Grand Trunk Railway.

CHANGE OF TIME.

ON AND AFTER

Monday 29th Jan. 1877

TRAINS WILL LEAVE GODERICH AS FOLLOWS:

Express, 7.00 a.m., arriving at London, 10.35 a.m., Toronto at 1.05 p.m., Buffalo at 1.55 p.m.

Mail and Express, 11.45 a.m., arriving at Stratford at 2.45 p.m., Buffalo at 8.00 p.m.

Mixed, 3.10 arriving at Stratford at 6.30 p.m., and London 9 p.m.

TRAINS WILL ARRIVE AS FOLLOWS:

Mixed, 11.30 a.m., from Stratford.

Mail and Express, 3.10 p.m., from London, Toronto and Buffalo.

Express, 10.00 p.m., from Buffalo, Toronto and London.

J. HICKSON,
General Manager.

1563-d

Huron Signal.

GODERICH, FEB. 14, 1877.

Member's Indemnity.

In the Legislature, on Thursday last, when in committee of supply, Hon. Mr. Crooks moved for a reduction of the indemnity to members from $900 to the old figure of $600. In speaking upon his motion this gentleman referred to the indemnity received by members of the Dominion Parliament, and stated that members of the Legislature individually did more work than those of the upper house. In the course of the discussion which ensued, some of the opposition members, cast the burden of the measure for the increase upon the Government, Mr. Cameron would have the Government settle the matter in such a way that the members of the House should not be called upon to vote upon the question, he evidently feeling embarrassed by the position, and he, as did also Mr. Bethune, backed down completely from the position they had taken when the increase was voted, and declared their intention of voting for the decrease. One member was so enthusiastic for retrenchment that he voted for striking out the item of indemity altogether, but his supporters were very few. Such a proposition was rather extreme in the minds of the members, and they judged rightly, for no reasonable person would ask honored members to give so much of their time and attention to the country's affairs for glory, and at the expense of their individual interests. Such a principle has been found to work injuriously, as giving an inducement to members to try improper means for replenishing their pockets at the country's expense, besides tending to keep from the House men whose means will not permit gratuitous service to the country. Mr. Ross spoke in favor of the reduction, stating that he had opposed the increase in the secret session last year, and defended the action of the Government in introducing the motion. Mr. Code referred to Mr. Ross' letters with regard to this matter, published last year, and condemned his action, to which the latter replied stating the reasons for writing these letters. Mr. Code was greatly in error when he said that Mr. Ross wrote a letter of apology for his connection with the vote on the increase. He had nothing to apologise for, since he took ground against the increase, and his letter was called for as a defence of himself personally from a misapprehension of his action in the matter which had gone into print. So far from seeking to make capital out of his action, Mr. Ross made his position public in a manner which called forth the approbation of members of both parties for his manly and consistent defence.

The arguments advanced in favor of the increased indemnity were few, and exceedingly lame, the majority seeming desirous of saying as little upon the subject as possible. The main idea advanced was the insufficiency of the indemnity. One member stated that he thought $150 should keep the members during the session, and this being the opinion of "one who knows," the indemnity of $600 should be sufficient for three months' work. We know that public men have a great many expenses to meet, which others know little of. A constituent calls upon them, and they entertain them; they feast fellow members, and act as generously as possible; but that is to sustain their popularity. The public is not supposed to assist a representative man to do this. If he is fond of office, he should not seek to make his public office, pay the cost of his tempting generosity. It is a well-known fact that many men retain themselves in popular favor by their hospitality and convivialty, and they seek to recoup themselves for their lavish expenditures out of the opportunities which their position places in their way. A man who seeks a public office should be prepared to accept from the country just what his services are worth, and not estimate in his bill his election and entertaining expenses.

The result of the vote on the motion was that it was lost by a majority of three, 35 voting for it and 38 against. We could hardly expect any other result, inasmuch as none of the members felt that, being near the expiry of their term, the rescinding of the former resolution would appear like an attempt to curry favor. Consequently these members become the victims of a peculiar idea of propriety, and have $200 forced upon them. This idea, however, does not excuse them for having voted the increase, and will be accepted as a very lame one for refraining from supporting Mr. Crooks' motion.

Railway Accommodation.

As we mentioned last week, a public meeting has been called by the Mayor on Friday next, for the discussion of increased railway communication and the purpose of taking such steps to secure the same as may be deemed proper. We need say little of the urgency of some such action—that is a conclusion which all have arrived at long ago. It was hoped that the desideratum was obtained when such advanced steps were taken with regard to the Huron & Quebec Railway scheme, but that magnificent project, which would have been, above all others, the thing needful, is too uncertain to deserve our entire hopes. And while the railway fever has taken possession of the country round about us, it behooves us to be looking after any of the loaves and fishes which may be had by reasonable efforts.

