

The HURON SIGNAL

DEVOTED TO COUNTY NEWS AND GENERAL INTELLIGENCE

THIRTY-NINTH YEAR. WHOLE NUMBER 202. GODERICH, ONT., FRIDAY, FEB. 5, 1886. MCGILLICUDDY BROS. PUBLISHERS \$1.50 A YEAR IN ADVANCE

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THE HURON SIGNAL

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FRIDAY, FEB. 5th, 1886.

We invite the attention of our temperance readers to the article we publish this week under the Benbow Mercury on the question of Scott Act prosecutions.

The printing of the voters' lists for the Dominion Government has not been awarded by tender, but is now being given to party favorites at prices much higher than it would otherwise be done at.

An exchange pointedly remarks: "The statement has been made that the riot agitation was inspired by the Grits, and that they fanned and fed it. What was the policy of the members of Parliament who left for Montreal before the rebel's death and warned the Government of their 'secession' if their requests were finally ignored? Were they Grits? We trust not."

Grip says it "stands corrected" so far as Mr. M. C. Cameron is concerned. The jester was rash enough to sketch a cartoon on the strength of a statement in the Mail, but has since learned that the member for West Huron was right and the Tory organ wrong.

The Tory banquet at Dunnville last week was conducted on temperance principles. We welcome this mark of advancement on the part of the Monck Lib-Con. Carling's red ribbon was not even admitted, although the Hon. John himself was there, and made one of his half-and-half speeches. The temperance banquet has come to stay.

The Star last week gave its readers to understand that it would continue to hold its views on the Kiel question, no matter what arguments were adduced by its contemporaries. It is now revealing in a fat Government job, at its own rates, the printing of the lists under the new franchise bill—and we don't expect it will take its nose out of the trough long enough to weigh the facts of the case. The Star and the other subsidized organs know that their bread and butter is involved in their sticking to the Government, whether it is in the right or in the wrong—and they'll stick. If the Tory Government were defeated this year at least twenty-five per cent of them would scound away and the remainder would grow hungry and lean. Hence their loyalty to the Government—their breadgiver.

Some of our readers are doubtless wondering why we are giving so much space to political matters just now. It is simply because the only course left to the Liberal party of Canada is to appeal to the mind and heart of the people. The Tories have on their side the reviving barriers and clerks, and the specially prepared voters' lists to aid them, while we have only a good cause and an earnest advocacy of it to meet them with. Our fighting is fair, and appeals to the intellect and heart. The warfare of the Tories is unfair; they would first tie our hands, and then invite us to combat. The Tories can make votes simply by crowding them on the list; we can win only by an appeal to the honor, the justice and the spirit of fair play, that we trust is not yet extinct in the breast of the honest man.

Through the mill of God grinds slowly, it grinds according to measure. Those with patience are waiting, with exultation, for the day.

PERDUE'S LITTLE CIRCULAR.

Mr. John Perdue, of Morris township, has risen to eminence. For years Mr. Perdue had gone up and down the condition line without attracting any particular attention, but now he has become famous as if he were bedecked with yellow pants, a red shirt, straw hat and a paper collar. Mr. John Perdue is the hero of the celebrated circular to the Tory voters of Morris, asking them to vote solidly for the Tory municipal candidates, and he is now endeavoring to get out of the scrape into which his foolishness has plunged the political party with which he is allied.

Mr. Perdue's circular was the work of the election. The copy we got possession of was endorsed on the back, "Jonathan has a vote." In that document the talented author stated that the meeting that selected Messrs. Way and Howe, for reeve and deputy-reeve, in the Conservative interest, "was very largely attended by members from each subdivision." In his later production, where he is trying to draw in his horns, the municipal Warwick says, "only a few Conservatives met together in the town hall." &c. Now, Mr. Perdue, be up and up, and let us know which of these statements is false, for certainly both are not correct.

After lying about the original meeting in the town hall, Mr. Perdue goes on to assert that somebody stole the circulars that were published in the Reform papers, and goes for the Reform party on general principles. In the matter of the circulars being stolen, Mr. Perdue is lying again. The SIGNAL has a copy of the circular, which came in a legitimate manner, and written on the back of it was the legend "Jonathan has a vote." Of course, everybody who knows Mr. John Perdue, or Morris, will feel convinced that his truthfulness is not beyond question on the two points to which he has alluded.

