

# The HURON SIGNAL

DEVOTED TO COUNTY NEWS AND GENERAL INTELLIGENCE

GODERICH, ONT., FRIDAY, FEB. 19, 1886.

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FRIDAY, FEB. 19th, 1886.

Those who were wondering why John O'Donohue came up to West Huron and spoke in favor of F. W. Johnston will find the secret of the "Unholy Alliance" on the fifth page.

The Dominion Parliament will meet next Thursday. There will be some lively debates before the end of March. The Opposition will grow stronger every vote. An immediate defeat of the corrupt Macdonald government is not expected, but the end is near at hand. The Government cannot survive another session.

All that is necessary to be done now by a Reform journal to get its name praise from the Toronto Mail, the Hamilton Spectator, and other Tory papers is to say the hanging of Riel by the Government is not a question that should be discussed; and that the maladministration of the Government in the Northwest should not be condemned. The Hamiltonian and the Waterford Star, are now looked upon as "excellent and honest Reform journals," for this reason, and no other.

Mr. CAMERON, M.P.P., of Peterboro, has moved for a return giving the names of members of the Legislature who have been appointed to offices of emolument by the Mowat Government. We do not often agree with Mr. Cameron, but we believe he is taking a proper step in this matter, and we hope that a step will be put to the system. The fact is, that the appointing of played out politicians to offices of trust is the weak point in Mr. Mowat's Government. The fraud of members of parliament nominating themselves to fat offices should be frowned upon.

The judges who are revising barriers in the county of Bruce, best anxious to have the new voters' lists printed promptly, gave a portion of them to the Liberal paper published in Walkerton. The Herald, the Tory organ of that town, immediately flew into a rage, claimed the printing given to the other paper, and "gave away" its party and the franchise bill generally in the following words:—

"Gratitude is said to be an unknown virtue in Government officials, but a sense of justice might have induced Messrs. Kingsmill and Barrett the impropriety of subsidizing the enemies of a Government that gives themselves very fine salaries for very little work."  
The Herald is a model Jackal journal."

The Hamilton Times puts the case succinctly when it says:—"Mr. M. C. Cameron's mode of dealing with the structures of Hon. Thomas White on the subject of the timber-limit grants authorized by the present Government is undoubtedly fair. At St. Thomas, last night, Mr. Cameron produced the official returns, as laid on the table of the House of Commons by the Government, and gave those inclined to accept the statement of the Minister the choice of believing Mr. White or the official documents. Mr. Cameron has Thomas in a tight box. The member for Cardwell cannot wriggle out of it on the ground of 'political exigency.' But no doubt he will try hard."

Monday last there were distributed from one of London's soup kitchens 218 loaves of bread and 250 quarts of soup. "Remember the poor!" is a good axiom when winter winds whistle wildly, and charity is asked for by starving men, women and children. It is a satisfaction to know that the benevolent people of London are making an effort to lessen the suffering. But what will the Free Press say about this soup kitchen alleviation of distress? It is only a day or two since that venacious Journal had a laborious article denying the fact that times were hard in Canada this year. But is it very easy for a journal with thousands of dollars of Government pay to be in ignorance of the fact that the times are awfully hard.

## THE "STAR" TREED.

The hand of the hired man showed itself in last week's issue of the Star. Nearly three columns of our contemporary were occupied in special pleading on the Riel question, which can be summed up and replied to as follows:—

1. If the editor of THE SIGNAL had been on the banks of the Saskatchewan, and subjected to the same conditions as the halfbreed, he would have "shouldered his musket."  
To which we would mildly reply that we would not have "shouldered our musket" under the circumstances. Men do not usually "shoulder muskets," or "stack arms," when their homes and sanctuaries are invaded by thieving colonization companies or other marauders.

2. The guilt of Sir John Macdonald, in paying Riel to keep out of the country fifteen years ago, is admitted by our contemporary, which contends, however, that though the "course taken in 1871 to quiet Riel was a mistake, a decidedly unjust step, it seemed the best way to avert trouble at the time."  
Well, they say "an open confession is good for the soul," and it is really refreshing to hear our contemporary admit the guilt of its Chieftain in so frank a manner.

