

From Ottawa.

Seventeen election petitions have been or are before the Speaker, on objections to the recognitions.

It is said the consideration of the North-west Resolutions will be brought up on Thursday next. It is reported that the Hon. Joseph Howe will object to the government of Rupert's Land by Canada—his view being that Great Britain should organize Crown colonies in the North-west and assume the responsibility of governing that territory.

It is stated here that the Confederate Government has paid over to Nova Scotia the six months' instalment of the amount accruing to that Province at the rate of 80c per head. Accounts received here from Nova Scotia represent the feeling against the Union to be strengthened in consequence of the postage on newspapers. It seems, also, that all the petty appointments in that Province in the gift of the Dominion are being filled up from the party who have been defeated at the polls.

There are various reports as to the extent of the deficit for the fiscal year, ending June 30th, 1867. Some reports place it as high as five millions of dollars. No one seems to know here whether the Tariff will be brought down before the adjournment or not.

It is expected Parliament will adjourn in two weeks.

Parliament of Canada.

House of Commons, Ottawa, Dec. 2.

Sir John A. Macdonald gave notice that on Wednesday he would move for leave to introduce a bill respecting the construction of the Intercolonial Railway. Mr. McDougall stated that an arrangement had been made with the United States Government whereby a mail was sent by every steamer to St. Thomas, in the West Indies. He also stated that it was for the Local Government to decide as to the steps to be taken for the restoration of the Government House in Toronto.

The motion for the second reading of the St. Lawrence and Ottawa Railroad Bill gave rise to considerable discussion. Messrs. Smith, McKelvie and Blake thought the matter ought to be left with the Local Legislature; the Premier maintained that the Bill ought to be allowed to go to committee, and as to whether the measure was ready for the general good, or only a local benefit, the Committee should decide, on hearing evidence upon the subject.

Dr. Parker moved an address for orders in Council relating to excise duty or service, &c. He said he moved for the reasons because the information will, he thought, show that the excise department was administered something oppressively to manufacturers, and as far as appointments are concerned, with negligence and inattention. During the last session, it was stated that the excise service required to be reorganized at the commencement of the recess. A number of Inspectors have been placed over divisions, yet it was doubtful if they had been appointed, and to protect the revenue, the collectors had been forced to charge parties on their own responsibility in charge of distilleries, where they had remained for months under pay, without any proper appointment. He believed the returns asked for would show that the books and forms supplied to collectors were frequently changed, involving unnecessary expense for printing. Again, under the orders of the Department, manufacturers had been forced to incur large costs in new apparatus, which could not be supplied by the time their licences expired and as they were not allowed to work without them they were subjected to serious loss by the delay. The motion was agreed to.

Mr. McDougall postponed his resolutions on the North-West Territory till to day, in order to allow time for the correspondence on the subject to be brought down for the information of the members. The Premier's resolutions on the Intercolonial Railway are promised for to day. The bill for the interpretation and construction of the statutes and the Habeas Corpus Suspension Bill, were read a third time and passed.

The Abyssinian Expedition.

The Abyssinian drama is now fairly commenced. The scouting parties have landed and are busy making their explorations—feeling their way: but nothing indicates that they are expected—no activity being displayed by Theodore, either from indifference or impotence. Great diversity of opinion long prevailed as to the most suitable landing place, but at length Amstey Bay enjoyed the preference. At one time Massowah was popular, but on closer enquiry it presented manifold drawbacks. It is a mere coral rock, one mile and a half by three-quarters, elevated at the highest points but four feet above the sea—one end occupied by the population, the other a country without water, except that saved in tanks, so the inhabitants have to seek supplies on the main land. It is probably the hottest spot on the globe. Pondicherry had an unenviable reputation in that respect, till the troops experienced the heat of Aden. An Indian officer compares one place to a hot bath, the second to a furnace; but he says nothing but a place he never visited can equal Massowah. In May the thermometer indicates 120 in the shade, and during July and August the temperature is much higher. The centre eastern seaboard seems a detestable locality—brackish waters, fevers and deserts are the characteristics; while the interval between Amstey Bay and the mountains range is only sixteen hours' marching, so that the troops enter a region where water and grass can be procured, and heat is moderate almost on landing. The invading force will be abundantly supplied with food by a swarm of transports, even if the country should prove denuded of animals and grain, though there is every probability that both will be found with a profusion of game. The climate must be an enjoyable one, if the thermometer speaks truly and the accounts of the travellers are to be credited. Abyssinia is the Switzer-land of Africa. Situated in a lower latitude, some of its mountains rise to an altitude of 15,000 feet, and carry snow; but the general aspect is a succession of hills and valleys, both covered with herbage. There never was an invasion planned where the invaders knew so little of the forces to be confronted, or where vital blows should be struck. At one time Theodore had a force of sixty thousand men, but latterly his power has been shattered by the defection and hostility

