

The Huron Signal

DEVOTED TO COUNTY NEWS AND GENERAL INTELLIGENCE

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THE HURON SIGNAL

Published every Friday Morning, by Mc Gillicuddy Bros., at their Office, North St. GODERICH, ONTARIO.

And is despatched to all parts of the surrounding country by the earliest mails and trains.

By general admission it has a larger circulation than any other newspaper in this part of the country. It is one of the most reliable, newsy and best informed journals in Ontario, possessing, as it does, the first-class family and freestone paper—it is therefore a most desirable advertising medium.

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JOHN FRITZINGER.—We have also first-class jobbing department in connection, and possessing the most complete outfit and best facilities for turning out work in Goderich and elsewhere to do business in that line at prices that cannot be beaten, and of a quality that cannot be surpassed.—Terms Cash.

FRIDAY, JULY 17th, 1885.

AN EDUCATIONAL COMMISSION.

The woful plucking that occurs semi-annually at the various school examinations shows that not only must there be defects in the teaching, but also in our educational system generally. There is too much cram now-a-days. The modern public school system is too much controlled by theory, and is not sufficiently practical. We know pupils writing for entrance to the High schools—yes, and some students who have written for teachers' certificates—who for practical purposes are very uneducated. A hedge-podge of dates represents their historical knowledge, and these chiefly refer to battles fought hundreds of years ago. They are utterly ignorant of contemporary history, except what they may have learned from the newspaper read at home. They can recite sentences in the school room like parrots, while on the street or at home they violate almost every rule they have gleefully cited. They cannot pen in decent English an original idea. As to their bad spelling, we can little wonder at that, owing to the clumsy and unnatural mode of orthography at present employed. But, taken all together, there is a lack of practical, every-day usefulness about their education, and when after a year or two of absence from school we may again examine them, they will have nothing to show for their eight or ten years' schooling but the ability to read a newspaper, perhaps they will be able to add up the family store-bills.

The trouble lies in the fact that our educational system is altogether in the hands of men who have been running in the "school" groove all their lives. There is too much "theory" about it. The training appears to have too much in the college walls, and not the business house, the office or the workshop. Few go to college, many enter upon trade or trades; and it is for the latter and not for the former that our public school system should be framed. We must enter our protest against this unhealthy growth of the technical and the theoretical in our school system, and ask for something more fitted to apply the every day need of the times.

A couple of years ago, Mr. Thomas Bengough, in a little periodical called *The Athenaeum*, advocated the appointment of an Educational Commission, analogous to the Agricultural Commission, to learn the precise facts as to our educational system and its results. He put it this way:—

The Commission should not be composed of professional educationists, though that class should be represented. A school inspector, a clergyman, a business man, a mechanic, and quick-witted and intelligent woman—these should form the Commission—with the business man as chairman. Let them interview school inspectors, head masters, subordinate teachers, high and common school scholars of all grades, and find whether there are too many studies on the list, and ascertain which could be best omitted. Let them call kindergarten teachers and scholars and learn their methods, and compare their progress with pupils taught by the ordinary methods. Let commercial colleges be visited with a view of finding out who attend them, and how it is that young men fresh from school have so "finish off" in these institutions in the simple English studies which the schools presume to teach—writing, book-keeping, and arithmetic.

Let young clerks and mechanics and saleswomen and sewing girls who have recently left school be examined, in order that it may be learned how much of what they know was taught them at school, and whether they learned at school how to teach themselves; also whether or not they consider that, having passed through the school curriculum, they have nothing more to learn. Let street boys, and boot-blacks, and newspaper boys and girls be called, and a comparison made between them and the school scholars in the matter of practical education, with the view of learning how it is the schools teach so little and the streets so much, and also with a view

ON THE WING.

Something About Expert Testimony in Whisky Cases—Good for Neither Man or Beast.

