger and more comprehensive views as to the law of libel which have gradually made their way, the proposition I have stated to you may now be taken to be law; and, although I do not know that any case has gone the length of establishing the view of the law which I have laid down, I find none which contradicts it."

THE NEW YORK FENIANS:—The New York Fenian leaders have issued an address to the public repudiating, on behalf of Fenianism, the blowing up of the Clerkenwell prison, the sending of detonating letters through the Post Office and the many other villanies of a similar kind which have lately been committed in England and Ireland. We wonder if these rascals think any one will believe them. We shall next hear them declare they did not make a raid into Canada in the summer of 1866 and shoot down a number of our young men in the most wanton and cruel manner.

is quite probable that Mr. James Cowan, late member for South Waterloo, will be nominated to the vacant seat in the Senate caused by the death of the late Hon. Mr. Blair. The appointment would, we believe, meet with general favour.

WESTERN STEAMBOAT ACCIDENTS.—Official reports show that during the past year 128 accidents of all kinds occurred on the western and south-western rivers; 82 of which resulted in the total destruction of the boats, involving a loss of $645,000, on which there was an insurance to the amount of $512,000. The other casualities resulted in only a partial destruction of the boats. Seventy-seven lives are known to have been lost by these accidents, and it is believed that about 20 more might be added to the list.

DOMINION STOCK.—It is undersood that tenders will be immediately invited for the new six per cent. Canada Dominion Stock, and that applications will be received at designated offices at Montreal, Toronto, Quebec, Ottawa, Halifax, and St. John, N. B. This loan will remain open, it is said, for about three weeks.

New Advertisements.

25

Another Reduction!

TWO GALLONS
PURE WHITE
COAL OIL
For 25 Cts.

JOHN HORSMAN.
Guelph, Jan 8, 1868.

The Guelph Weekly MERCURY

WILL be ready for the English Mail to-morrow (Thursday) morning, at 7 a. m. Copies may be had in the various Bookstores in town, and at the office of publication, Macdonnell-st.
Guelph, 8th January, 1868.

SALE of BOOKS AND PERIODICALS.

THE Committee of the Mechanics' Institute will sell by auction in the Library,
On Friday the 10th January,
at 7 p. m., the Newspapers belonging to the Institute up to 31st December, 1867, the unbound Magazines up to 31st December, 1866, and all duplicate copies of Books in the Library.
E. NEWTON, Secretary.
Guelph, 8th January, 1868. d3

D. KRIBS' HONEY SYRUP
For the various affections of the
LUNGS & THROAT
Such as Colds, Coughs, Hoarseness, Bronchitis, Asthma, Influenza, Consumption,
And for the relief of Consumptive Patients in advanced stages of the disease.
Prepared only by DANIEL KRIBS, Guelph, Ont., and for sale at his residence, and by Alex B Petrie, Market Square.
Price per bottle 37½c., or three bottles for $1.
Guelph, 8th January, 1868. 1y

South Wellington
AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.

THE Annual Meeting of the above Society will be held at ELLIS' HOTEL,
On SATURDAY, 25th January,
at 2 o'clock p. m, for the election of Office-bearers and transaction of other business.
GEORGE MURTON, Secretary.
Guelph, 8th January, 1868 wtd

List of Letters

REMAINING in the Guelph Post Office up to 1st January, 1868.

A B	Johnston W R
Adam John W. 2	Kirby Miss Catherine
Anderson Thomas	Kelly Miss Catherine
Ager Mrs Sarah M	Key Harriet Ann
Armstrong Miss E.	Kilburn L C
Bates Mrs G 2	Leitch Mrs M
Bates Henry	Lynch Francis
Barrett Michael	Mack Charles
Benn John F 2	Miller Henry
Bell Wm	Miller Thomas
Bell Robert F	Milburn Miss E
Beattie Mrs Martha	Morton Mrs Jane
Bickle J	Morton Mrs Geo
Black W S 2	Mulligan Francis
Black Noble	Murray Wm
Borton Edmund	Murphy John
Brulet Lewis	Murphy Pat
Burt Alex	McClusky Wm
Bulton Peter B	McCrone James
Butler Mrs Maria	McCree Dan or Angus
Bye Charles	McKerley Miss Sarah
Caldwell J M	McGar Patrick
Calton W	McGregor Peter
Campbell Miss C	Mackintosh J 2
Carroll Thos J	McLean John G
Chapman Miss Margt	McLean Kenneth
Clark John (reg)	McNab A W
Clark Mrs J	McNaughton J
Conachir Mr	McRobbie G G
Cook John (reg)	Nash Michael 2
Corbet E (reg)	Neugent James
Crichton Alex	Needle Miss Maggie
Cronen Miss Catherine	Nightingale G B
Crombie Colin	Ogg Alex
Curry Neil	Osborn John
Davis Mrs Sarah	Pembroke Mrs
Davidson John	Richards John
Davis E S	Robertson John
Dixon Joseph C	Robinson Thomas
Dolan M	Rose C H
Drewery R	Ryan Patrick
Dunbar Geo 2	Ryan Michael
Dunbar Isabella	Salter Mary
Dwyer Edmund	Scott David
Edwards B	Shannon Miss Carthew
Elliott Mrs Walter	Smith Robert J
Elliott Mrs Anna	Smith Mrs S
Erwin G A	Smith John 2
Evans B	Smith Mrs D
Evans Smith	Stewart George
Farnsworth Mrs M J	Stewart Wm
Ferguson A	Spires Wm
Forster George	Sughnu James
Francey William	Sullivan Jeremiah
Fraser Mrs. Margaret	Summers Miss Alice
Gilland William	Susand P E
Gordon Wm James	Telfer James
Grant J	Tehen Morris
Hanlon Felix	Thompson Mr (miller)
Harwood John	Thompson Wm
Hall & Co. R D	Thompson Andrew
Hammersly Miss S	Toole James
Halden T F C	Topping Wm M
Herd William	Tolton Joseph B
Hewer Thomas	Tutton Wm
Henderson Wm	Walker H L
High Thomas	Watting Wm
Hood James	Wetenhall R
Howard Master Thos	Welsh Miss Bridget
Hughes John H	Wheldrie Henry
Hunt Sarah J (reg)	Wilson James
Jackson & Co G	Wilson L W
James John J	Wilson John
Jackson William	Willet John
Johnston James T	Wykoff D G