Town Council.

The Council met on Monday night. Present the Mayor in the chair; Messrs. Peterson, Heffernan, Chadwick, Sayers, Thomson, Galbraith, Melvin, Mays, Mitchell, Massie, Herod, Harvey and Day. The Clerk read the following communication from Mr. Higinbotham:—

GUELPH, Nov. 23d, 1867.

To the Mayor and Council of Guelph:

GENTLEMEN.—Mr. E. Harvey and I have arranged that he shall fulfil our agreement to supply coal oil to the Corporation, and I hereby respectfully request that you will relieve me from the guarantee that the same will be duly performed by him. Your obedient servant, N. HIGINBOTHAM.

I respectfully pray that the above request may be acceded to, and engage duly to perform said engagement myself. E. HARVEY.

The following petitions were presented: By Mr. Heffernan from Arch'd Crooks, asking to be relieved of his income tax, because he has not earned \$300 during the past year. By Mr. Galbraith from James Massey & Co., stating that they are assessed twice on income and twice on property in the West Ward, and asking that the mistake be rectified. By Mr. Massie from Thos. Smith, asking to remit income tax on \$300, as he had for three years been out of the Dominion. By Mr. Melvin from James Henderson, asking to be relieved of dog tax, as he had been shot immediately after the assessors were round; also from C. Adsett, stating that he had been charged for \$400 more in tax bill than was in the schedule. By Mr. Sayers from Jas. O'Neil, asking a reduction of his taxes on the ground that they are much higher than they were last year; also from John Daley, asking to remit his taxes as he is unable to pay them. They were referred to the Finance Committee.

When Mr. Higinbotham's communication came up to be disposed of, Dr. Herod said he would like to see the contract.

The Clerk produced and read it, which was to the effect that Messrs. Higinbotham and Harvey agreed to deliver 40 barrels of coal oil at 15c per gallon, the oil to be delivered as required, and for which they were paid in advance.

Dr. Herod said that as the transaction had gone through the hands of the Fire and Water Committee, it was proper to remit the matter to that Committee to make the proper enquiries. He did not think it was right that the prayer of the petition should be granted unless the reasons were stated to the Council why Mr. Higinbotham wanted to be relieved of his contract. He had stated no reason whatever, and therefore he would move that it be referred to the Committee to inquire into the reasons. This was a very serious matter, for a contract had been solemnly entered into with the Corporation, and now one of the parties wanted to get out of it without even so much as saying why he wished to do so. Did Mr. Higinbotham want the partnership between him and Mr. Harvey in this matter dissolved, or was he going out of the oil business?

Mr. Heffernan said if Mr. Higinbotham wanted the contract broken, and had refused the money, he did not know but it would be better to release him, as the Corporation would make money by doing so, as oil could now be got for 15c per gallon.

Mr. Thomson said that was a very small matter, and he was informed that the oil sold at 15c was of an inferior quality. The question was whether or not was Mr. Harvey able to complete the contract. They all knew that he was, and therefore he could see no good reason why Mr. Higinbotham should not be released, when his partner in the transaction, in every respect competent to fulfill the contract, expressed his willingness to do so.