The testing of the blue ribbon beer in Goderich is a question which agitates the public mind all over. Everybody is talking about the analysis, the trial, and the magistrate's decision. I suppose the analysis is correct; the trial, I observe, came off in due course; and the decision seems to have given general satisfaction. Apropos of the testing of beer, an acquaintance whom I met the other night told me that once upon a time—and it was in the olden time when a better class of liquor was manufactured than now—an admirer of a clergyman, to show his appreciation of his pastor, sent him a ten-gallon keg of whisky, as a token of good will. The parson was of the straight-laced, temperance order of being, and at first was tempted to send back the gift in high disgust; but on second thought he decided to submit the liquor to a few tests, to see if it would prove of any benefit around his premises. So he poured some out and offered it to his horse, but the horse being free from colic would have none of it; then he tried the dog, but "Dixie" didn't take kindly to the beverage, and growled disparagingly; when he offered it to the cow, "Brownie" meditatively chewed her cud, but declined to partake; the cat was next approached with the alcoholic stimulant, but "Tabby" wouldn't allow the fumes of the stuff to get near her whiskers; last of all that most loathsome of domestic animals, the pig, was tempted to taste, after snorting around the edge of the vessel in which it was held, it grunted in disgust and turned at once to roll in the dirty pool rather than pollute its "inwards" with so vile a decoction. The clergyman was satisfied with the analysis of his exports, and at once returned the whisky to the donor, accompanied by a note in which he stated: "I am not a drinking man; nevertheless, I would have kept the keg if I could have found any use for it, but after giving it a fair test, I find that it appears to be no good for man or beast. I offered it to my horse, my dog, my cat, my cow, and even my pig, and not one of them would have anything to do with it. If it isn't good for the lower animals it surely cannot be good for the highest grade. It may suit anybody lower than a beast, but it is of no use to a man." There are a lot of people in Ontario who agree with the old parson.

J. E. BROWN'S APPEARANCE.

J. E. Brown appears to be just enough of the bumper to make a good Tory government official for the North-west.

The London Advertiser gets off the following word-shed at the expense of Macdonald and Small:—

"Having paid \$1,000 or thereabouts for three letters that he could have got for nothing, Sir John no doubt feels Small at being done Brown."

THE FRANCHISE BILL.

The Franchise Bill was so disagreeable a morsel for the Senate, that five of the Conservatives of that usually obsequious body voted against the bill and its promoter, the Premier. If such be the case in the Senate what will it be in the country?

Tax-Carrier Brewing Company, of London, complains of a falling off of business owing to the Scott Act, and a reduction has been made in the running expenses of the establishment. And yet we have fellows hereabouts who say that the breweries are doing a bigger business than ever since the Scott Act came into force.

MACDONALD IS A CUTE FELLOW.

He tells Mr. McCrory that he has no time this session to bring in improved legislation for the enforcement of the Scott Act; while he gives the wink to his henchman Small to bring up for the second time the amendments to destroy the Scott Act. He is cunning, but he is watched closely by temperance voters.

We understand that the name of a Med. Allan is mentioned in connection with the management of the fruit department of the Colonial Exhibition, to be held in London next year. The exhibition will last from May until December. Mr. Allan is thoroughly posted on fruit matters, and would make a first class manager of the department referred to.

THE STRATFORD PAPERS.

are misrepresenting Goderich so far as drunkenness on Dominion day is concerned. This year there was not one fifth the amount of drunkenness that was visible on the Dominion day of last year. On this occasion it was confined to one or two hard holes; while last year the drunken boys could be counted by dozens, and drunk men were all over town. Only the hardest cases now get drunk in Goderich, and these are persons who would steal or perjure themselves for liquor.

THE RESULT OF THE ENTRANCE EXAMINATION.

is very disappointing to those of the public who take an intelligent interest in school affairs. While a public examination is not always a fair test of the quality of the teaching done, yet candidates who are specially prepared for these examinations are expected to make a good showing in the second or third attempt. We regret to say that the state of affairs in Goderich model school is such that if the hearts of the many of the more advanced scholars are not broken it will be because continual failure is making them callous. 35 plucked and only 14 passed is a record that, under the circumstances, is a pitiable showing.