Our northern friends are all excited over the Toronto, Grey and Bruce Railway, which they are desirous to have terminate in Goderich, whilst the Kincardine people are making every effort to secure the terminus there. With remarkable honesty (!) they talk about our miserable harbor accommodation, about the dullness of Goderich, and about it a dead town, but their ill usage has not left a little crust upon the affairs of that port. From a letter written by one of the chief officials, we are informed that the company considers Goderich the best terminus for the road, owing to the good harbor facilities, a town large trade and the country between it and Wingham consequently very few engineering difficulties occurred with the route to Kincardine. Should this scheme meet the favor of the people in this section, we have no doubt that the terminus could easily be secured. We are informed that Mr. Attrill effort, should this road be brought to Goderich, to give $14,000 towards building a bridge across the river, on a level with the banks, which liberal proposal is deserving of thorough consideration.

Other schemes are under consideration, such as a branch from the London, Huron and Bruce line tapping the road at Clinton, or one to tap it at Blyth; and another proposition is to secure a branch from the Wellington, Grey and Bruce road. The last named scheme seems the most likely to be of benefit, since it would give more direct competition with the Grand Trunk than branches from Blyth or the W., G. & B. would give, but a good deal of our lumber trade is done in Western Huron and through that section of country, a direct communication with that section, such as this branch would furnish, would establish this as the main distributing point, to the utter exclusion of Exeter and Kincardine. Our port would have access to the market north, south and east of us, with the advantage of competition. The Toronto, Grey and Bruce is the favored scheme with our country friends of Colborne, Ashfield and the Wawanosh, since it will be of benefit to them, and the only one of the three schemes which probably could benefit them.

We hope that there will be a large attendance of our country friends, as well as of the town people, at this meeting in order that as full an expression of opinion may be obtained as possible. Our northern friends may obtain such information of the Toronto road as will induce them to take some definite steps in the matter. In the meantime we withhold comment on that scheme.

THE discussion created in the Legislature by a member of the Opposition moving for the appointment of an investigating committee to examine into the affairs of the Central Prison, exhibits the penchant which the Tory members have for making political capital. Notwithstanding the investigation which was made when the report of mismanagement in the prison was circulated, and the fact that the report thereof was sent to be laid before the House, the opportunity to pick a hole in the Government's garment was not let slip. Of course as much odium as possible was endeavoured to be thrown upon the Ministry, although the accusations were unjust, as it certainly is, thus to find fault with the Government because of the reported improprieties of certain of its servants. And further, the investigation which has been made has elicited the fact that the stories of "outrage and mismanagement" were for the most part hoaxes, which ought to satisfy the croakers. The lip philanthropists of the present time, taking the one from Charles Reade, Dickens and Wilkie Collins incline to extravagant respect for the feelings and comfort of criminals. They sympathise with the prisoners to such an extent, that the enforcement of thorough discipline appears to them harsh and unwarrantable. It has to be borne in mind that a prison is a place of punishment, and those committed thereto are not merely put there to be subjects of public sympathy. It is necessary for the security of such a large institution as the Central Prison that discipline be strictly regarded, with due attention to humane treatment, for if no definite programme is observed in the treatment of prisoners, the essential idea of imprisonment is lost sight of. Whilst closely observing the regulations, thus making the prisoner fully aware of his loss of liberty, that sympathy which softens the hearts of wayward ones may often be exercised and with more beneficial effect than under other circumstances. The Opposition has rather demoaned itself in this instance.

ORANGE incorporation is a subject that has frequently tried the patience of our legislators, and the recent action of the Legislature upon this question evinces the temper with which the matter is received. When the Bill of Incorporation was first introduced it was adopted but reserved for the approval of the Governor-General. Sir John A. Macdonald was then Minister of Justice, and upon him this question devolved, but he advised that it be returned to the Provincial authorities, to be by them dealt with. A bill was passed by the Ontario Legislature to meet the demand of the different associations for incorporation, but this has not been deemed sufficient by certain politicians who have brought the OrangeBill forward each session for the purpose of embarrassing the Government. Small reliance is placed on petitions generally, and in past sessions when this bill was brought forward by the Opposition, the Government had just reason to believe that there was no general desire for the measure, which was only a piece of Opposition clap-trap. This year, however, a very large number of petitioners are earnest in their prayer; but, at the same time, it is perfectly evident that it is a Tory movement, actuated by political motives. This latter feeling has been the chief reason of the discontent with the general incorporation bill. But the thing is a small matter after all, and in order to have done with the ever recurring political tilt it would be wise to concede the wishes of these crotchety beings. The whole things seems like a farce, and as no harm can result from granting this special incorporation, why not let us be rid of the trouble, if the Opposition persist in the demand.

IN MICHIGAN a wonderful temperance revival is going on, and one which is taking a pratical course. In Saginaw, Bay City and elsewhere there have been formed anti treating, and temperance clubs. In the former city the membership on the second evening of the meetings numbering 326, while in Bay City some 2000 took the pledge during the first few meetings. The organization is styled the Reform Club, and each member, besides publicly taking a pledge, wears a piece of red ribbon pinned to his coat to distinguish him in public. This serves as a powerful check to the members. In some respects this club is similar to the open temperance association recently formed here, but the temperance men of Michigan have gone further and established an assembly room, fitted up in attractive style and provided with reading matter, games of different kinds and other means of entertainment. A temperance restaurant, in one instance, has been established in connection with the club and pays very well. Auxiliary associations have also been organized by the ladies and the young folks, with remarkable success. Much good is resulting from this agitation, which is making new converts daily. In the Saginaw club we notice that Mr. Richard Wren, an old resident of Goderich, acts as secretary.