3. The Star's hired man does not believe the half-breeds were oppressed, or that the Mail was correct when it published the following in June last:—"It has never been denied by the Mail that the title had good ground for grievances. By the passage of the Manitoba Act of 1870 Canada had torn away and trampled the rights of the Halfbreeds of that Province to share in the Indian title, and it follows as a matter of course that if they had rights in the soil of Manitoba, those of them dwelling in the regions beyond had rights in the soil there."  
This admitted of no dispute.

It seems to have been quite well understood by Parliament in 1870; at all events the records show that the Government of the day recognized the fact, though a settlement was not then effected.

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

It was a long and painful process, and it would involve the appointment of a commission and no end of trouble to St. Albert and St. Laurent were far distant dependencies without political influence; it was a claim that would be none the less for blue-coated men in the provinces.

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

Had they had votes, like white men, or if, like the Indians, they had been numerous enough to command respect and obedience, and were not so far removed from the seat of power, they would have been revolved for them; but being only Halfbreeds, they were put off with an eternal promise, until patience ceased to be a virtue.

We repeat again that the departmental system under which such cat's paw and small minded officials have been put off with an eternal promise, was wrong, and should be corrected.

Now it is universally conceded that no one is so blind as he who won't see, but we imagine the ordinary Grit or Tory will take it for granted the leading Government organ is fully as well posted on Northwest affairs as is the Star's hired man.

5. The Star would like to have one or two names of the oppressed halfbreeds—a few specific cases.  
We accept the challenge, and in another column give a sufficient number of specific cases to satisfy even the captious critic of the Star on this point.

6. The Star still persists that "no one but a knave or fool" would now maintain that Riel was insane.  
There is a saying "Convince a fool against his will and he'll hold the same opinion still,"—and the aphorism applies to the Star's hired man in this instance. Dr. Roy, who had Riel under treatment for sixteen months in Beauport asylum, were positively that Riel was insane; and Dr. Clarke, of Toronto asylum, at the trial also swore that he was insane. Of course, these two specialists do not know anything about their profession, and the Star's hired man knows it all. We might also state that Riel's insanity has been stoutly upheld by Mr. C. W. Mitchell in the Ottawa Free Press (a brother of the editor of the Star). Does the courteous "knave or fool" allusion also apply to that gentleman?

## MEN AND GRIEVANCES

Last week the Star denied that the halfbreeds had any grievances, and dared us to cite specific cases to prove our previous contentions that the cause of the recent rebellion lay at the door of the present incapable Government. We hasten to give our contemporary and our readers the desired information:—

MAXIME LEPINE, taken prisoner and sentenced to seven years in the penitentiary.  
BAPTISTE BOUCHER, wounded at Batoche.  
ISIDORE DUMAS, killed.  
CHARLES LAVALLE, wounded.  
WILLIAM SWAIN, wounded.

These men lived in St. Louis de Lan gousis, the halfbreed parish that was given to the Prince Albert Colonization Company, and were among the signers of the petition to the Government on Nov. 19, 1883. That petition recited that some of the thirty one signers had been on their land for ten years; that they had petitioned repeatedly to be allowed to make entries; that they had repeatedly asked for a river survey; that they had, at that time, burdensome expense, sent Father Ledue to Ottawa as a special envoy; that some of them had occupied their lands long enough to be entitled to patents, but that they were not allowed even to make an entry; and they begged that their grievances might be put an end to as quickly as possible "for the greater welfare and tranquillity of the loyal subjects of Her Majesty the Queen of England." The petition recited their grievances, and was not in itself an unconstitutional or disloyal document. Yet it was not attended to, and the halfbreeds were a low to rest under their disabilities until "they got behind their Winchester." Then the derelict Government was compelled to move in the matter.

And here are the names of more victims of the Prince Albert Colonization Company, who have gained notoriety by defending their hearths and homes from the landgrabbers:—

MICHAEL DUMAS, fugitive.  
ANDRE LETENDRE, killed.  
LOUIS SCHMIDT.  
PHILIP GUARDUPOUY, wounded, and sentenced to seven years in the penitentiary.

PIERRE GUARDUPOUY, prisoner, and sentenced to three years in the penitentiary.