Mr. Melvin moved, seconded by Mr. Massie, that the petition of Mr. N. Higinbotham be granted, and that he be released from his contract. In moving the resolution Mr. Melvin said he did not think the Council had anything to do with any private arrangement Mr. Higinbotham and Mr. Harvey might make between themselves with regard to the way in which the contract should be completed. They agreed according to the contract to do a certain thing. They also agree that Mr. Harvey shall complete the contract, and Mr. Higinbotham to fulfill the conditions of the contract, he did not think it was right for them to pry into their motives and demand their reasons for entering into this arrangement.

Mr. Heffernan—Why press it to night? Why not refer it to the Committee?

Mr. Melvin—If it is accepted by the Council there is no necessity for that. The contract was made by the sanction of the Council, and the Council has the power to release any of the parties from the contract. If they asked for any change in regard to the price or the quantity of the oil to be supplied, then the matter would require to come before the committee.

Mr. Sayers said he had often differed from Dr. Herod, but he always found that he opposed hasty legislation, and was in favour of adhering to the rules, and he would support him in this matter.

Dr. Herod said if they granted the petition, and broke the contract to-night without asking any security for its fulfillment they would be establishing a very bad precedent. He maintained that if any one around the Board objected to the release would be illegal, and what put the matter in a worse light was that the oil was all paid for. If it was merely to be paid for barrel by barrel as delivered it would be a very different matter. It could make no difference to Mr. Higinbotham whether the transfer was made now or a month hence, let it therefore be referred back to the Committee.

Mr. Massie said this discussion was unnecessary and uncalled for. If one man turns over a contract to another, and gives security that it will be fulfilled, no outside party has a right to interfere. The thing was done every day in business. The delay asked for could not make the slightest difference in the matter. They all admitted that Mr. Harvey was competent to fill the contract, and if they required any bond from him twenty different men could soon be got to give it.

Mr. Peterson said Mr. Massie had hit the nail on the head. One of the contracting parties desires to assume the whole responsibility, and if he is satisfactory, the Council is merely asked to accede to the request of both. To refuse it would seem as if the Council wanted to make an invidious distinction between the two.

Mr. Chadwick said Mr. Harvey was quite satisfactory as far as the contract was concerned, but it had been entered into by both, and it would be a bad precedent to annul it, the more so without any reason being given.

Mr. Harvey said it would be better for Mr. Higinbotham if the matter was referred to the Committee, otherwise he

granting of the petition. Before doing so he must pay the money he had received on the contract over to the Committee. The law disqualifies any one who has an interest in any contract.

Mr. Massie said it could be done in this way. If the Council grants the prayer of the petition, and Mr. Higinbotham tenders the money he received to Mr. Harvey, and gets the Clerk's receipt for the same, then the transaction is ended.

Dr. Herod—Yes, if done open and fair and above board and the reasons why the change is to be made stated. But the Council had a right to make all proper enquiries before they granted a release.

Mr. Melvin by consent of the Council altered his motion so as to read that the prayer of the petition be granted, and that Mr. Higinbotham be relieved from the responsibility of said contract.

The Mayor put the motion when it was lost on the following vote—Yeas: Messrs. Day, Peterson, Thomson, Galbraith, Massie, Melvin—6. Nays: Messrs. Heffernan, Sayers, Chadwick, Mays, Herod, Mitchell, and Harvey—7.

Mr. Peterson called for the yeas and nays to be taken down, when Mr. Harvey objected to the motion being put as a motion, and maintained that Dr. Herod's motion referring the petition to the committee was the motion and Mr. Melvin's the amendment. The Mayor said only one motion (Mr. Melvin's) had been put into his hands, and in the absence of any other he had no other option but to put the one written and handed in as the motion. A division had been taken on it, a member had called for the yeas and nays, and by the rules of the Council he dared not refuse to grant it. Dr. Herod said he had a written resolution, but was told it was not necessary, and he merely moved a verbal one, thinking that would do. Mr. Harvey, however, still continued to object, and a sharp and noisy discussion followed on the point in dispute. The Mayor held to his ruling, and ordered the names to be taken down. Mr. Harvey protested, objected to the ruling and appealed to the Council. The appeal was not pressed however, but after more wrangling the yeas and nays were taken with the same result as given above. Messrs. Melvin, Harvey and Mays persisting while recording their vote that they were voting against the motion, but in favor of referring the matter to the committee.