A NUMBER of petitions have lately been presented to the Ontario Legislature by the Licensed Victualler's Association, praying for certain amendments in the License Act. To swell the number of signatures an examination of one proved that such names as Governor Hayes, President Tilden, Rip Van Winkle had been signed, and in the case of a petition from Ottawa the Hon. Jas. Skead wrote to the House stating that he was informed his name was attached thereto, which was done without his knowledge or consent. He had no doubt other names were signed in the same way. Such conduct is highly discreditable, as well as criminal.

DOMINION PARLIAMENT.

Ottawa, Feb. 8.

The House opened to-day with more than usual eclat the attendance of spectators being very large and the occasion of the ladies present elegant. Many of the ladies while waiting for the ceremony to begin, whiled away the time working at some light fancy work they had brought with them.

The Judges of the Supreme Court in their robes were seated immediately in front of the Throne in the Senate chamber, and behind them nearly the whole of the space extending back to the bar was occupied by clergymen and other prominent citizens of Ottawa, whilst the ladies occupied the floor of the chamber.

Lord Dufferin was escorted from Rideau Hall by a detachment of the Foot Guards, with band, the Ottawa Troop of Cavalry, whilst the Garrison Artillery fired a salute. His Excellency took his seat on the Throne, and after the usual ceremonies, read the usual speech in English and French:

THE SPEECH.

Honourable Gentlemen of the Senate:
Gentlemen of the House of Commons:

I am glad to be again enabled to summon you to meet for the despatch of business, at the time which has been considered best suited to the convenience of members.

During the recess I visited the Provinces of British Columbia, and had much satisfaction in becoming acquainted with the people of that interesting part of the Dominion, and with the climate and resources of their Province.

The surveys of the Pacific railway have been prosecuted with the utmost vigour, and at a larger cost during the past than in any previous year, but it has not been found possible as yet to complete the location of the line, and I have consequently been obliged to postpone the inviting of tenders for its construction on the terms indicated by the Act of 1874.

A further correspondence on the subjects at issue between my Government and British Columbia will be laid before you.

During the recent suspension of the extradition arrangements with the United States, I took care that the importance to Canada of a speedy resumption of these arrangements should be represented to her Majesty's Government, whose attention has been further invited to the expediency of largely extending the provisions of the existing treaty. I am glad to be able to state that, while the operation of the treaty has been resumed, negotiations are in progress for a convention more liberal and better suited to the circumstances of the two countries.

The attention of my Government having been directed to some anomalies in the Royal Commission and Royal instructions to the Governor General, particularly with regard to the exercise of the prerogative of pardon, steps have been taken towards the amendment of these instruments, papers on this subject, as well as on that of the Extradition question, will be laid before you.

The great public works connected with the St. Lawrence navigation, and the canals required to complete the system, have been prosecuted with success during the past year. Nearly all the works on the Welland and Lachine canals have been placed under contract on terms favorable to the country. The active prosecution of these works during the last three years has necessarily increased the public debt, and though expectations are entertained that the outlay may ultimately be repaid to the country, it may be considered advisable not to press all the works contemplated in the earlier years of Confederation to completion at present.

I am happy to state that the Intercolonial railway was opened for traffic throughout its entire length early in the summer, with as favorable results as could have been expected. One of the immediate advantages of the completion of the railway was the delivery and reception of the British mails at Halifax after the closing of the St. Lawrence, and I am happy to say that; up to the present time, mails and passengers have been successfully carried over the line without any interruption.

The exhibition of Canadian products, manufactures, and works of art at the United States National Exposition at Philadelphia was eminently successful, and proclaimed to the world that Canada has already taken a high place as a farming, manufacturing and mining country. It is gratifying to be able to state that the expenditure was kept well within the estimate. It is but just that I should acknowledge that the success achieved by the enterprise of our people was largely aided by the energy and wisdom of the Commissioners who had charge of the arrangements.

I have considered it advisable in the interest of the country to make arrangements for exhibiting Canadian goods at the exhibition to be held at Sidney, New South Wales, for which you will be asked to make provision.

Notwithstanding the loss of revenue consequent chiefly on the diminution of our importations, the reductions affected during the current year have gone far to restore the equilibrium between income and expenditure, though great economy will be still needful to attain this object.

I regret that I am still unable to announce any progress in obtaining a settlement of the Fishery Claims under the Washington Treaty, though my Government has made every effort to secure that result.