These are the names of some of the oppressed halfbreeds, but there are others to be "put on the list." On Sept. 4, 1884, a memorial was sent to the Government from St. Antoine de Paudou (Batoche) reciting that the signers had been driven to abandon the prairies from the failure of game, and to settle on the Saskatchewan. They had made clearances and improvements along the river on unsurveyed lots; they had built a school in which to have their children educated; they had erected a convent in which the sick and the afflicted could be cared for in time of need; and they had reared aloft a temple of their Faith in which to worship in the wilderness the God of their fathers. Was it to be wondered at, then, that they learned with "astonishment and anxiety" that they were to be made to pay \$2 per acre if their lands were found on a survey to be on the odd-numbered sections. They did not want to be separated and made to live widely apart, but wanted to live together along the river front, so that they could have the privileges of their church, convent and schoolhouse. Therefore they asked the Government to order a river survey. The petition was signed, among others, by

GABRIEL DUMONT, wounded at Fish Creek, and now a fugitive.  
BAPTISTE ROCHLOT, prisoner.  
PATRICE TOURAND, prisoner.  
OALIKTE TOURAND, killed.  
JOSEPH DELORME, killed.  
JOSEPH VANDALE, killed.  
BAPTISTE VANDALE, prisoner, seven years in penitentiary.  
ADOLPHE NOLLIN, prisoner—Queen's evidence.  
IGNACE POTRAS, prisoner.  
MAXIME POTRAS, prisoner.  
EMMANUEL CHAMPAIGNE, prisoner.

These are some of the names and grievances of the oppressed halfbreeds, and we contend that they should be sufficient to convince even the Star's doubting Grit.

For less grievances the tyrannical King John was forced by his subjects to grant Magna Charta; for less grievances, Charles the First lost his Crown and his head; for less grievances James the Second was driven from the throne of England; for less grievances George the Third of England lost half a continent to the British realm. History admits the right of the means taken to effect the changes just mentioned simply

because they who revolted in each of the instances named against the power and dignity of the Crown were successful. Had they failed, Cromwell, and William of Orange and Washington would have met the doom of the felon, as Riel did.

On this question we are not swayed by the mere hanging of one man. Had Riel been spared by the Government we would not be more stunted in our condemnation of the maladministration of the Northwest. Measures, not men, are involved, and we look away beyond the Regius scaffold for reparation for the grievances of the Northwest, which cost Canada hundreds of brave lives and millions of treasure.

The corrupt Administration which fomented the troubles, by turning a deaf ear to lawful petitions—the members of Government with their country's blood on their souls, must be hurled from place and power.

## SNEAK JOURNALISM.

Last week we published the denial of H. P. O'Connor, M.P.P. for South Bruce, against the Tory falsehood that he had alluded to M. C. Cameron, M. P. at a meeting at Dundalk some years ago as "the champion liar of Canada." The fair-minded (?) and pious (?) editor of the Star published the original libel, but had not the common decency to make reparation by printing the denial. This is the extremely fair and honest way in which the Star in its latest issue makes reparation to the man who had been slandered by it in a previous issue:—

"A few weeks ago we published a story taken from the Walkerton Herald to the effect that Mr. O'Connor, M. P. for South Bruce, had characterized our M. P. Mr. Cameron, as 'the champion liar of Canada.' Mr. O. C. has since published a letter denying the story in full, saying, 'Mr. Cameron and I are old and have been for years before I came to Bruce both personal and political friends.' We do not make the correction here, especially as we admit the force of the exception taken by an exchange, that the Globe allowed no rivals to the title attributed to Mr. Cameron. Nevertheless, Mr. Cameron ought to come in a good second."

Isn't that a dignified and brave manner to speak of a man who had been foully abused and wantonly slandered. We feel assured the public will have great confidence in the opinions of the editor of the Star who thus acts like a woman in vilifying his townsman. The editor of the Star knew that he had falsely accused Mr. Cameron, and yet when any reparation was in his way, by the mere insertion of Mr. O'Connor's denial—he had no moral courage to act like a decent journalist and make the *avens* honorable. Our contemporary deals in sneak journalism.

