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The HURON SIGNAL

DEVOTED TO COUNTY NEWS AND GENERAL INTELLIGENCE

THIRTY-NINTH YEAR. WHOLE NUMBER 2037.

GODERICH, ONT., FRIDAY, MARCH 5, 1886.

McGILLICUDDY BROS PUBLISHERS $1.50 A YEAR IN ADVANCE

THE HURON SIGNAL

Is published every Friday Morning, by McGILLICUDDY BROS., at their Office, North st. GODERICH, ONTARIO

And is despatched to all parts of the surrounding country by the earliest mails and trains.

TERMS.—$1.50 in advance, postage pre-paid by publishers; $1.75, if paid before six months $2.00 if not so paid. This rule will be strictly enforced.

RATES OF ADVERTISING.—Eight cents per line for first insertion; three cents per line for each subsequent insertion. Yearly, half-yearly and quarterly contracts at reduced rates.

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FRIDAY, MARCH 5TH, 1886.

LOOK AT YOUR LABEL.

Our remarks to our subscribers last week has had the effect of jogging the memories of a goodly number of those in arrears. During the days that have intervened since our last publication we have heard from a great many, but there are some others yet to hear from. The following note from a previous delinquent, which reached our office during the week, with a subscription enclosed, ought to have a beneficial effect upon those who are still in arrears:

DEAR SIGNAL,—I have read the editorial article on the first page, and looked as directed, and—and—well, here it is, the year's subscription. It does take this kind of thing to wake up the memory of the most righteous. I don't remember ever seeing the label on my paper until your editorial said "Look at it." Now, since *I* am clear, I hope every other delinquent has also looked at his SIGNAL label. Yours truly.

DOWN in Brantford they poke fun at the girls who do the town during the afternoon in snow-shoe costume, minus the snow-shoes. We must admit that blanket suits are not becoming with kid gloves and high-heeled boots!

THE revising barrister of Wentworth, instead of giving the printing of the list to his political favorites, let the work by tender. This is as it should be. It is perhaps of interest to know that this fair-minded official is none other than our old friend, Judge Sinclair, a staunch Reformer. The Hamilton *Times* got the job by the lowest tender.

THERE is a lull in the waterworks discussion. Now would be a good time for the chairman of the fire and water committee to devote his great mind to still further improving the fire department. The people desire that the present fire and water system should be attended to properly, whether we get the waterworks or not. A little honest and intelligent work in the way of perfecting our fire department is worth a lot of noise and buncombe about costly waterworks. There is more danger at present of being burned to death than there is of being drowned in a waterworks reservoir.

LICENSE INSPECTOR YATES has entered fully upon his duties, under the authority of the Local Government. Mr. Yates has gone about his work in a business like manner, and his notice in this issue has been sent to every hotelkeeper in the county. The people have every confidence in Inspector Yates. Already he has closed up the grog shops on West and Montreal streets whose illicit operations were winked at by the late incapable officials, and no more do their garish lights offend the eyes of the temperence people, or entice the weak or the reckless. If Inspector Yates gets the hearty aid of the supporters of law and order, as we hope he may, he will follow up his good work to such an extent that the wholesale drinking permitted by the Dominion Inspector in this town will give place to a decent respect for the Temperance Act.

GOLDWIN SMITH has been a supporter of Sir John A. Macdonald for several years. It would seem as if he has found the premier out, for he last week wrote:

"Most of us have learned pretty well to acquiesce in the fact that the Dominion Government is a government of corruption. Men, places, provinces, interests, churches, organizations of every kind, are bought in different ways, some more coarsely, some more subtly, in order to form the basis of a system which is administered, after its kind, with great ability, and is closely bound up with the personal ambition of its veteran chief. Corruption is not wholesome; it does not become more wholesome as it becomes more inveterate; to say nothing of the debt which it is rolling up, it must deprave the political character of the people, as, in fact, it is visibly doing, and in the end prove fatal to the spirit, if not to the form, of representative institutions."

THAT "MUTILATED" ARTICLE.