My Commissioners have made further treaty arrangements with certain of the Indian tribes of the Northwest territories, by which their title is extinguished to a very large portion of the territories west of treaty No. 4, and, although some of the provisions of this treaty are of a somewhat onerous and exceptional character, I have thought it nevertheless advisable on the whole to ratify it. This treaty will be placed before you. I have made an engagement to negotiate a treaty with the remaining tribes east of the Rocky Mountains. The expenditure incurred by the Indian treaties is undoubtedly large, but the Canadian policy is nevertheless the cheapest ultimately, if we compare the results with those of other countries, and it is above all a humane, just, and Christian policy. Notwithstanding the deplorable war waged between the Indian tribes in the United States territories and the Government of that country during the last year, no difficulty has arisen with the Canadian tribes living in the immediate vicinity of the scene of hostilities.

You will be asked to consider the expendiency of making such changes in the Joint Stock Company's Act as may obviate for the future the passage of special Acts of Parliament, for the incoporation of various classes of companies, including such corporations as seek to engage in the borrowing and lending of money, by providing for their organization by letters patent.

The desirability of affording additional security to the policy holders of Life Assurance Companies has engaged the attention of my Government, and I trust that the measure which will be submitted will accomplish the desired object.

A measure will be submitted to you for the purpose of extending to the navigation of the inland waters the rights and remedies at present confined to waters within the jurisdiction of the Courts of Vice-Admiralty.

You will be asked to amend and consolidate the laws relating to customs.

I have considered it advisable to provide for the permanent prosecution of the Geological Survey, which has heretofore been carried on under temporary enactments, and to make this a distinct branch of the Civil Service.—Your attention will be invited to a bill for that purpose.

Measures will be submitted, also, for the amendment of the Weights and Measures Act, the Excise laws and other Acts, and also a bill relating to shipping.

Gentlemen of the House of Commons:

The accounts of the past year will be laid before you.

The estimates of the next financial year will also be submitted, and will, I trust, be found to be framed with a view to meet the existing circumstances of the country, while at the same time providing for carrying on the administration of affairs with efficiency.

Honorable Gentlemen of the Senate:
Gentlemen of the House of Commons:

I place full reliance on your prudence and ability, and your devotion to the work of legislation, which I trust may be carried on and completed in such a way as to minister to the prosperity of the country and the unity of the people.

Ten new members were introduced.

Ottawa, Feb. 9.

In the Senate, Hon. Adam Hope moved the address in reply to the Speech, and Hon. Mr. Haythorne seconded. Discussion was adjourned until Monday.

In the House of Commons, the address in reply to the Speech was moved by Mr. Guthrie, Q. C., Mr. Rochard seconding. The usual deprecatory speech was made by the leader of the Opposition and a reply in defence of the Government programme and policy was delivered by the Premier.

The usual committees were appointed and its report on a reply was adopted.

Ontario Legislature.

Toronto, Feb. 8.

The House had its time principally occupied with discussion on dues on pine timber and the question of reduction of members' indemnity.

Toronto, Feb 9.

In Committee of Supply, after some discussion upon the advisability of retaining the Educational Depository, the following items were passed: Maps, Apparatus and Library Books, $60,000; Educational Depository, $9,305; School of Practical Science, $6,690.

Several amendments were made to the License Bill, and progress reported.

Legal Notes.

THE JAIL.—Last week there were 19 prisoners in the jail.

CHANCERY COURT.—The next sittings of this court for Huron will take place at the Court House, on Thursday, 29th March, before Hon. Vice-Chancellor Proudfoot.

SENTENCED.—On Wednesday last, Michael Purcell, for larceny, was sentenced by Judge Toms to three years imprisonment in the penitentiary. He was removed to Kingston on Tuesday by High Constable Trainer and Bailiff John Robinson.

STATISTICAL.—From the Provincial Prison Inspector's report for 1876, we gather the following figures regarding the Huron County jail: Prisoners committed during the year, 139; greatest number committed at one time, 26; number of recommittals, 21; cost of maintaining jail, $2,080.62.

BROCK CIRCUIT.—The Spring Assizes in this circuit, bill be conducted by Hon. Mr. Justice Galt, at times and places as follows: Owen Sound, Tuesday, March 20; Walkerton, Tuesday, April 3; Goderich, Thursday, April 12; Stratford, Tuesday, April 24; Woodstock, Thursday, May 3.

GENERAL SESSIONS.—The adjourned General Sessions opened on Monday before Judge Toms, Peter Adamson, Esq. J. P., associate. Clement Newton, of Goderich township, was appointed a County constable, and the sessions were then adjourned to 26th inst., when judgment will be delivered in several liquor appeal cases.

PLEADS GUILTY.—On Saturday Richard Howard, of Seaforth, was brought before Judge Toms and pleaded guilty to a charge of assault, and will receive sentence on Saturday next. Prisoner has been in jail for about six weeks, having been arrested for entering a house and criminally assaulting one Mrs. Burns, in company with several companions. Efforts have been made to capture these companions, in order to secure evidence, but failing in this, the case was brought up in this way.