## A CANDID TORY.

The editor of the Kincaid Review is more frank on the subject of hard times than is the average Tory editor. In his issue of the 5th inst., he had the following suggestive article in double headed type:—

NO FAREWELL NEXT WEEK.—We have a large and imperative job to get out—the revised voters' lists for three townships—and cannot give our attention to the paper for one week. The next issue of the Review (1. V.) will be on Feb. 19, 1886. We trust our friends and patrons will overlook missing the paper for one week. We cannot always do as we would like, and we could not afford to lose the opportunity these hard times of earning solid cash—an opportunity that may never occur again. In the meantime say a good word for us, pray for us, and look out for our issue of Feb. 19, 1886.

The editor of the Star is getting a reputation for unscrupulous falsehood. The *Seaforth Express* shows that this reputation is well earned. In the Perdue case the Star made several untruthful statements, for which the *Express* brings it to task in the following manner:—"The recent contest in McKillop for the reversionship, the Star must have been misinformed, for we know of many of the oldest and staunchest Reformers in the township who voted for the present reeve, although he is one of the leading Conservatives in the municipality, and the deputy reeve, who is a Conservative, was nominated by one Reform councillor and seconded by another. It will thus be seen that the Star's McKillop story is even more improbable than its Riverside one. If the Star cannot do better than this for its protégé it had better leave him to founder out of the mess in which he finds himself as best he can." The editor of the Star is a poor tool, who is helpless in the hands of his master.

## WHAT'S UP?

Things That Are Happening Around Us.

Unstable Weather—Liquor Licenses—Whisky Drive—Surreal Remonstrances—Tobacco's Quarterly Meeting.

"I'm troubled with a cold in the head this week, and so are many of the neighbors. You see during last week, although it was the second week in February, we had a late edition of the January thaw, and this week Old Boreas and Jack Frost again assumed control to such an extent that, as I remarked before, I and some of the neighbors are suffering from "big head." But I am pleased to be able to announce that I am in a fair way of recovery, and am doing as well as can be expected, as the doctors say in critical cases.

I see that my old and esteemed friend Jordan did not get the druggist's license, but that George Rhynas is the running mate with Jimmy Wilson in the business. Well, George will make a good man for the trade, I should think. In any event, the giving of the druggist's licenses to druggists, is the right thing, and is far ahead of the course pursued by the partisan whisky commissioners last year.

While I'm on this subject, I would again ask if it isn't about time these whisky drives that were fastened upon the community by the Dominion officials were closed up. They have no more right to carry on business now than have gambling halls, counterfeiters' rooms, illicit stills, or thieves' resorts. I and others had hoped that the Dominion licenses would put up their shutters and act like decent people when their work was declared illegal, but they seem to be lost to all sense of shame. I understand that one of the dens is acting in defiance of the law on the advice of a learned legal dignitary. If so, the adviser and the advised should be brought to book. If the owners of the ginmills don't voluntarily pull up stakes, they should be forced out of the nefarious business. It's time a watch was placed on these low grogeries.

Last week I read the list of poundkeepers for Colborne, and a pretty good list it is. Do you know, I have a hankering for wading through township council reports. It reminds me of the old times when I lived out on the concession, and the big day of the month was when we went up to the village at the town plot to hear the reeve, deputy-reeve and councillors discuss the momentous concerns of the township. The poundkeepers and fence-viewers, the culverts and crossways, the drains and ditches, the giving of compensation for sheep killed by dogs, the endeavoring to make the township paupers keep body and soul together on a dollar a week or more to the nearest town,—these and other matters always caught on to me with a great grip. But although I attended the council meeting, (which were held at the village tavern), with the regularity of a toper going for his bitters, I never got appointed to an office by the township council but once. You see, there was a dispute between the township and the local Government about a drain that had been dug, under the provisions of John Sandfield Macdonald's Drainage Act, and I think, it was thought advisable by the council to ask for Government relief so as to lessen the burdens of the farmers in front of whose lots the drain ran. The reeve of the township and I were selected to make an inspection of the job—the reeve because he was a man of some consequence, and I because I was always handy with the pen and pretty good on figures. Well, we went out to inspect the drain, but I forgot to bring a theodolite or anything else for taking bearings, (and if I had brought them I could not have used them), and after we had looked at the ditch until we were both almost soaked with a heavy rain that was falling, we came unanimously to the conclusion that it was a fraud upon the free and independent electors of that section of the township, and that the Government ought to be made to stand in with the ratepayers and relieve them of a portion of the burden. It wasn't until we were well nigh home that it occurred to me that I had no data to go up my report for the local newspaper, so this for its protégé it had better leave him to founder out of the mess in which he finds himself as best he can." The editor of the Star is a poor tool, who is helpless in the hands of his master.

