

LOCAL NEWS.—We shall be glad, at all times, to receive items of local interest, or any incident which may be interesting, either in the locality in which it occurs, or in the County generally. Matter of this kind may be sent as "Printer's Copy," at the rate of 1 cent per line, if so marked and not sealed; but to ensure appearance, would require to be received by Tuesday evening before publication at the office.

THE ADVOCATE.

FRIDAY, FEB. 2ND, 1877.

The Tax Compromise Bill has passed both Houses, the majority being considerably over two-thirds in the House of Representatives. The President having signed it, the joint committee has also been appointed, those from the Senate being Edmunds, Morton, Frelinghuysen, Thurman and Bayard; those from the House of Representatives Payne, Hunter, Abbott, Garfield and Hoar. The fifth member of the Supreme Court has not yet been appointed, but it is believed that Judge Bradley will be chosen.

The Cabinet office vacated by the elevation of the Hon. Mr. Letellier de St. Just to the Lieutenant-Governorship of Quebec has been filled by the appointment of Mr. Pelletier as Minister of Agriculture. The new Cabinet Minister has sat continuously in the House of Commons as member for Kamouraska since 1869, and was returned at the last general election by acclamation. In politics he has always been a thorough Liberal, and ever since the accession of the present Government to office he has recorded to it an intelligent and consistent support.

The Manitoba Legislature, which has just opened, has a good programme for the session's work. Expenditure has been kept within income, in spite of some extraordinary outlay to guard against small-pox, which will be partially repaid by the Dominion. The wild land tax is to be readjusted so as to produce more income. The speech from the throne thanks Providence for a good harvest, and the Dominion Government for grasshopper and seed grain relief. It congratulates the Dominion on railway progress. An appeal will be made to have land reserves thrown open to settlement.

It will be noticed by the County Council proceedings that the manner in which our County Judge discharges his duties has been taken notice of by that august body, and a resolution passed, praying that the Lieut. Governor of the Province should appoint a Commissioner to inquire into the conduct of said Judge. Many complaints have certainly been made in this matter, but now that an arrangement has been made whereby the Middlesex Judges take their turn in Lambton, we think matters might have been left as they were until the new system had been tried. When an opportunity had been given to compare the conduct of the different Judges, when, if it was not satisfactory, would have been the time to act.

The peace negotiations appear to be progressing favourably. Turkey having at last seen the advisability of modifying her demands. Even from Russia the news is encouraging for the prospects of an amicable arrangement, inasmuch as it is understood that the peace party in the Cabinet are prevailing. The report of Gortschakoff's resignation, to be succeeded by Walewicz, is confirmed, as is also that announcing that the army of Bessarabia will be withdrawn, and a body of 80,000 men left merely as a corps of observation. The negotiations between Turkey and Serbia are progressing satisfactorily, and it is expected that a preliminary treaty will be signed within three days. Russia's warlike preparations are still going on, if anything, with increased activity, but her future operations are likely to be seriously hampered by her lack of funds, her last attempt to raise a loan in Amsterdam and in Germany having proved a complete failure.

The London Herald extracts considerable comfort from the fact that Mr. Geo. Shirley, a Conservative, has been elected Warden of Lambton, says that the circumstance is full of significance, and warns Mr. Mackenzie to look out for another seat! Of course, there can be no objection to anybody taking all the comfort possible out of such an instance of "Conservative Reaction," but then everybody does not look at things in just exactly the same light. Now, we see nothing more in the election than the recognition of long, able and faithful municipal services, and as to the fact of the County Council being Tory, why it only shows that the Reformers were willing to vote for a good man wherever they found him, without reference to his politics. If the election of Lambton depended upon a strict party vote, and the election of a Wardman upon that vote, then Mr. Shirley would not have occupied the position he does for 1877. If the Herald actually thinks that Mr. Shirley's elevation to the Wardenship has in the slightest degree affected the Hon. Mr. Mackenzie's seat in Lambton, it is woefully mistaken. But we fancy the wish is only father to the thought. However, we might inform the Herald that Mr. Mackenzie's constituents and Mr. Mackenzie understand each other perfectly, and there exists no desire for a change whatever. Lambton feels honored in having for its representative the Premier of the Dominion, and will no doubt assist testily to the fact when the time comes for a renewal of the confidence it has so often displayed in the past.

Editorial Items.

One of the chief clerks in the Banque de Paris is a defaulter to the amount of six hundred thousand francs (\$120,000).

The last Official Gazette contains an announcement of a new issue of eight per cent Dominion stock to the amount of five million dollars.

The report of the special Florida Committee of the House of Representatives gives Tilden an indisputable majority of ninety in that State.

Dr. Slade, the American spiritualist, whose trial recently caused a sensation in England, has been discharged from custody on a legal technicality.