The *Star*, driven into a corner on the Riel question, is trying to obtain sympathy by pleading that THE SIGNAL does not argue fairly—that it mutilates articles, and dared not insert them in full, &c. THE *Star* denied "that the *Mail* or any Grit organ" had shown that the Metis had any grievances to complain of, and defied us to the proof. We immediately produced the following, which was published in the *Mail* on the 8th of July, 1885:

"It has never been denied by the *Mail* that the Metis had good ground for grievances. By the passage of the Manitoba Act of 1870 old Canada had formally and frankly recognized the rights of the Halfbreeds of that Province to share in the Indian title, and it follows as a matter of course that if they had rights in the soil of Manitoba, those of them dwelling in the regions beyond had rights in the soil there.

This admitted of no dispute.

It must have been quite well understood by Parliament in 1870; at all events the records show that the Government of the day recognized the point, though a settlement was not then asked for.

In spite of this recognition, however, and of the manifest and unanswerable logic of the Halfbreeds' case, the Department for years and years steadily refused to move in the matter.

It was a tangled question; it would involve the appointment of a commission and no end of trouble; St. Albert and St. Laurent were far distant dependencies without political influence; it was a claim that would be none the worse for blue-moulding in the pigeon-holes.

This was the way in which the officials treated the just demand of the Metis, and we agree with Mr. Blake, that their negligence was gross and inexcusable, and contributed to bring about the insurrection."

The *Star* now refuses to take the *Mail* as an authority, but we insist upon our contemporary sticking to its original contention. As will be seen by all who read the above extract, the *Mail* admits that the Metis had grievances, and agrees "with Mr. Blake that the negligence of the officials was gross and inexcusable, and contributed to bring about the insurrection." From its own authority we quote conclusively to the *Star*.

But, says our contemporary, THE SIGNAL has "mutilated" the *Mail's* article; it dare not publish the portion of the article that immediately follows the extract quoted; it has m-u-t-i l a-t-e-d the the article, and thereby sought to create a wrong impression; &c., &c.

Ah! indeed. Well, let us see! The facts that we intend to prove are these: The *Star* made a false statement when it said that not from the *Mail* or any Reform organ could any proof of Metis grievances be obtained; and secondly, that THE SIGNAL is right in claiming that official mismanagement in the Northwest brought about the rebellion. On these two points the *Mail* is specific.

And now we proceed to take its proof from under the *Star*, by publishing that portion of the article which heretofore we did not deem of sufficient bearing on the case to reproduce. On close analysis, however, we find it to be the strongest kind of testimony in favor of our contentions. Admitting, for the sake of argument, that the *Mail* is not using a *tu quoque* application, it proves beyond a peradventure, that the halfbreeds had grievances of a most burdensome nature; and especially was this the case from 1878 to 1884. The extract is as follows:

But, and this puts him and his case out of court, Mr. Mackenzie was just as much to blame as Sir John Macdonald. The Metis say that they began pressing for the fulfilment of the agreement implied, if not expressed, in the Manitoba Act as far back as 1872; and that they renewed their efforts in 1874-5; that Mr. Matthew Ryan, one of the stipendiary magistrates during the Mackenzie regime, thoroughly understood their position, and, no doubt, for he was a conscientious man, communicated with the Minister on the subject; that Governor Laird knew all about it; that Mr. Mills promised to take the job in hand; and that from 1878 to 1884 they kept jogging the slippery memory of the officials, and calling for action through their clergy through 'Le Manitoba,' of St. Boniface, and through one or two friends in the House, until, as they imagined, Ottawa had grown weary of seeing their deputations and tired of hearing their cause. But it was all to no purpose. Neither Grit nor Tory officials would attend to them. The inertia of the department was immovable.

But as Reformers were responsible for it equally with Conservatives, how can one condemn the other? The Metis were disgusted with both.