HORSE TRADING DIFFICULTY.—Week before last Messrs L. Elliott and D. Cantelon traded horses. A few mornings after the transaction, Mr. Elliott, on going to his stable was surprised to find his own animal their instead of the one which he had got from Mr Cantelon. He turned the horse out, or rather it went off itself, and constable Reed was given a case to work up. It was found that the missing animal was in the possession of a brother-in-law of Mr. Cantelon's in Goderich Township, and there Reed found it. The parties to the case were summoned before Mr. Crabb on Saturday, and after hearing evidence, the case was adjourned to Thursday next.

SERIOUS ASSAULT.—A brutal assault was commited on Sunday night, by two unknown persons on Mr. John Andrews, of the Bayfield Road. As Mr. Andrews, was returning home from church, and when within about half a mile from home, he was met by two young men whom he could not recognize. They stepped aside, and as he was passing them one of the men said "Let us give it him, now," and they immediately set upon Mr. Andrews knocking him down. While on the ground Mr. Andrews was kicked about the head, and the two scoundrels then started towards town. Mr. Andrews proceeded homeward, and found that his wounds were a black eye, several cuts on the face and a severe cut on the side of the head. In the scuffle he tore a piece out of the neck of one of the rascal's coats, besides having changed caps with one of them. High Constable Trainer was sent for the same night, and during Monday he found that the cap which Mr. Andrews had secured belonged to Mr. Wm. Reed of the International Hotel. The cap had been hanging in the hall of the hotel on Sunday, from whence it was evidently stolen. The identity of the authors of the assault is strongly suspected, and they will doubtless soon be brought to justice. A piece of an axe handle was found where the assault was committed, with which probably the wound on Mr. Andrews' head was inflicted. Mr. Andrews' wounds, though painful are healing.

Literary Notes.

CANADIAN MONTHLY—Hart & Rawlinson, Toronto.

Messrs. Adam Stevenson & Co. have ceased the publication of this journal, and Messrs. Hart & Rawlinson now publish it. The February number is more than usually interesting, containing papers on "The age we live in," "Art aspects of the Centennial," "Crime and its treatment," a second paper on "Swift and the women who loved him," a pretty operetta, several racy sketches, brilliant poems—"Sunrise," being one of peculiar beauty—some interesting discussions on current events, book reviews, &c.

CHILDHOOD, THE TEXT BOOK OF THE AGE —by W. F. Crafts, Adam Miller & Co., Toronto.

This is a work which will prove particularly pleasing to parents. It contains a broader moral and decidedly more instruction, whilst sparkling with the pleasantries of childish nature, than "Helen's Babies," and will be read with more satisfaction. It is an of a *podrida*, presenting many amusing anecdotes of the *enfant terrible*, together with many of their quaint and touching remarks, interspersed the authors views of the course of education, giving the programme adopted by Froebel in his scheme of a kindergarten. Many of the ideas of the author are unique, yet well argued, and the reader gets a deep insight into child character, that interesting and instructive study. The work will, we repeat, prove exceedingly interesting to all. For sale at Moorhouses.

About a fortnight ago a cow owned by Wm. Evans of Camden, Ont., gave birth to four perfectly formed, healthy calves.

There are 43,000 clergymen in the United States.

Local News.

ABOUT TOWN.

LUMBER.—The shipments for last week were: Scott, Cousins & Co., 11 cars lumber and 1 car lath; Williams & Murray, 2 cars lumber.

HARBOR MATTS.—During last week the following shipments were made: 5 cars wheat, 2 cars shorts, 100 bbls flour and 3780 bags of flour.

FOUNDRY CO.—This company is doing an extensive business in the manufacture of Middlings purifiers. Two of these machines were shipped last week, one to Morval and the other to the town of Colborne.

REMOVING.—The Est. of R. B. Smith will remove their business to the Glasgow House, Jordan's Block, in ten days. In the meantime great bargains will be offered to the public, in order to reduce the stock as much as possible. See adv.

