

Mr. McGowan on his Mettle.

Mr. McGowan, the newly elected member for the North Riding, gave the Tories on Friday night a specimen of his independence which some of them will by no means relish.

The New Marriage Law.

A Government Bill is now before the Ontario Legislature in reference to the solemnization of marriage.

The first clause provides that all marriages which have before the passing of the Act been celebrated in Upper Canada, by any person legally authorized to marry, between persons not under any legal disqualification for matrimony, are declared to be lawful and valid so far as respects all matters within the jurisdiction of the Ontario Legislature.

In the case of marriage by banns, the new Act provides that it is only necessary for the parties to be called in church once, instead of three times; but one of the parties must have lived at least fifteen days in the municipality where the banns are published.

The other provisions of the Act are a reduction of the license fee to about \$2—an excellent change; and the relieving of the minister from liability in case of any legal impediment having existed, providing that he was unaware of it.

THE HALTON BONDS TO THE H. & N. W. RAILWAY.—The Milton Champion says that the people of that town are thoroughly united in favour of granting a bonus of \$65,000 to the Hamilton and North-Western Railway.

A petition has been filed against the return of Sir John A. Macdonald for Kingston. It is said the Conservatives of that city feel quite disappointed over it, as they did not expect a protest.

Canadian Granges.

To the Editor of the Guelph Mercury. Sir,—I see by the newspapers that an American "agent" has come to this country to organize "granges" among our farmers.

Having attended several of the most important "Grange" meetings held in the State of Illinois during my brief sojourn in Chicago early in last year, I am able to speak "from the book" in regard to the movement, and beg respectfully to call your attention and that of your agricultural readers to it, with a view of stating at least two serious objections to our having anything to do with it.

1. No such state of things exists here as led to this movement being inaugurated in the United States. The farmers of the Great West, where the "Granges" are usually to be found, have long been suffering from the combined effects of small crops, high freight tariffs, and the exorbitant charges of middle-men and manufacturers' agents.

No doubt, in some instances, our railroads have been chargeable with making local and even through freights higher than necessary, and perhaps our implement-makers have put larger profits on their wares than would have paid them a fair percentage; but Canadian farming is not threatened with bankruptcy, like the farming of the Great West.

2. "Granges" organized here would be in subordination to the "National Grange" of the United States, and would be expected to report proceedings and pay over a percentage of funds to it. Not satisfied with coaxing away our young farmers to the Great West, our neighbors across the line actually have the cool impudence to come over here, and propose to tax us to help lighten their self-imposed burdens, and increase the profits of their unremunerative farming!

Signs of Success. Col. Higinbotham, M.P., David Stinson, M.P., Messrs. James Massie, Chas. Raymond, Donald Guthrie, Mayor Harris, and about 50 others among the best citizens of Guelph, have subscribed for Dr. Hartwig's Polar and Tropical Worlds during the week; also T. J. Day and John Anderson, both large dealers, have each subscribed for a copy of the work.

SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of Feb. 24th, together with two copies of "The Polar and Tropical Worlds," one addressed to His Excellency the Earl of Dufferin and one to myself.

I have the honor to be, Sir, Your obedient servant, H. C. FLETCHER, Governor-General's Secretary. To J. W. LYONS, Guelph, Ont.

BIRTHS.

NELSON—In Orillia, on the 26th ult., the wife of Mr. D. W. Nelson, carriage maker, formerly of Guelph, of a son.

DIED.

TODD—In Guelph, on the evening of the 7th inst., Ann, the beloved wife of Mr. Geo. Todd, aged 75 years.

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