That is the portion of the *Mail's* article which the *Star* looks upon as a vindication of the Tory Administration's Northwest policy. Well, we wish our contemporary joy of its vindication; but to the mind of the unprejudiced reader the extract will go far to prove the culpability of the Government. With reference to the attempt of the *Mail* to hold the Reform party equally guilty with the Tory Government for the maladministration of the Northwest, it is only necessary to point out: That no mutterings of discontent were heard from the Northwest during the Mackenzie administration; there was no mustering of armed men on the Saskatchewan to enforce the rights of the Metis; the blood of some of the bravest and best of Canada's sons did not crimson the prairie; the Dominion was not placed millions of dollars in debt by rebellion losses. If it were not for these facts we would agree with the *Mail* and the *Star* that the Reformers should be held equally guilty with the present incapable Tory Government. There is that difference, however.

The *Mail* concludes its article after a fashion that will not prove soothing to the stricken heart of our town comtemporary. It is as follows:—

Had they had votes, like white men, or if, like the Indians, they had been numerous enough to command respect and overawe red tape, without doubt the wheels of the office would have revolved for them; but being only Halfbreeds, they were put off with an eternal promise, until patience ceased to be a virtue.

We repeat again that the departmental system under which such callous and cruel neglect of the rights of a portion of the community was possible, was wrong, and should be censured."

So much for the so-called "mutilated article."

TRYING TO BOLSTER THE N P

Last week the London *Free Press* invented an "incident" about the benefits derived from the N.P. by the McCormick confectionery and biscuit works of London. The *Star* swallowed the cock-and-bull yarn, and "hoorayed" editorially as follows:

Another illustration was given by Mr. Thomas McCormick the well-known London confectioner and biscuit manufacturer, who distributed amongst his employees as a share of his profits, cheques to the amount of $2,000. In doing so Mr. McCormick said that "although the business had not been so profitable for the past two years as previously, yet it had been fairly so. This the employees well knew was owing to the National Policy. Had it not been for that policy the possibilities were that the Company would not have been able to employ labor at all." With true Grit cunning the London *Advertiser* ignores the item altogether even as a local event.

It is almost a pity to explode such a pretty little N.P. anecdote, but a regard for truth constrains us do to so. Mr McCormick, in a letter to the *Advertiser*, gives the N.P. "incident" the lie direct. He says:

To the Editor:—It is quite true that on Friday evening, the 19th inst., I distributed a little money to the employees of the McCormick Manufacturing Company, but had nothought of it ever finding its way into the newspapers. Who gave them the information or how it found its way thither I know not, but one thing I can assure your readers of, and that is this: I had no desire to give it publicity in that way. During my remarks on that occasion *I made no reference whatever to the National Policy*, as some might infer from what has appeared before on this subject, and now asking that the press may say nothing more on the above, I am, etc., T. MCCORMICK

London, Feb. 24.

So after all, the "true Grit cunning of the London *Advertiser*," in not publishing an N.P. speech that never took place, is to be commended. It will be in order now for the *Star* to punish Mr. McCormick's letter and let itself down as easily as possible.

Some of the Reform papers are howling about the fancy prices paid for the printing of the franchise voters' lists, saying that it should be let by contract, and competition would then bring it down below living prices. The same issue will contain lengthy editorials against the Government for aiding emigration from the Old Country to compete with our poor working classes. We would like to know what class works harder or is poorer than the printers?

The above, from a paper called the *Vidette*, published in the village of Gorrie, is one of the richest things we have seen in a long time, and is as unique in its way, as the defence of the N. P by the Hamilton *Spectator's* talented editor. If the item means anything it means that it is a good thing to allow Tory newspaper men to print voters' lists and charge twelve cents a name instead of having the work competed for publicly by Tory and Reform papers alike, which would result in the placing of the race at a legitimate figure. The *Vidette* ought to agitate to have a Howick township by-law passed making it incumbent upon all residents of that township to have their printing done at the office of the *Vidette*, under pains and penalties of a stringent kind. The talk about emigrants competing with native workmen is a new wrinkle. Does our Gorrie exchange wish to insinuate that Reform journals of long standing and influence have not as much stake in the country as lately established "seven-by-nines?" A great many absurd reasons for feeding Tory newspapers with Government pap have been advanced of late, but that little screed from the Gorrie *Vidette* is the most silly, beyond all question.