☞ Parties calling for any of the above letters will please say they are advertised.
W. KINGSMILL, Postmaster.

MANILLA CHEROOTS

JUST RECEIVED,
A Lot of Fine Manilla Cheroots!
Guelph, 8th January, 1868. H. BERRY.

CHURCH DEDICATION.

THE OPENING SERVICES OF THE
New Congregational Church!
In the Town of Guelph, will (D V) be held on
Wednesday 15th of January
REV. H. WILKES, D. D.
of Montreal, will preach in the morning at 11 o'clock. Service in the evening to commence at 7 p.m. Collections in aid of the Building Fund will be taken at both services.
There will be a Collation in the Lecture Room on the same day, from 1 to 3 p. m.
TEA MEETING
On the following
Tuesday Evening, 21st Jan.
a Tea Meeting will be held in the Church, of which further notice will be given.
Guelph, 8th January, 1868. dw1

TUBE PAINTS!
A FULL ASSORTMENT OF
ARTISTS' COLOURS,
In Tubes, kept constantly on hand
At Apothecaries' Hall!
ALEX. B. PETRIE,
Chemist and Druggist.
Guelph, 7th Jan., 1868. wd

PLATT & CO'S

WORLD RENOWNED
OYSTERS
Received daily by Express. Wholesale and Retail.
GEORGE WILKINSON.
Next door to Telegraph and Express Office.
Guelph, Jan. 7, 1868. daw tf

No. 2,
Day's Block, . . Guelph.

☞ CARLISLE ☜
BISCUIT
A LARGE quantity of this celebrated Biscuit just received, which we sell
CHEAPER THAN ANY OTHER HOUSE IN TOWN.
Call and see to be satisfied.
E. CARROLL & CO.,
No. 2, Wyndham Street.
Guelph, 7th January, 1868. dw

No. 1 Coal Oil.
VERY BEST COAL OIL,
At Apothecaries' Hall!
MARKET SQUARE.
Fifteen cts. per Gallon
or in Glass Carboys containing Ten Gallons, for $2.50.
ALEX. B. PETRIE,
Chemist, Market Square.
Guelph, Jan. 7, 1868. dw

NOTICE.
THE business of Messrs. BLAIR & GUTHRIE will be continued at the same office by the surviving partner, Mr. GUTHRIE.
Guelph, 6th January, 1868. dwlm

RE-OPENING.
MISS FETHERSTONHAUGH's School opened on Monday, 6th January, 1868.
Guelph, 6th January, 1868. dwl

An Apprentice Wanted.
WANTED at this Office, a stout active lad, about 15 or 16 years of age, possessing a good English education, to learn the printing business. None other need apply except those possessing the qualifications above mentioned. Apply at the MERCURY Office, Macdonnell street, Guelph.
Dec. 26, 1867. dwtf

PRIVATE TUITION.
THE undersigned is prepared to give private lessons in English, Latin and Greek, either at his own house or the house of his pupils, two hours of each day.
GEORGE GRAFFTEY.
Guelph, 3rd January, 1868. 1md