TABLEAUX VIVANTS.—On Thursday evening last a very large audience assembled in Oddfellows' Hall to witness the entertainment given under the auspices of the St. George's church Sunday School. The children, who were all admitted free, were almost wild with excitement and waited very impatiently for the curtain to rise. Rev. C. H. Channer, who was indefatigable in the effort to make the affair a success, ably assisted by Mrs. Austin and other Sunday School teachers, addressed a few words to the children before the opening of the entertainment, and secured from them excellent order during the evening. The Silver Cornet Band, which was in attendance, played an opening selection, after which the first tableau was presented, entitled "No Rose without a Thorn." A light gauze screen had been suspended in front of the stage, which gave a shadowy and pleasing effect to the various scenes, and when this first tableau was presented with all its pleasing effects, the applause was enthusiastic and the little folks gave vent to such expressions as, "Oh my," "how pretty," "oh, oh," with an emphasis which manifested the depth of their pleasure. The scene represented three little girls, Harriet Widder, Mollie Finlay and Mary Elwood prettily dressed in white, with baskets of roses, seated in the foreground; behind them a lad (George Meyer) trimming the thorns from a rose branch before presenting it to a companion (Mary Elwood); in one corner a little midget (Gilbert Finlay) stealing some nuts out of a jar; in the background a young gentleman (Mr. Ramsey) is placing a ring on a young lady's (Miss Harriett MacDermott) finger, while unseen by them the father (Mr. F. W. Johnston) stands behind with uplifted cane preparing to strike the young man. Following this scene the Misses Trainor sang the duett "Tell me where do Fairies dwell," with excellent taste, receiving loud applause. "Mischief in School" was the next scene, representing the children "playing the mischief" in their own peculiar ways, during the temporary absence of the teacher (Mr. F. W. Johnston), who however, pops in in time to catch his hopefuls in the midst of their sport. The young gentlemen who took part in this were: Jas. Hamilton, Thos. Graham, Joshua Thomas, Chas. Gooding, Marwood Weatherald, Walter Andrews, Lindsay Elwood, Herbert Archibald, Robt. Logan, Geo. Cattle, Thos. Ball and George Meyer. Miss Charlotte Radcliffe then favored the audience with a well executed piano selection, after which the tableau "To market" was presented. This scene represented a set of little peasants returning from market, who meet a dilatory little chap (Alfred Austin) singing "To market, to market to buy a plum bun," and to whom they reply "Home again, home again, market is done." The peasants were Louisa and Jenny Cooke, Susie Black, Edith Weatherald, Minnie Worden, Jas. Hamilton, Chas. Davis, H. Hillyard, W. Williams, and H. Archibald. "You can't put an old head on young shoulders" was a pretty scene, in which a little girl (Blanche Widder) and a little boy (Gilbert Finlay) were being dressed in old fashioned clothing by three older folks Marian Gooding, Lizzie Logan and George Meyer, whilst the young mother, Miss Louisa Wilson, looked on smilingly. An instrumental duett was then rendered in excellent style by Mrs. and Miss Finlay. The next tableau, "The Seasons," was a very pretty one, Spring being represented by Daisy Johnston prettily clad in a gauzy green costume; Summer by Miss Alice Lewis clad in white, crowned with flowers and bearing a basket full of the same; Autumn, by Miss Hamilton, dressed in sober red, crowned with maple leaves and carrying a sheaf and sickle; Winter, by Miss Annie Weatherald dressed in black spangled with snowflakes, her head crowned with icicles and carrying a hatchet and bundle of faggots. The characters also represented the various stages of life, the merry child, the blushing maiden, the sober matron and the tottering old woman. Mr. E. E. Wade following sang "The Tempest" with good effect, receiving an *encore* to which he responded in a song which brought out the full powers of his voice to good effect, "The Fortune Teller" was the next tableau, and one which was much admired, represented on a scene in a gipsy encampment. Two young girls have visited the tent, and one is having her fortune told by a black-haired, scarlet-cloaked gipsy. Other characters were placed in such a way as to give excellent effect to the scene, the *personnel* being as follows: Miss H. MacDermott, Miss Hamilton, Miss Alice Lewis, Miss Annie West, Miss Aggie Ross, Marian Gooding, John Mackid and Cayley Hamilton. Miss Bertha Trainer followed with the pretty song "Bonnie Scotland," which she rendered with great feeling and taste, winning loud applause. The first scene in "Beauty and the Beast" was then presented, in which the merchant (Mr. Ramsey) takes leave of his family, Beauty (Miss Mannie MacDermott) asking her father to bring her a rose, whilst the three other daughters (Misses Bluett, Davis and Wilson) ask for gay dresses. After a very pretty piece of instrumental music had been rendered by Mrs. Finlay, the second scene was presented representing the merchant kneeling suppliantly before the Beast (Mr. H. Conquest), having plucked a rose for which offence he must die. The Beast, or disguised prince, was well gotten up, and rather terrified some of the little folks. While the stage was being prepared for third scene, Miss Hamilton gave a piano solo, "Cathedral Chimes," in a highly artistic manner, that difficult piece being rendered with a delicacy of touch seldom manifested by amateurs. Scene III. represented Beauty and the Beast at supper, she having consented to live in the palace so that her father might be saved. Beauty did not belie her name, and was richly dressed in evening costume, her beauty heightened by contact with her grim looking companion. Following this, Miss Radcliffe rendered another excellent piece of instrumental music, which was well received. The fourth scene represented Beauty's vision—the death of her father, surrounded by his sons (Messrs. A. Mackid, Chas. Sayers and John Mackid) and his daughters. Beauty and the Beast are still at supper, when the curtain at the back is drawn revealing the death scene. Scene five represented the Beast lying upon the ground as if dying, with Beauty kneeling over him. The curtain dropped and rose again almost immediately presenting a scene which delighted every one—the Beast transformed into a beautiful prince, gaily and richly clad kneeling at the feet of blushing Beauty. This final scene was greeted with load applause. This closed the programme, and after the band had played God Save the Queen the audience dispersed. Mr. J. H. Finlay, Mayor, during the evening officiated as "Mrs. Jarley," explaining the different scenes in a racy and amusing manner, which constituted a decidedly interesting feature of the programme. The affair was in every way creditable to those who conceived and carried it out, and Mr. Channer, as well as those who ably assisted him, deserves great credit for his efforts. The proceeds amounted to $40, after paying all expenses.