UNDER the Canada Temperance Act, the Local Legislature has placed the druggist licenses in Scott Act counties at $70 in cities, $40 in towns, and $30 in other municipalities. Under the Dominion administration these licenses paid no fees. The fee is a very reasonable one.

WHY THEY WEEP.

Not very long ago when Hon. Edward Blake delivered his great speech at London, the Hamilton *Spectator* made merry over the fact that there was no enthusiasm in the speech; that there was only one joke in it; that it accounted for the cold wave that overspread the country at that time; &c. Blake was denounced as a man devoid of personal magnetism, cold, unimpassioned—a human iceberg. When a thaw set in around Hamilton and tobogganing became a dead issue in the city that boasts of Burlington bay and the "Mountain," the *Spectator* funny man thought the best way to promote a cool spell would be to have the leader of the Opposition again come west, and deliver one of his "chilling" speeches. The *Free Press*, of London, also made mild remarks on the subject in a similar key. But things have changed since Blake spoke at London. The Dominion parliament has met and Blake has made his first speech for the session on the floor of the House. He has astonished his friends—yes, and he has astonished his opponents. His speech is a most aggressive one, composed as it is of a grand exposure of the inconsistencies, faults and follies of the Government. It is replete with facts, filled to overflowing with sarcastic humor, and bristling with statements calculated to pierce through the chinks of the Governmental armor. Amongst others, the *Spectator* is amazed, and forgetful of the fact that it denounced Blake for making a "cold" speech at London, now finds fault with him because his speech on the address is on the warm side. The *Spectator* says:

It is pretty evident, however, that Mr. Blake's speech was suited to the intelligence of his political friends in the Commons, for it was frequently interrupted with "cheers," "laughter," and "applause."

From which it appears that Blake pleased his friends by his more than usually aggressive style. The *Spectator* is correspondingly down in the mouth, and will not be comforted. It is a pity, indeed, that Mr. Blake did not train his utterance to suit the ideas of the *Spectator*. But 'twas ever thus.

INSULTING THE IRISH.

It is surprising how the Grits, at almost every opportunity, delight in having a slap at the Irish. They are not satisfied in assailing their character, but they insultingly refer to their nationality and even their names. The Huron SIGNAL chuckles over Mr. Cameron's reference to Mr Patrick Kelly in his St. Thomas speech, and quotes him with having said:—"You will find acres of the public lands divided among Pat Kelly, a Huron Tory bummer, and a few others."

The Mitchell *Advocate* published the foregoing last week so as to build a piece of claptrap talk upon it. As no such item ever appeared in THE SIGNAL with reference to Patrick Kelly, its effect is broken, so far as we are concerned. The dragging of THE SIGNAL into that item is a pure piece of fiction on the part of our Mitchell neighbor, and we hope it will have the good taste to "take it all back next week." We have never "insulted the Irish," and we never will do so. We claim a direct allegiance to the land of the shamrock, and we are not afraid or ashamed to talk loyalty to Erin and Home Rule for Ireland all the year round. We don't wear a shamrock on the 17th of March, on Orange lily on the 12th of July, and prate about the glories of the "Owld Sod" only when elections come around. We are Canadian by adoption, but we are also loyal to the land of our fathers, and "*Erin go bragh*," is deeply imprinted on our hearts. But although this is so, we cannot see why a denunciation of the political trickery of Patrick Kelly, or any other such as he would make us disloyal to Ireland. As we said before, we have not alluded to Kelly in any way on this question, but some journal has evidently done so, and that journal has, to our mind, not been guilty of "insulting the Irish" because it exposed Kelly's trickery. Kelly is of the O'Donohoe and Boyle stamp—he trades on his nationality. It is all very well for the *Advocate* to taffy him up, but outside of politics the editor of that journal has no feeling in common with Patrick Kelly. The Mitchell *Advocate* makes us weary as a champion of the Irish.

The County Judges of Huron have issued the following request to the members of the bar in this county:—Dear Sir,—It is the practice in some parts of the province for members of the bar to appear in court costume in the Division Court, as in other courts. We think it would be advisable to adopt this practice henceforth in this county."