THE RECENT REVELATIONS MADE BY THE PALL MALL GAZETTE.

of the traffic in young girls is something astounding. No good purpose would be served by repeating the stories in this journal, but we are of opinion that the *Gazette* is doing a noble work, and doing it well, in showing up the shameful traffic in female children now done in London. As the *Toronto World*, says:—"The most damning feature of all running through the disclosures now being made in the poor man's children are the victims of rich men's lusts. This is always the case; there is no vice *versus*, no apparently compensating circumstances, as in the numbers of killed and wounded in both sides respectively after a great battle. The poor man never destroys the rich man's daughter, and that for the best of all reasons: he cannot, because he has not the money to pay expenses. The utter one-sidedness of this business is something to startle us when we fairly realize it; and the indignation of aroused millions will be terrible in proportion."

MRS. TRICK'S DEATH.

The Body to be Exhumed at Ingersoll.

An Inquest Ordered by the Ontario Government, to take Place To-day.

During the past week or so rumors have been afloat respecting the death of Mrs. Thos. Trick, of Goderich township, who was reported to have died from a fall down the cellar stairs which broke her neck. The name of Mr. Trick was linked with that of a young girl, and it was said that the death of Mrs. Trick was not accidental, but had been hastened for obvious reasons. At any rate such was the opinion of some, as information was sworn to before the authorities that the deceased had come to her death under suspicious circumstances, and an inquest was demanded. We are indebted to the *Clinton New Era* for the following statement of the case, which is the version of the affair generally accepted, and we hope it will prove to be true at the inquest, and that Mr. Trick will be fully cleared from the suspicion which now rests upon his hitherto unblemished name:—

THE MRS. TRICK CASE.

It will be a painful surprise to our readers to learn that the body of the late Mrs. Trick is to be exhumed and an inquest held thereon, and although the matter is an exceedingly delicate one to refer to in detail, so many rumors are in circulation that we deem it in the interest of parties concerned, to make it public. To make the matter perfectly plain, we will give the circumstances connected with her death, as far as is known. When it was found that Mrs. Trick had broken her neck by the fall down the cellar steps, Mr. Trick immediately called in Dr. Worthington, who made a careful examination of the body and found nothing whatever to indicate that the cause of death had been any other than her accidental fall. Mr. Trick immediately notified the relations of Mrs. Trick, by telegraph, and they came to attend the funeral, suspecting the remains. Up to this time they had not hinted in any way that they were dissatisfied with the alleged report of death, but shortly after the body was interred, and while in company with Mr. Trick, at Woodstock, they hinted at foul play of some kind, and finally gave him to understand that they did not believe she died in the manner indicated. Mr. Trick was desirous of having the body taken up there and then, and the matter disposed of, but the others were not agreeable to that, and the matter dropped, for the time. On the return of Mr. Trick to this neighborhood, the stories were again circulated, and to finally dispose of the matter, and remove from Mr. Trick the very unpleasant odium that might groundlessly be attached to him, a petition was circulated asking that an inquest be held. This was forwarded to the Attorney General, through the County Crown Attorney, for his consent, which was given and an inquest ordered, and it is likely that the matter will be investigated in a few days. It is not for us to comment on the circumstances at present, further than to say that no one in this neighborhood, knowing Mr. Trick, attaches the slightest weight to the stories circulated, at least so far as he is called in question. To him the circumstances are doubly painful, but no one has any other idea but that he will come through the ordeal without the slightest stain or reflection on his hitherto unblemished character; that he has the sympathy of the entire community is attested in every way.

THE TORIES HAVE BEEN MAKING A GREAT FUSS OVER CERTAIN LETTERS PASSING BETWEEN MR. BLAKE AND ONE J. E. BROWN, AN ADVENTURER, WHO ATTEMPTED TO MAKE TERMS WITH MR. BLAKE TO EXPOSE SOME OF THE GOVERNMENT TRANSACTIONS IN THE NORTH-WEST.