CHEAP LIGHT.—On passing around the Square, we noticed that G. N. Davis is selling COAL OIL at 40 cts. WARRANTED GOOD.

MAIL ACCOMMODATION.—An agitation is going on in Stratford to have a mail car attached to the morning train running from Goderich, as well as one on the evening train. This would be a great convenience.

S. S. CONVENTION.—The annual convention in connection with the Presbyterian church Sabbath Schools in the County will take place in Clinton, on the 27th inst. An interesting programme will be discussed on the occasion.

POINT FARM.—We are pleased to hear that Mr. J. J. Wright, of the Point Farm, last week received applications from fifteen guests for accommodation next summer. This is commencing early.

GENERAL SHIPMENTS.—For last week the shipments from the station were larger than usual. Among the general items were: 70 bbls. fine salt, Wm. Campbell; 79 bbls do., E. Hooker; 4650 lbs. fish, Wm. Lee; 450 lbs. fish, Jas. Mitchell; 39 pkes. butter, W. Megaw; 500 bushels barley, W. Seymour & Co.; 5 bbls. cranberries, Williams & Murray; 5 rolls leather, W. G. Smith.

PERSONAL.—Mr. A. M. Hardy, an old Goderich boy, now of Natchez, Miss., was in town last week having been called home by the news of his mother's death. Mr. Hardy is editor of the *New South*, and having taken an active interest in the recent Presidential election, he has been before the committee of investigation at Washington, giving evidence regarding Democratic intimidation in Mississippi. He will likely be called to give further evidence.

—We are pleased to see that Mr. F. C. Bond, son of Mr. John Bond, druggist, has passed his examination before the Ontario College of Pharmacy and received his diploma. Out of 53 candidates only 34 passed.

—Mr. F. Jordan last week attended the semi-annual meeting of the council of the Ontario College of Pharmacy, at Toronto.

—We are pleased to learn that Messrs. W. MacDermott (son of H. MacDermott, Esq., Master in Chancery) W. Small of Seager, Wade & Morton's office Robt. C. Hayes of Garrow, Radenhurst & Myers office have passed their primary examination before the Ontario Law Society.

CORRECTION.—Editor SIGNAL,—"Spilled Milk" in SIGNAL and "Upset" in *Star* should read: "While Mr. A. Gerrard, the milkman, was in the mill ordering some bran, his horse being left untied, started in company with the baker's horse and ran up the Harbor Hill. They were both stopped before they got to the top of the hill, very little damage being sustained by either sleigh, except the baker's bread box fell out of the sleigh, and the seat and two measures fell out of the milk sleigh. No milk cans fell out and no milk was spilled, except what would spatter out while the lids remained on. *Star* please copy."