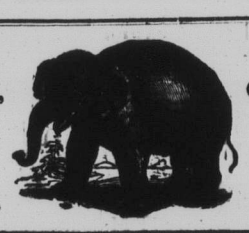
ROCKWOOD
Commercial, Mathematical, and Classical
ACADEMY.
THE THIRTY-FIFTH SEMI-ANNUAL SESSION COMMENCES ON THE SIXTH JANUARY, 1868.
THIS long established and popular Institution offers special advantages to old and young. Its rural situation affords a degree of freedom from temptation seldom attained without undue restraint, while the comprehensiveness of the curriculum meets the wants of all classes of advanced students, comprising a classical course for those preparing for the University or the professions.—A thorough English and Mathematical Course, specially adapted to the wants of first-class teachers and the general student. A complete Commercial Course, including not only those brances requisite to the mere accountant, but also others indispensable to the intelligent and business man.
Regular instructions in Plain and Ornamental Penmanship and Vocal Music.
Terms in advance—$30 per quarter of 2½ months; Classics, $10 per annum extra; Reading Room and incidentals, $1 per quarter.
☞ The most respectable references given if required. Send for a circular.
McCAIG & McMILLAN.
Rockwood, 27th Dec, 1867. dw

SPECIAL NOTICE.
CANADIAN
National Series of Reading Books,
Authorized by the Council of Public Instruction for Ontario,
NOW READY FOR DELIVERY.
PRICES:
FIRST BOOK, with 31 illustrations, strongly bound in limp cloth—five cents.
FIRST BOOK, 2nd Part, 54 illustrations, strongly bound in limp cloth—ten cents.
SECOND BOOK, 56 illustrations, strongly bound in cloth boards—twenty cents.
THIRD BOOK, 41 illustrations, strongly bound in cloth boards—thirty cents.
FOURTH BOOK, 45 illustrations, strongly bound in cloth boards—forty cents.
FIFTH BOOK, 50 illustrations, strongly bound in cloth boards—fifty cents.
☞ Storekeepers supplied at the lowest Toronto wholesale price for cash only.
T. J. DAY,
Opposite the Market, Guelph.
Guelph, 6th January, 1868. dw

SPECIAL MEETING
of the Members of the Mutual Fire Insurance Company of the Co. of Wellington.
AT the request of D. Guthrie, Esq., and other members by requisition presented to the President of the Company, a special meeting of the members will be held in the Anglo-American Hotel, Guelph, on
WEDNESDAY, 15th INST.,
at 1 o'clock, p. m., to take into consideration the loss sustained by Messrs. James Massie & Co., at the late fire in the Alma Block, Guelph.
By order of the President.
CHAS. DAVIDSON, Sec. & Trea.
Guelph, 4th January, 1868. dwtd
News Record, Fergus; Times, Elora; Chronicle, Waterloo; Telegraph, Berlin; Farmers' Friend, Preston, and Volksblatt, New Hamburg, copy in weekly till date, and send in account.

LADIES' SCHOOL.
MRS. WM. BUDD begs to inform her pupils and friends that the present vacation terminates on MONDAY, 6th January, 1868.
☞ Norfolk Street, Guelph, near the Marble Works.
Guelph, 31st Dec, 1867. 6dw2

GREATEST CHEAP SALE OF THE SEASON
Commencing on MONDAY, the 6th day of JANUARY, 1868.
FRASER & HENDERSON
being desirous to sustain the high reputation which they have acquired during the last ten years, for their's being **the Cheapest DRY GOODS STORE in Guelph,** are now prepared
TO SELL THE BALANCE OF THEIR STOCK AT NETT COST!
AND IN MANY INSTANCES UNDER COST.
FRASER & HENDERSON will not, and shall not be undersold by any, no matter what their pretensions may be, and when they advertise a CHEAP SALE they mean it. ☞ Goods will be marked in plain figures, and sold for cash only. NO SECOND PRICE.
P.S.—Parties indebted to the Firm will please pay up before the FIRST OF FEBRUARY.
FRASER & HENDERSON.

BARGAINS EXTRAORDINARY
OPPOSITE THE MARKET, GUELPH.

OPPOSITE THE MARKET, GUELPH.
SMITH & BOTSFORD,
Will sell, during the next six weeks, the balance of
THEIR WINTER STOCK AT COST.
Call and see their prices, and be convinced that this is no humbug. ONLY ONE PRICE.
SMITH & BOTSFORD,
Sign of the Elephant, opposite the Market
Guelph, 4th January, 1868.

Great Book Sale!
GREAT BOOK SALE
AT R. CUTHBERT'S.
BEHOLD! NOW IS YOUR TIME TO REPLENISH YOUR
LIBRARIES
With Standard Book of the Choicest Description.
Guelph, 2nd January, 1868. daw-tf

NEW
Oyster Rooms
Valentine Wald
BEGS to announce to the public that he has fitted up Oyster Rooms in connection with his Hotel, on
MACDONNELL STREET.
The very best of Liquors, and choicest Cigars will always be kept.
The Rooms are under the superintendence of Mr. R. McCruden, whose courteous attention, as well as his thorough knowledge of the business, will insure satisfaction in all cases.
The very Best of Oysters
always on hand, and served up in all styles at short notice.
TOM and JERRY, and all kinds of Fancy Drinks prepared in the most approved manner.
Guelph, 27th December, 1867. dwtm

Wool, Hide and Leather DEPOT,
No. 4, Day's Old Block, Gordon Street.
Guelph, July 31, 1867 dtw D. MOLTON