Mr. Blake would not bite, but Sir John, through Mr. Small, bought the two letters from Brown for \$1,000, to be made a point against Mr. Blake. To their infinite disgust Mr. Blake read the whole correspondence, and assured Sir John that he might have saved his money and had all the correspondence for the asking.—[Chatham Standard.]

ANOTHER WHISKY TEST.

My friend, the rector, next gave another case of testing liquor of which he was personally cognizant. Some years ago down in the county of Waterloo, a horse and wagon rack was found standing on the roadside near a country village one morning. The driver had dropped through the rack head-first, and the horse coming to a stand still, the cramped feet of the man had held him suspended head-downwards. When discovered he was dead. In the rack was found a keg of liquor, and evidence pointed to the fact that the driver had been partaking too freely of the ardent beverage. He unfortunately fell backwards. A coroner's jury was summoned, but before a satisfactory verdict could be returned, it was necessary that expert testimony should be given as to the character of the liquor in the keg. Chemical analysts were not as plentiful in those days as they now are, and the coroner was constrained to obtain the services of Deidrich Von Swackenstein, the thirteenth soul in the section to give the necessary testimony concerning the contents of the keg. Deidrich went to the keg, poured out a generous draught, and then gulped it down. A smile went over his countenance, as if he had come across an old acquaintance, but couldn't just call him by name.

IS IT McPHERSON OR SIR JOHN?

The Toronto Mail and the person who drew up the indictment of Louis Riel do not agree upon the causes of that misguided man's action. The Mail declares in a column editorial yesterday, that Louis Riel was goaded into rebellion by "the callous and cruel neglect," "the injustice," and "delay" of the Interior Department in dealing with the half-breed grievances. Chief of Police Stewart, who lodged the information against Louis Riel, is equally positive that the half-breed leader was "moved and seduced by the instigation of the devil" to be a false traitor. We always entertained doubts about the sanctity of the Dominion Premier, but now our doubts are emphasized.—[Ottawa Free Press.]

DEWDNEY'S DEEDS.

Lieut. Governor Dewdney and Mrs. Dewdney gave a grand ball at Regina last week. The press reporter who telegraphed the fact all over Canada, says: "The affair proved to be the most brilliant event ever held in Regina, and was largely attended." Dewdney and his ladies, to whose mal-administration the rebellion was largely due, no doubt feel jubilant over the suppression of the outbreak, but they might have waited till the corpses of the victims of their misgovernment had grown cold, and the smoke from the burning homesteads of the wronged settlers had ceased to stifle the atmosphere, before they indulged in fiddling and dancing in heartless delight, within sight of the mournful monuments of their venality.—[Chatham Banner.]

A MAY FEEL.

Ottawa, July 14.—An insect known as the joint worm has made its appearance in the meadows in several parts of the country, and is having an injurious effect on the hay crop. Each blade of grass becomes white immediately after being attacked by the insect. In consequence farmers are cutting their hay earlier on the green side.

FORMOSA.

Disheartening Letter from a Well-Known Missionary—Disorder and Bloodshed.

TAMU, May 26.—I am back to Formosa just in time to be in the midst of rapine and bloodshed. Am very thankful Mrs. Mackay and the Jamiesons are not here. Mr. Jamieson being a stranger, or, would only be in the way. During the whole of the blockade North Formosa remained quiet. Foreigners were treated even with respect and kindness. Now, however, during this protracted famine, many natives are growing impatient, especially the militia, who are being disbanded. All the forces here are composed of these and mainland regulars. The feeling of jealousy has frequently given rise to threats and blows between them. Last week, under command of Imperial Commissioner Leo, the regulars marched into an encampment of militia and killed two, the rest fled. A few days ago when in the town of Sinatang, I observed a curious flag hoisted, and found that 300 men, headed by desperadoes, were on their way to plunder. Houses were soon ransacked, women and children beaten and killed.

THE AUTHORITIES DRIED.