Mr. J. Baldwin, barrister, was selected at the Reform Convention at Kingston on Tuesday as the Ministerial candidate in the coming contest in Frontenac.

President Grant is reported as expressing his belief that the time has arrived for the resumption of specie payments, and that the present Congress cannot do better than take legislative action with that object.

The names of Mr. Z. Perreault and Sheriff Tackie are mentioned as, respectively, the Reform and Conservative candidates for the seat for Kamouraska vacated by the appointment of Mr. Pelletier to the Senate.

No less than five candidates for the local representation of Frontenac are in the field. Messrs. Davidson and Calvin are respectively the Reform and Conservative nominees, and Messrs. William Murray, Dawson, and Waggoner will run on the Independent ticket.

The jury in the inquest on the Brooklyn Theatre fire have returned a verdict finding the management of the theatre responsible for the disaster, in neglecting to furnish necessary appliances for extinguishing fire and to maintain proper discipline.

The winter steamer Northern Light is reported frozen in a sea of hummocky ice some ten miles from Picton Island. Unless a storm sets in soon and breaks up the ice, she will probably remain in the same position until spring, and the crew will have to force their way to the mainland through the ice in boats.

MONEY AND VOTES.

Mr. Bethune's favorite scheme for granting additional votes in proportion to the amount of assessable property does not merit a very enthusiastic reception. At first sight, the scheme appears to be equitable. Looking at a municipality as a joint stock association, it would seem that the holders of much stock ought to have the most to say about the management of the company.

In banking and other joint stock companies, the large stockholders can combine to control the business, and a small stockholder is not generally thought to suffer any hardship. But to apply this precedent, it is necessary to establish a similarity between a municipality and a joint stock company. Municipal councils have something else to do besides the levying of taxes and the appropriation of money. By the cumulative scheme, a few large property-holders could so manage as to enhance the value of their own property at the general expense, while poor men's lots were neglected. In a joint stock company whatever improves the value of one share must do the same for all the shares. In a town or city the reverse of this is true. One man or locality could rob the rest if the power was afforded to do so. The check against this sort of thing in the poor man's vote being of equal force with that of the rich man. The most desirable persons to be chosen for councilors, other things being equal, are moderate tax-payers. An impecunious man may be reckless about spending money of which he will have to contribute very little. A plutocrat may oppose very little because he has a large share to it. The giving of one vote to each taxpayer in a ward is not so unjust as may be thought towards the heavy ratepayers. Wealth is an aid to influence, and a rich man naturally exerts a deal of influence over the opinions and votes of his tenants, employees and neighbors, unless he happens to belong to a class of rich men who deserve to have little voice in public affairs. To give the rich extra votes, in addition to their natural influence, would destroy a well-established balance of power, under which the municipal system has worked advantageously.—Advertiser.

The London police are engaged in the investigation of a very mysterious case of poisoning which has occurred at Marylebone. The parties concerned are a young man named Alexander Lewington and a young woman named Louisa Murray, the wife of a publisher living in Great Litchfield street. Being related by marriage they were on intimate terms with each other, but as far as can be ascertained there was nothing more than ordinary family friendship existing between them, and certainly no suspicious of anything wrong were entertained. Lewington was an assistant to his uncle, who is a chemist in Cleveland street, and had the object of drugs in the shop. Late on Saturday night he went to Mrs. Murray's house, and proposed that they should poison themselves, producing at the same time a bottle of poison which he took from his pocket. She hesitated a long time, but at last took a draught. Lewington also drank from the bottle and then returned to his uncle's shop, where he took another draught, from the effects of which he died. The woman became seriously ill, and on confessing what had happened a doctor was sent for and succeeded in saving her life. She is now in custody. The friends of the parties profess to be utterly unable to account for the occurrence.

ONTARIO LEGISLATURE.

Toronto, Jan. 25.

The House went into Committee of Supply, and passed several items, when the committee reported.

Hon. Mr. Crooks moved the second reading of the Bill to Amend the Act Respecting the Sale of Formosa and Spirituous Liquors. Mr. Meredith contended that the Commissioners appointed under the present law ought not to have been connected with politics. One in East Middlesex had been a member of Parliament, supporting the party now in power, and the three in London were Government supporters, one having been recently defeated at the polls. He did not accuse them of being actuated by corrupt motives, but thought it was injudicious of the Government to appoint them.

Hon. Mr. Wood said it was natural for the Government to support their own friends, who were friends to the measure, instead of those who had attacked it. Conservatives had been appointed in some instances, though the majority were Reformers. From returns obtained by the Government it seemed that 1,027 Conservatives and 2,275 Reformers had been appointed, and 327 of the former had been refused to 372 of the latter.

Mr. Bester raised a point of order that the bill had not been distributed, which, being sustained by the Speaker, caused the order to be postponed.