WHAT'S UP?

Things That Are Happening Around Us.

The Weather—About Auctioneering—J. C. C.—The Gin Mill Must Go—"To Be Continued."

—The *Prophet*, a semi-occasional weather publication, made the forecast that March "would come in like a lamb, and go out in the same uneventful manner." The man who wrote that item ought to be "lammed," for leading the unsuspecting public to believe that rigorous winter had departed, and balmy spring was now our yoke fellow, so to speak. I have a lingering idea that a continuation of the weather during the month in the "same uneventful manner" in which it commenced would paralyze the ordinary coal pile before the arrival of April.

—I see a circular has been issued by the county judiciary notifying the lawyers that henceforth it will be necessary for them to be in full uniform—court costume—when appearing in cases in division court. This intimation is only intended for lawyers, but as ordinary mortals are allowed to plead in the "poor man's court," I expect to see a supplementary order issued prescribing a Dolly Vardon robe for the lay speakers. Why, I recollect when I lived on the ninth concession, that when court was held at the village, we had many a time to plead our own cases, for legal luminaries were not thick as hops, as they are now. His honor didn't care a red cent whether the orators were attired in purple and fine linen, or boasted only of a suit of blue jeans, topped with a "strawstack" and bottomed with knee boots. He dealt out justice according to the evidence, and not to suit the store-made garments of the plaintiff or defendant. Just fancy "Humpy Taylor," "Black Bob," "Josh Billings," "Little Jimmy the Fifer," and a host of other old timers, trying to wrestle with a barrister's gown in the division court forum. Why, any one of them would rather lose his case than gaze upon the toggery. For my part, I thought there were enough suits in division court without adding any of the tailor-made kind to the number. The next move, under the new dispensation, will be, I suppose, to regulate the garb of chaps who are brought up on judgment summons. Of course, it's none of my funeral, and I shouldn't worry about it; but I'm getting up in years, and I don't take any more kindly to these new-fangled notions than an old nag does to new harness.

—My old friend, Tom Good, of Benmiller, has taken out an auctioneer's license, and purposes laying himself out in great shape for the sonorous rendering of "Going, going; are you all done?"—or other words of a similarly poetical turn. Tom intends to give a "free show," to start the business out at the "Hollow," and the neighbors are going to have a joint stock sale, so as to give him a fair send-off. I have every confidence that it won't take Tom long to distance Goderich's St. Elmo Bonnerges, and even my old and esteemed friend Johnnie Knox—the best all around auctioneer in the Huron tract since John C. Currie went to the land of blizzards and bannanas—will have to hustle if he wants to keep the track. Like John A. Macdonald, Tom is "a rum un' to look at, but a Good un' to go." He's a mover, is Tom.

—And this reminds me that a mosquito warbled in my ear during the recent Manitoba "wave," that it need not surprise me and the neighbors if Jno. C. Currie would spare sufficient time from the cultivation of his bannana patch at Winnipeg, to hie away to Ontario and visit the friends of his youth, beauty and ante-blizzard experience. You all know John Campbell Currie;—of course you know you do. Many's the jolly drive I have had with him when he filled the important positions of sheriff's officer, county high constable and "people's auctioneer." And the twisters he used to roll off between bids—even now I laugh till my vest tightens when I think of them. There wasn't anybody in the section could "hold a candle to him," at a jollification, a barnraising festival, a paring-bee, a quiltin', a social hop, a country dance, a wedding, a christening, or any other kind of innocent diversion. He's now assistant-engineer in the sheriff's office at Winnipeg, and, I presume, spends his leisure time in that tropical clime, under the shade of his own vine and fig tree, trying to keep cool, while we revel here in the bracing severity of a March opening. If he ever gets a sufficient breathing-spell from office routine, I'll bet a silk hat against a "cow's breakfast" that he'll hie hither and put in a good time with the good old friends of yore. And perhaps he'll drop over to Benmiller, and give Tom Good some of the latest Winnipeg real estate auctioneer's gags—that is, if there are any real estate auctioneers left in Winnipeg.