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AMATEUR THEATRICALS.—The Odd-Fellows' Hall was again crowded on Monday evening by a fashionable and intelligent audience, on which occasion the members of the Goderich Thespian club made their *debut* before the playloving citizens. The debutants had every reason to be gratified with their reception, for the audience was thoroughly appreciative, applauding every deserving point of acting and being generously still willed in respect to severe criticism or emphasis. Amateur "knights of the buskin" have much to contend against, the very fact of their assuming a new character and getting rid of themselves for a time is sufficient to prove the difficult nature of the task. In reviewing their acting, therefore, it is necessary to bear them in mind as amateurs, and doing so we must say that the ladies and gentlemen who made their appearance on our stage acquitted themselves well. The whole representation was remarkably free from just or hitches, showing careful preparation on the part of the actors, and the skill of Mr. C. W. Dedrickson as prompter and Mr. R. Radcliffe as stage manager. The comedetta entitled "John Smith" is highly amusing, the plot being as follows: An old bachelor goes to visit a friend in the country to spend Christmas, gets lost in a storm, and finds his way to the wrong house, where preparations are going on for an amateur theatrical performance. The bachelor John Smith, is mistaken for a star actor of the same name who is expected to take part, and the consequence is the poor bachelor is placed in a very awkward position, has a most remarkable experience, but is relieved when the master of the house returns and the misunderstanding is explained Mr. J. H. Finlay undertook the part of the bachelor, and although his acting lacked the essential vigor, he kept the audience in great good humor throughout. The costumes worn by the ladies were very handsome. As Lady Teazle Mrs. Radcliffe wore a rich costume and acted her part with great taste, and Mrs. Austin as Claudia looked charming in that character, wearing a costume of white silk trimmed with lace, and acted her part nicely. Mrs. E. E. Wade and Miss Charlotte Radcliffe, the former as Pauline and the latter as Ophelia and Belvidera deserve particular mention, both as regards their costumes which were handsome, and their acting. Mrs. Wade's delineation of one of the passion scenes in the Lady of Lyons was really fine, whilst Miss Radcliffe's Ophelia was admirable, her conception of the demented beauty's moods and her singing being greatly admired. In face and form she was well adapted to the character. As Belvidera her acting was spirited and tasteful. Mrs. Finlay, as Jane Shore, performed her part with vigor and effect, and Mrs. Thompson acquitted herself well as Pathenia, her costume being well conceived and pretty. The male characters were well sustained, Mr E. E. Wade as Hamlet and Jaffier and Mr. R. Radcliffe as Rolla sustaining their parts with the spirit of artists. Mr. McFadden as Macbeth and Mr. F. W. Johnston as Macduff wore the "bonnet, kilt and feather" like true sons of Scotia, and said their little speeches with a due regard to Hamlet's advice not to mouth or tear in pieces. Dr. Thompson as Shore sustained the character will, whilst Mr. Ramsey as Ingomar, whose make up was admirable, acquitted himself satisfactorily. Mr. Conquest as John the servant had but little to perform, but "did that little well," and Mr. Dyett, in his limited part, acted with ease and grace. In the intermission Dr. Thompson favored the audience with that solemn melody "Three black crows," the crows accompanying him in the persons of three unknown individuals perched on high stools, whose duty it was to join in the chorus of "Caw, caw, caw," with as much similarity to those birds as possible. The piece created great amusement, and was loudly encored. Mr E. E. Wade also sang "The troubles of a poor old man," a most amusing song, which was loudly applauded. The farce "Number 137 B," followed, and proved the best feature of the programme. Mrs. Wickins as acted by Mrs. Radcliffe was faithfully represented, whilst Mrs. Finlay as Arabella Jane Ann acted with a dash and spirit which elicited loud and well merited applause. Mr. R. Radcliffe played the leading part, Mr. Simbo Bones, in a most amusing manner. His make up was very good, and the enthusiastic bone player and negro minstrel was represented with the spirit of a Cool Burgess. Mr. Radcliffe was loudly applauded. Mr. H. Conquest as the Ethiopian Prince, Mr. Dyett as Orlando Smith and Mr. J. H. Finlay as Mr. Wickins did full justice to their respective roles. The performance was brought to a close by the company singing the National Anthem. The audience seemed highly pleased with the entertainment and we doubt not all who were present would like to have the opportunity of again witnessing a performance by the Thespian Club before the end of the season. The Silver Cornet Band, we must not omit to mention was present and performed several excellent pieces of music.

RAILWAY MEETING.—At 2 p. m. today, a meeting to discuss railway matters is to be held in Dungannon. It is expected the surrounding country will be represented, and we hope some of the Goderich people will put in an appearance, and give their views on the matter.

SAVINGS AND LOAN SOCIETY.—In drawing attention to the Superior Savings and Loan Society of London, Ont., we can recommend it to capitalists and others wishing a good investment for money. The Society has been very successful since it commenced business about 12 months ago. After paying two dividends of a little over 8 per cent. per annum, there is now a net or reserve fund of nearly $7,008. The amount of stock subscribed amounts to $325,000. A Savings Bank in connection with the society has been opened and over $20,000 deposited in about 3 months. The flourishing condition the society is in will no doubt in a short time make it one of the first monetary institutions in the Province. See advt. in another column.

COOL BURGESS.—This distinguished Canadian comedian, together with his talented company, appeared before a large audience in Oddfellows' Hall, on Tuesday evening of last week. Cool fairly excelled himself on this occasion both in his "swell" songs and his negro delineations. His conception of the latter character is inimitable, and, although Mr. Burgess did not give his favorite "Nicodemus 2d Johnson," his delineations were superior to everything we have seen of the kind. His singing of the fine patriotic song "Canada our Home," was received with loud applause. An excellent company supported Mr. Burgess, in the Dutch and Irish comedians, as well as the two lady artists who sang very nicely, one of them possessing a rich Scotch brogue which appeared to excellent advantage in the opening piece. The entertainment was the best of the kind which has visited Goderich for some time past.

GODERICH HIGH SCHOOL.—The Board of High School Trustees met on Wednesday last, and organized for the current year by re-appointing Wm. Kay, Esq., Chairman, and P. Adamson, Esq., Secretary. The Head Master presented a report in regard to the attendance and work of the school, of which the following is a summary: Total number of pupils attending during 1876, 106; average attendance first half of year, 60; average attendance last half of year, 59. No. on Register for January, 1877, 86; for 1876, 81; increase 5. Average attendance for Jan. 1877, 78; for 1876, 63; increase 12. The number of pupils that passed professional or other test examinations during 1876 was as follows: Matriculated in Medicine, 1; entered Knox College, 1; Normal School, 1; Military College, 1; obtained 2nd class certificates, 2; obtained specially endorsed 2d class certificates, 2; obtained ordinary 3d class certificates, 9; passed intermediate examination, 8. Of the 86 in the register for January, 1877, the number of pupils preparing directly for examinations is as follows: For 2nd class cert