Hon. Mr. Wood moved the second reading of the Bill to Amend the Voters' List Act. He proposed to amend the oath in reference to residence by allowing persons to vote, on the basis of the preparation of the lists; to make the lists final, except in certain cases; to allow appeals from the decision of the County Judges and to make other smaller amendments.

Hon. Mr. Mowat was not prepared to assent to the measure. At present a scrutiny now only took place in a few cases, but under this bill it would take place in every municipality every year. The present law had proved a success, and he was not prepared to change it. The evils had arisen in reference to persons removing during the preparation of the rolls, but he did not think this bill would obviate the difficulty.

Mr. Hardy contended that the bill did not readjust the lists, but would leave them as they were in the Dominion election.

Hon. Mr. Macdougall favored making the lists final as they were in the Dominion election.

Messrs. Scott and Creighton supported the bill, which was opposed by Mr. Ferris.

Mr. Cameron favored the voters' list being final, and believed in securing the integrity of the franchise by the amendment of the law, and supported the bill as an improvement on the present law.

Hon. Mr. Panton defended the action of the Government, and Mr. Hodgins replied. After some remarks by Hon. Mr. Mowat, the House divided, and the motion was carried by 22 yeas to 31 nays, when the bill was read a second time.

Mr. Hodgins said he had gained the end he desired, and would not proceed further.

In reply to Mr. O'Donoghue, Hon. Mr. Mowat said the Government did not intend to erect a Model School this year in connection with the Normal School at Ottawa.

The House adjourned at 10.35 p.m. till Monday.

Toronto, Jan. 26.

About 50 or 60 members of the Legislature, with a score or two of invited guests, gathered at the Hotel Hamilton, to inspect the Model Farm.

The members of the Legislature who visited the Model Farm returned at seven o'clock this evening. They were entertained to two luncheons, one by the County Council and the other at the Model Farm. They were presented with an address by the County Council, and driven round town to report progress.

Toronto, Jan. 29.

The Speaker presented a report of the Commissioners on the Estate Bills.

A large number of private bills were advanced.

The Speaker moved to Amend the Assessment Act of 1875-76, and the House Bill to Amend the Assessment Act of 1875, were read a second time and referred to the Committee on Bill 21.

Hon. Mr. Crooks presented the return of receipts and expenditures for 1876.

Hon. Mr. Wood presented a report of the Ontario Art School, and of the Inspector of Asylums and Charities.

The House adjourned at 3.50.

Toronto, Jan. 30.

On motion to adopt the report of the Private Bills Committee, declaring the preamble of the Bill to Re-unite the North and South Ridings of the City of Toronto, was read a second time and referred to the Committee on Bill 21.

Hon. Mr. Crooks moved to refer the report to the committee, with instructions to declare the preamble proven.

After a long discussion, Mr. Creighton's motion was lost by 22 to 23.

Hon. Mr. Mowat introduced a Bill Respecting the County Court and General Sessions of the Peace, explaining the object of the bill to be to expedite business. It was proposed to change the time of holding the court to coincide the terms to simultaneously, and to employ a short hand written system.

The bill was read a first time.

Hon. Mr. Fraser introduced a Bill to Give the Right of Voting to Farmers' Sons in Certain Cases. The bill defined a farm to be land occupied by the owner, and not less than twenty acres. A farmer's son was defined to be any male person not otherwise qualified to vote, and being the son of the owner and the actual occupant of the farm. To prevent fraud, the son was to have been domiciled on his father's farm a year before the assessment, and was not to be allowed away in the woods more than four months in the year.

Hon. Mr. Crooks moved a second reading of the License Bill, explaining that the intention was to improve the machinery for carrying out the present law.

Mr. Merrick complained that the municipalities had to bear most of the expense of carrying out the law. The Act of last session was an improvement on the previous law, but he objected to the Government taking so much percentage into their own hands.

After remarks by Messrs. Clarke (Norfolk), Creighton, Preston, Broder, Richardson, Widdell and Lander.

Hon. Mr. Wood complained that the temperance people did not like the Government in carrying out the law. The Commissioners had done their duty, and the only complaint had been in particular cases. The general operation of the Act had been successful.

After further discussion, the bill was read a second time.

The House adjourned at 12 midnight.

Lambton County Council.

[From the Canadian.]

Sarnia, Jan. 23, 1877.

After the election of Warden, an invitation was read from the Mayor, asking the Mayor to supper at his house in the evening. The invitation was accepted with thanks.

Mr. Hunt moved, seconded by Mr. McMillen, that Messrs. Fleck, Lewis, Foussette, Rae and the mover be a Committee to Strike the Standing Committees, Mr. Fleck chairman.

Mr. Lewis moved, seconded by Mr. Rae, that the Council do now go into Committee of the Whole on by-law to appoint Auditors. Carried.

