

The Guelph Herald.

THURSDAY EVENING, MAY 15, 1879.

MR. LAIDLAW'S MEETING.

From the report upon another page our readers will easily gather that Mr. Laidlaw did not have a very successful meeting in the city hall last night. The number of his supporters present was very limited and their enthusiasm was not by any means noticeable. Fully half, or even more, of those who attended the meeting were opponents of Mr. Laidlaw and the Mowat government. It may well be doubted whether any political candidate ever called a mass meeting in Guelph and was greeted by so small an audience. Mr. Laidlaw may know his fate from last night's proceedings. His speech was a very mild justification of the Mowat government which, he admitted, was not at all perfect though as good, perhaps, as it was wise to expect from frail humanity. He followed pretty closely the line taken in his address, and said nothing either to confirm the faith of those who believe in Mr. Mowat's administration, or dissipate the doubts of those others who know not Oliver the saint for a character in real life. On the whole it was a harmless speech and did as little discredit as possible to the Grit candidate. A man could not very well support the Mowat government and say much less for it. Mr. J. J. Hawkins made a most logical and convincing speech, and went over more ground in less time than it is given to many to be able to do. His exposure of the way in which the modern Grit claims kinship with the dead Sandfield Macdonald was very telling. When Sandfield was alive no abuse was too bad for him but now the Grit leaders profess to reverence his memory. From 1867 to 1871 the Grits wanted his place; from that time forward they have wanted his reputation. Mr. Hawkins' criticisms of the railway policy of the Blake-Mackenzie and Mowat governments, were very well received and evidently were acceptable to the majority of the audience. The invidious distinction made between the farmers' sons' franchise and the owner of town or city property's franchise was clearly pointed out, and while Mr. Hawkins did not object to the farmers' sons having the franchise, he decidedly objected to class legislation. In fact Mr. Hawkins made so many good points against the Mowat administration that the audience felt constantly called upon to applaud vigorously. Although frequently interrupted by members of the audience he answered all questions propounded with the utmost courtesy and patience. Regarding the meeting in the light of an exhibition of Mr. Laidlaw's strength in this city, the most sanguine and the most stubborn of Grits must admit that it was a miserable failure. No party leader can conceal that disastrous fact. Mr. Hawkins' brief reference to the national policy elicited such an approving demonstration from the audience as to at once show the popular sentiment here on that great question. The people of Guelph have not regretted their patriotic regard for the national policy. As to Mr. Dunbar's personal attack on Mr. Hawkins, it is safe to say that it has not injured Mr. Hawkins in the least. It was quite unnecessary and unjustifiable.

The committee on agriculture of the American congress has agreed upon a bill to crush out the cattle disease. It appropriates \$25,000. It authorizes the commissioner of agriculture to appoint no more than three agents in each section at such points as he may select on the great lines of inter-state communication; their duty is to inspect passing cattle. Experts are also to be appointed whose duties are to be general throughout the country. The authority of the committee will recommend state action in the matter.

The Detroit Free Press has become possessed of the strange idea that what it calls the "Canadian Exodus" is a movement on the part of Canadians in search of homes in the Western States and territories. It is very true that there is a large "exodus" from old Canada going on at present, but Manitoba and our own North-west territories are the destinations of the emigrants, and not the Western States and territories. The people of the Western States will not therefore have that admirable opportunity to compare the Canadian and colored classes of immigrants which the Free Press anticipates.

On Tuesday the debate on the third reading of the Campbell divorce bill took place in the house of commons. Sir John at once took the ground that it was ultra vires, the Dominion parliament being confined in its jurisdiction to the simple relations arising out of the marriage tie, the incidents lying within the scope of provincial legislation. The danger of confusing the legislative and judicial functions was strongly pressed by him, and later on by Mr. Mosseau, who contended that what was virtually asked was the reversal of a decision by a provincial court, and that a court of appeals was the proper place to go for this purpose. Mr. Conroy, in the course of a short and strong argument against allowing this bill to establish a precedent that would be sure to be regretted, censured the publication of the evidence by the senate in these cases. Mr. Macmillan, however, came to the support of Mr. McDougall, and summed up the case for Mrs. Campbell to such effect that Mr. Mills' motion for the three months hoist was rejected by a vote of 56 to 38, and the bill was carried on the same division.

The estimated sugar supply of the world, including corn, beet, and all the other sugars, is 5,105,000 tons for the present year. Of this 3,520,000 tons is cane sugar, 1,465,000 tons is beet sugar, and 1,120,000 tons is other sugars. Of cane sugars, by far the largest portion comes from India, whose production is 1,500,000 tons; Cuba, next in rank, produces 580,000 tons; British West Indies and Demarara yield 250,000 tons, and Java 220,000 tons. Louisiana is set down for 100,000 tons. France is the greatest producer of beet sugar, leading the list at 420,000 tons; Germany follows with 390,000 tons; Austria, 325,000; Russia, 220,000; Belgium, 165,000; Holland, 25,000, and other countries 10,000. The Cuban crop of sugar promises to be as large, if not larger than that of the previous year, and from all present indications the prices of the raw material will not materially advance, if at all. This old world ought to grow sweeter as it grows older, and if the increased consumption of sugar is any evidence of the approach of the millennium we will do well to live in anticipation of the happy event.

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