Since then several have been captured, the whole scattered, and time alone will bring them to the just deserts. The mouth of the Tamari River here is still blocked with stones, boats, torpedoes, etc. No vessel is allowed inside. British merchant steamers roll outside the bar. Ten days ago a small steam launch went out, could not return, and was carried down the coast. As she neared a small creek 1,000 men and women rushed wildly towards her, dragged the boatmen out, was about to kill them when a teacher in my employ interfered and saved them. The boat was cut to pieces in the midst of shouting. "Are foreign devils on board?" "100 for a head." I had hat in hand to go out that day on the launch. Dr. Johansen was out on a steamer and never went on board to come in. When in Tek-Ohham the Mandarin himself told me he did not know what to do. He sent fifty men to the wreck. Men and women turned upon them, smashed 3 sedan chairs, beat the constables and drove them off the field. If soldiers should go there

MOIST BY A REBELLION.

A wealthy convert's house was surrounded by plunderers all night. Other converts soon loaded and held their ground with rained muskets till day-break.

Last night a man was stabbed here in Tamu. I am just back after seeing him. His entrails are hanging out. Militiamen are going about all over with knives concealed. This morning about daybreak I heard steps as if some one was moving slowly along. I rose immediately, quietly called several students, and surrounded a desperado. He made desperate efforts, but we seized him, wrenched a sharp knife from his hand, and bound him. I sent for the Chinese constable and now the fellow is in prison.

MARK WELL! THIS IS NOT PERSECUTION.

No sentimentalism wanted here just now. This is simply plunder and murder. God will care for those who care for themselves. We will "Hold the fort" by His grace and strength. We sing every night in the open air.

The French still at Kelang, Chinese here busy fortifying. Jehovah reigns!
G. L. MACKAY.

MACDONALD AND RIEL.

OTTAWA, July 12.—Major Chaplain, sheriff of the Northwest territories, who was summoned to Ottawa immediately after Riel's capture, has again left for the Northwest to be present at the trial in his official capacity. The sheriff, whose duty it will be to hang Riel if the latter is sentenced to death, believes that he will escape the gallows. Many others join him in this opinion, not only that he will escape the hangman, but that he will slip through the hands of his guardians, and make good his escape from the country before many weeks have passed over. He is an elephant on the hands of the government, who, on one side, are confronted by the Orange element clamoring for his head, while on the other side, the French-Canadians threaten trouble if he is not leniently dealt with. The only way Sir John Macdonald can get out of the dilemma is to allow his prisoner to escape and throw the responsibility on the shoulders of the officer in whose care he is placed for safe keeping. There is but one impression here regarding the disposition of Riel, and that is that sooner or later he will be spirited away across the border to the United States, and this belief has been strengthened rather than weakened by certain disclosures which have come to light within the past few days.

LAWYERS AND LABEL SITS.

One of the evil results of so many machine-made lawyers being turned out year after year is seen in the readiness with which all sorts of actions at law are grasped at. There was a time, not far gone, when a lawyer would frankly tell a client that he did not think he had a good case, and that it would be throwing money away to go into court with it. Except by firms of good standing, such advice as this is rarely ever given now-a-days. No matter how poor a case a client may have, he can always get some hard-up lawyer to take it up for him and make the most of it. In any event the lawyer is sure of his fees, and if the client does not get his costs it is his own fault—he should have known better than to go to law. In these days, for example, any characterless fellow can get a lawyer to enter an action for libel against a newspaper, and the calm assurance with which a bribeless barrister will sit down and write a letter asking for ten or twenty thousand dollars as damages for injury done to his client's character is really refreshing—all the more refreshing when it is known that the lawyer himself is some poor fellow who is not quite sure where he is going to board on the following week. The effect of this grasping at chances to make a fee is to bring the legal profession into disrepute.—[Toronto Telegram.]

THE STRAWBERRY CROP.

The strawberry crop hereabouts was a good one this year. The raspberries are now coming in, and are a heavy crop.

Chilled Plows
26, 28 and 40.
Red Prices.
WARRANTED ON HAND.
Agents to Agents.
The Canadian "Masson"
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