The Council accordingly went into committee of the whole, Col. Campbell in the chair, and rose, and the Warden having remained in the chair, reported the blanks in the By-law filled in with the names of M. Sullivan, the appointee of the Warden, and G. E. Murphy to the Council, as County Auditors, and the names of R. Fleck and E. Trip, Esqrs., as members of the Board of Audit, and the respective salaries, and adopted.

On motion of Mr. White, seconded by Mr. Hunt, the Council then adjourned till to-morrow at 10 a.m.

Sarnia, Jan. 24.

The Council met pursuant to adjournment, all the members present, the Warden in the chair.

The Treasurer's bond in compliance with usage was laid before the Council.

Mr. Lewis moved, seconded by Mr. McMillen, that the bond of the Treasurer be approved. Carried.

An account of Joseph Ash, employed as a special constable in the matter of the Grand Trunk strike, for \$1.80, being paid for his services, was referred by the Auditors with memoranda.

Mr. McMillen moved, seconded by Mr. Proctor, that the County Solicitor's advice be taken in the matter of the acts of special constables employed during the Grand Trunk strike.

the state of the said Fund. He also called the attention of the Council to the fact that there is need of certain furniture in his office. Mr. McMillen moved, seconded by Mr. Campbell, that the Treasurer's account be referred to the Finance Committee. Carried.

A communication from the Clerk of Huron to the County Treasurer was read, stating that the bridge at Grand Bend had been repaired at an expense of \$268.88, and J. H. Jones, Esq., the County Engineer, was on motion of Mr. Lewis, seconded by Mr. Rae, heard in regard to said repairs.

Mr. Kimball moved, seconded by Mr. Lewis, that the Council do now adjourn till 2 o'clock this afternoon. Carried.

The Council met at 2 p.m., members all present.

Mr. Lewis moved, seconded by Mr. McMillen, that the by-law for the payment of Grand and Petit Jurors for the current year be now read a first time. Carried, and by-law read a first time.

Mr. Rawlings moved, seconded by Mr. Smith, that the by-law to grant a sum of money for the town-line between Warwick and Plympton be now read a first time. Carried, and by-law read a first time.

Mr. Thomson moved, seconded by Mr. Kimball, that the by-law to grant a sum of money for the town-line between the Gore of Chatham in the County of Kent, and the Gore of Chatham in the County of Lambton, be now read a first time. Carried, and by-law read a first time.

Mr. McMillen moved, seconded by Mr. Rawlings, that the by-law to grant a sum of money for the town-line between the Gore of Chatham in the County of Kent, and the Gore of Chatham in the County of Lambton, be now read a first time. Carried, and by-law read a first time.

A communication from the President of the Sarnia and Florence Road company with a copy of a resolution passed by the directors of the said road, was read.

Mr. McMillen moved, seconded by Mr. Foussette, that the opinion of the County Solicitor be obtained in the matter of the abandonment of the part of the Sarnia and Florence Road, within the township of Enniskillen in the following questions:

1st. That the by-law to grant a sum of money for the town-line between the Gore of Chatham in the County of Kent, and the Gore of Chatham in the County of Lambton, be now read a first time.

2nd. If they have, it is the business of the county or township, to keep the part abandoned in repair?

Mr. Vahy moved, seconded by Mr. Campbell, that the by-law altering the boundaries of the Village of Arkona, within the township of Enniskillen, in accordance with a resolution of the Council of said village, be now read a first time. Carried, and by-law read a first time.

The report of the Committee to strike Standing Committees was presented and read by the chairman, and it was

Moved by Mr. Fleck, seconded by Mr. Kimball, that the report of the Committee to strike Standing Committees be adopted.

Moved by Mr. McMillen, that the report be referred back to the Committee for reconsideration. The amendment was lost, and the original motion was put and carried.

Mr. Rae moved, seconded by Mr. Fleck, that the Clerk be instructed, and he hereby instructs him to inform John Ferguson, Esq., Commissioner for repairing the bridge at Grand Bend, that the expenses incurred in repairing the bridge be paid as soon as has been fully reported the completion of said repairs. Carried.

Mr. Fleck moved, seconded by Mr. Spurling, that where complaints have been and are being made in all parts of the County of Lambton, against the administration of the duties of the Judge of the County Court of the County of Lambton by Charles Robinson, Esq., the present holder of the office,

It is therefore resolved, that in view of the said complaints, which set forth the indecent haste with which causes are tried, the violence of the language used, and the difference in the rights of suitors, and his general inability and incapacity properly to perform the duties of his office, and his general conduct in office, that the Council beg leave to request that the Lieutenant-Governor of the Province do remove the said Charles Robinson, Esq., from the office of Judge of the County Court of the County of Lambton.

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