Dr. Herod, seconded by Mr. Mitchell, then moved his former motion, that the petition be referred to the Fire and Water Committee. Carried unanimously.

One or two members desired that the yeas and nays be also taken on this motion, but the Mayor ruled that it would be ridiculous to do so, as he had already declared it carried, and there was no dissenting voice.

Mr. Thomson presented the report of the Finance Committee.

FINANCE REPORT.

Your Committee recommend that the taxes of the following individuals be remitted, as they have not earned sufficient to make them liable for the same: James Peacock, Mark Tovell, John Bennett and Wm. Dyson, jr. In regard to the petition of James T. Nichols the Committee cannot interfere with the assessment as they consider whoever owns the lot must refund the other the amount he has paid. They recommend that the taxes of Sarah Kirk be remitted, as she is a case of charity; that the petitions of Dennis Coffee, Wm. Dyson, sr., and Galbraith & Beattie be laid over for future consideration. That A. K. Kearney is charged income tax in West Ward instead of North Ward, and recommend that the error be rectified.

The report was adopted.

Mr. Day presented the report of the Fire and Water Committee.

FIRE AND WATER REPORT.

The Committee having duly considered the petition of Capt. Fairley, consider it to be of grave importance that the town at this season of the year should be left without any protection against fires, as it is not a very desirable position for a town of 6,000 inhabitants to be in. But from resolutions passed at a public meeting for the purpose of discussing the advisability of providing some system of water works for the better protection against fires not authorizing any expenditure for such purpose, the Committee have not been able to devise any other means to meet the case, but would suggest that 150 feet of hose be provided. As the town lumps have been broken a number of times lately, the Committee recommend that a reward be offered to any person giving such evidence as will lead to the conviction of such parties, and that the said reward be \$20.

Moved by Mr. Day, seconded by Mr. Chadwick, that the report the Committee be adopted, and that 150 feet of hose be obtained, and that the sum of £20 be offered as a reward as recommended in report.—Carried.

Mr. Chadwick asked why the Committee to whom was referred the communication of the Church Warden had not reported.

Mr. Peterson said that a sketch of the plan of survey had been handed to the Church Warden, and the Committee was waiting for them to return it.

Mr. Peterson introduced a By-law for the appointment of Returning officers. The blanks were filled up with the following names:—East Ward, D. Krebs; South Ward, Geo. Hough; West Ward, E. Newton; North Ward, James Armstrong. The By-law then passed its several readings.

The Council then adjourned.

New Advertisements.

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(LATE GRAND'S SHADES SALOON.)  
**OPPOSITE THE MARKET,**  
GUELPH.

CHOICE LIQUORS, Cigars, Oysters, &c., &c., always on hand. Meals furnished at all hours.  
**DENIS BUNYAN,**  
Guelph, December 2, 1867. d.w.1y

**FIRST LOT THIS SEASON**  
REAL

**FINNAN HADDIES**

**FRESH OYSTERS!**  
Imported direct from Baltimore.

**The Best and Cheapest**  
IN THE DOMINION.

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MARKET SQUARE, GUELPH.

A LARGE SUPPLY OF

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**GRAPE WINE**

FOR MEDICINAL USE.

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Chemist, Market Square,  
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**\$20. STAR \$100.**

**SHUTTLE SEWING MACHINE,**

Patented May, 1867.