—So a license inspector has been appointed for West Huron at last, and Stephen Yates has been chosen for the position. A better selection could not have been made. What Stephen Yates doesn't know about license inspecting can't be found under the hat of any man in Canada. The whisky dives already have hauled down their flag, and no longer display their brilliant illuminations after nightfall; and the medical students who kept groggeries under the wing of Dominion druggists' licenses, and were encouraged in their lawbreaking by the men who should have kept them straight, will now have to learn a new trade. Yates won't sell beer with his oysters, or take on occasional V from the owners of dives, to patch up his eyes so he can't see violations. He's not that kind of a man. The gin mill must must go—

"Ring the bell softly, there's crape on the door."

—Why, I lived in a Scott Act county where the man who was appointed inspector by the Dominion commissioners—but, *naboklish*, I'll tell that story some other time, as the editor has just sent over a polite note by the imp to inform me that I must shorten my musical selection this week, as there is a heavy pressure on the columns from other sources. AJAX.

The Great Turner.

Sir John Macdonald it appears has contradicted himself upon the Imperial federation issue as well as every other. A reference to this comparison will show that:—

Sir John Macdonald at Horticultural Pavilion, Toronto, Nov. 23, 1885:—	Sir John Macdonald at St. George's Club, London, Eng., Jan. 4, 1885:—
"Imperial Federation is utterly impracticable. (Applause.) We could never agree to send a number of men over to England to sit in parliament there and vote away our rights and privileges. I am, as far as this question goes, up to the handle a Home Ruler. (Applause.) We will govern our own country. (Hear, hear.) We will put on the taxes ourselves. If we choose to misgovern ourselves we will do so.—(laughter)—and we do not desire England, Ireland or Scotland to tell us we are fools. (Laughter.) We will say, if we are fools, we will keep our folly to ourselves. You will not be the worse for it, we will not be the worse for any folly of yours." (Cheers.)	"With regard to the question of Imperial Federation he fully agreed that there must be Imperial Federation. He believed that as the auxiliary nations of Australia and Canada and South Africa increased, the present relations, comfortable and pleasant as they were, could not remain permanently fixed. As those auxiliary nations must increase in wealth and in population, so they must increase in responsibilities, and speaking for the Dominion of Canada, he might say they were ready to increase the responsibilites, they were ready to join the Mother Country in her offensive and defensive league, to sacrifice their last man and their last shilling in defence of the empire and the flag of England." (Cheers.)

A SCENE IN THE SENATE.

Senator Alexander Runs Foul of Senator Ogilvie and Some Compliments Pass.

OTTAWA, Feb. 26.—In the senate the address was moved and seconded by the Hon. Mr. Bolduc and Hon. Mr. Clemow. Senator Alexander at once attacked the Government. The increase in taxation, the Northwest rebellion he attributed to the wanton neglect of the department of the interior, the C. P. R. expenditure, the attempt of Sir John to break up confederation, as he put it, all added fuel to the fire and finally he exploded in a perfect torrent of fury over the Exchange bank. "We see," continued Senator Alexander, "every day men wearing the mantle of religion, even holding the position of president of bible societies and other kindred institutions, guilty of the worst criminal acts, who had ruined the families of widows and orphans without feeling or heart."

The senator from Woodstock later on used language much stronger than this, when Senator Ogilvie, who was a director of the Exchange bank, sprang excitedly to his feet and raised a question of order. He said, "I don't know whether the Hon. gentleman's language is parliamentary or not, but every word of it is as false as hell. The directors of the bank are as honest as any of the gentlemen of this house. We are all nearly ruined by the bank's collapse."

To this Senator Alexander replied that his remarks did not apply to the Exchange bank. He sympathized with Senator Ogilvie in his losses, but the irate Montreal senator shouted back, white with rage, "I don't requise any of your sympathy."

Wm. Ballantine has been offered the position of Liquor License Inspector for South Huron, but declined. Many will be disappointed at this, as his appointment would have given universal satisfaction.

$1 will get THE SIGNAL for the remainder of 1886.