ever, I didn't let on to the reeve, and he didn't know but that I was loaded. When I arrived at the village I went to a shop that was in the habit of doing artist work down in the city occasionally. I told him that I wanted him to draw a picture of a pair of scales with the price of the ditch on one plate and the benefits to the farmers on the other. The benefits were to be tilted up to the beam by the enormous cost of the construction, as a matter of course. The artist also drew a granger with high boots and a "yaller dog" standing by the scales and gazing horror stricken at the cost of the concern which was enumerated in good big figures. I then got the local editor to arrange to have the cartoon cut out of a block of wood, type high for the local sheet, and got one of the neighbors to engrave the picture on the block with a jack-knife. The next issue of the *Weekly Thunderer* had a long article on the drain question from the facile pen of yours truly, illustrated by the jack-knife engraving above referred to, and was admired as a work of typographic art and artistic merit by the hundreds of readers who draw their literary inspiration from the long primer articles that filled its columns weekly. The reeve was tickled to death almost about "our cartoon," and when the township council got up the memorial praying the Government to rebate a portion of the cost of the drain, a number of copies of the illustrated *Thunderer* accompanied the document. I am pleased to be able to state that a large rebate was made, and the reeve afterwards told me that he guessed it was "our cartoon" that brought the Government to a thorough realization of the facts of the case. Some of these days when I want to drive home some wholesome truths to the readers of this column of THE SIGNAL, I will favor my readers with a few samples of jack-knife cartoons.

But, for the land's sake, if I haven't wandered away from my subject. What I intended to say is that the motion for adjournment of the Colborne council was made to the 26th of May, and not to the 26th of March, as appeared in the last issue of THE SIGNAL. I don't know exactly, why the next meeting is put off to so late a date, but suppose it is so that the well-known religious views of our reeve and deputy will have full scope. You see, they commenced the municipal campaign with a protracted meeting that Sunday afternoon out at the corner, and now they are inclined to hold quarterly meetings in connection with the council. I guess, I've got 'em again.

## AXAX.

The London Free Press got off a good one the other day, at the expense of some of its own party. M. C. Cameron, M. P. for West Huron, in his rattling speech at St. Thomas, likened a certain class of Tories to "Tito Barnacles." The editor of the Free Press, who doesn't possess a literary ear, finds fault with Mr. Cameron for calling them "tight barnacles." Perhaps the Free Press editor sees an affinity between Toryism and being "tight."

## LONDON REJOICES.

LONDON rejoices in a new and thriving industry. It flourishes in the shape of a candy shop, but in the rear of the store there is a room partitioned off where boys are taught the use of tobacco, cigars, snuff and other similar luxuries; and where they are encouraged to play "hokey" from school. Our advice do not state that there is a tall chimney in connection with the establishment, but we are anxiously waiting for the Free Press to announce it as another product of the N.P. There is no contention on this question too absurd for the London Tory organ to make.

## The Champion Liar.

"How wicked is the story that grievances against the Government were the justification for the outbreak.—[Toronto Mail.]  
"The Metis had good grounds for grievances."—[The Mail.]

## Colborne.

CORNBOROUGH.—By a mistake on the part of the compositor the date of the next meeting of the township council was put for the 26th of March instead of the 26th of May.

Port Elgin last week lost one of its oldest and most respected residents in the death of Dr. Douglas. He died when visiting friends at Milton and his remains were taken to Port Elgin for interment. The Dr. had amassed considerable wealth from his profession, and in addition to this left a large amount of life insurance.

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Sewing Machine!  
ST. McLEAN,  
PUCE'S  
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