THE Star Shuttle Sewing Machine makes a stitch alike on both sides of material sewed, which will not rip or unravel. Does all kinds of work equally as well as Singer's high-priced machine. Combines simplicity with durability, and is warranted for five years. It is suited alike for the dressmaker, tailor, manufacturer or family.—Mr. J. SPAFFORD having been appointed General Agent for Ontario, wishes to engage a few good local and travelling agents, to whom good inducements will be offered. For machine, sample or work, or terms, address—

**J. E. SPAFFORD,**  
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**FLOUR, GRAIN, PROVISIONS,**

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CONSIGNMENTS solicited. Highest prices realized, and returns promptly made. Every possible information afforded consignors in reference to the Markets, Packing of Pork, Manufacture, &c., as required.

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ORDERS for Fish, Oils, or West India Produce carefully and promptly executed.

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October 12, 1867. daw 1y

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MARKET SQUARE, GUELPH.

JUST OPENED OUT, a very assortment of

ENGLISH HAIR AND TOOTH

**BRUSHES**

COMBS,

AND OTHER TOILET ARTICLES.

**ALEX. B. PETRIE,**  
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Guelph, Dec. 2, 1867. daw

**SLEEVE LINK LOST.**

LOST at the Hall last night a gold set Sleeve Link with hair in one button, and picture in the other. As it is a family relic, the owner does not like to lose it. The finder on leaving it at the Mercury office will be rewarded.

Guelph, 30th November, 1867. ds

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**A. HOWIE & CO.**

Royal Hotel Buildings, James-st.,  
**HAMILTON.**

Watches, Chains, Rings, Penic Cases, and all kinds of Jewelry Plated in Gold.

Tea Sets, Cake Baskets, Knives, Forks, Spoons, &c., Plated at reasonable rates.

**Also, Door Plates & Carriage Trimmings**

of every description done to order with neatness and dispatch.

Orders from a distance punctually attended to.  
Hamilton, November 23, 1867. dw3m

Farm for Sale or Rent.

FOR sale or to rent that farm, being Lot No. 14, in the 8th Concession, Township of Fossil, containing of 100 acres of land, of which are cleared and under cultivation. There are on the premises a good Stone House, Frame Barn, with stable under, a good bearing Orchard, excellent Spring Well, and plenty of water for cattle. For particulars apply on the premises, or if by letter (post-paid) to

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Cordwood Wanted.

1000 CORDS

WANTED, 1,000 Cords of Hardwood, delivered at the

**Grand Trunk Freight Station**

GUELPH, THIS WINTER.

Quantities of from 5 cords and upwards taken.—Cash on delivery at advanced price. Apply at the Mercury office, or to

**ALEX. NAIRN,** Rockwood,  
Guelph, 30th Nov, 1867. dw

REMOVAL.

**Military Tailor**

**J. JONES,**

Late Master Tailor in the 17th Regiment,

DES to inform his customers and the public that he has removed from Nottingham-st. to Upper Wyndham-st, next door to Hazelton's Furniture Store, where he will be happy to receive orders for making all kinds of

**Military and Civilians' Clothing,**

in the latest and most fashionable styles. Having had long experience, he guarantees to give satisfaction to all who may favor him with their patronage.  
Guelph, 24th Nov, 1867. d3w

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**English Goods!**

**Lea & Perrin's Worcestershire Sauce**

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**French and Spanish Olives,**

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**Black and Red Currant Jelly,**

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**Greenpeas, Damsons, Cherries, Plums,**

**Peaches, Gooseberries and Tomatoes.**

**At JOHN A. WOOD'S.**

Guelph, November, 28, 1867. dw

COMMERCIAL

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Guelph, 5th November, 1867. dw1

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**No. 1 Coal Oil**

FOR FAMILY USE.

Perfectly clear and free from smell.

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Guelph, 30th Nov, 1867 d

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WE have opened our stock of FURS, of our own manufacture, which we will sell at LOW PRICES, viz:

**Extra Dark Mink,**

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**Siberian Squirrel,**

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And a full assortment of CHILDREN'S FURS, GENTS' MUFFLES and GLOVES, SLRIGH ROBBS, &c.

**F. GARLAND,**  
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**The Highest Price paid for Raw Furs**

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LACROSSE Clubs and Balls for sale at

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