But Mr. Perdue quotes a statement made by the TORY SIGNAL in December, 1883, and endeavors to give that as a justification for his recent action. Here are his words:

"On this head hear what that Grit sheet, the TORY SIGNAL, said Dec. 18th, 1883. Turn up your files, Mr. Editor, and verify every word, and deny it if you can. Now Grits and Tories and Mr. Editor read it. It is as follows:—'Let the watch word be raised in every municipality where a Reform majority exists, that henceforth no quarter is to be shown to the enemy, but that the battle at the municipal elections must be fought out on strict party lines.' Now, is that enough for you? What did you ever lift your voice or use your pen to us when I had the TORY SIGNAL ever been sorry for such conduct, never."

Mr. John Perdue winds up the above quotation with a query which he answers himself, and of course, as is usual with him, he lies, in his answer. If Mr. John Perdue had dared to quote the paragraph in full from which he abstracted his quotation, the content would have answered the query which he asked of cowardly rascals, led by a hungry office-seeker, had endeavored to disgrace a public official of twenty six years standing, by summarily dismissing him from office without cause, and had also endeavored to steal a county office. Here are the words which follow where Mr. John Perdue's scissors made the "divide":

"This is not our doing, but has been forced upon us by the reckless tactics of our opponents. We have hitherto do presented the introduction of party politics into municipal contests, but now the game of battle has been thrown down by our opponents, and we hasten to take it up. Our Tory friends in the council have 'aided the cause into the ring,' and if they get 'knocked out in the first round' at the January election they will have no cause to complain."

That portion of the paragraph explains the whole situation. No Tory paper took exception to it at the time, and it is only now, when Mr. John Perdue wants to do a little lying to get himself out of an ugly piece of municipal morality, that the item is uncondemned, and a wrong interpretation is placed upon it.

Mr. Perdue and others of like kidney have forced the fighting, it should be the aim of our friends to "fight the devil with fire." The Tories have always carried politics into municipal matters, and it is high time Reformers adopted similar tactics. We want to see Grey, Hullett, Ashfield, Colborne, W. Wassaah, Turnberry, Stanley and other Reform municipalities, take pattern from Goderich township, Howick, Morris, and other Tory townships in this respect. And if that be done, Mr. Perdue's little circular will not be necessary in future elections.

BLAKE TO THE FORE.

The following ringing words from the Hamilton Times are an accurate summary of the political situation:—"It has been made clear that leading Tories were willing to 'smash' Confederation, to array the Provinces to hostile camps, to form political parties on lines of race and creed—even to run the risk of civil war—rather than abandon the sweets of office. With such a revelation of Tory character in view, it is a relief to the country to see in Mr. Blake a man of greater ability than his chief political rival, a man as candid and honest as his opponent is sharp and treacherous, a man who cares as much for country as his enemy cares for power, a man to whom the destinies of Canada can safely be entrusted. Sir John Macdonald will return to Canada, and his servile majority of purchased supporters in the present House of Commons will at his bidding vote that block is white. But the old fox has found its master. Mr. Blake can locate the responsibility for every Ministerial act, and the sense of justice of the Canadian people will see to it that the guilty shall not escape."

OWING to the St. Thomas opera house being previously engaged for Thursday, Feb. 12th, Mr. Cameron, M.P. will not deliver his address in that town until Friday, Feb. 12th. He will expose to view a different channel of Tory thieving.

We notice that some of the Tory press are more reticent on the basities of the Dominion Franchise Act than others of the brethren. These are they who rejoice not in the fat occupation of building voters' lists at fancy rates. It is out of the fallacy of the wallet that the Tory organs speak.

Dr. Orton, the Winnipeg member for Centre Wellington, addressed his constituents the other day, and wanted to get credit for the charge at Batoche. Well, if the valiant doctor is satisfied with credit for the charge, for goodness sake, let him have it. He gets spot cash from the C. P. R. employees in his position of medical officer of that institution; he got solid specie for his salary as field doctor to the forces at Batoche; and we have no doubt he got the \$500 extra indemnity from parliament, although he was drawing a salary from the Government at the time in the far North-west. If Dr. Orton, M.P., is satisfied with cash, and will promise to be satisfied with credit for the charge at Batoche, let the warrior-medico have credit, by all means.

We hear a great deal of talk about the amount of business done in the ambitious town of Clinton. To read the newspapers published there one would be inclined to put great faith in the future of the place; but when the condition of the town is looked into carefully and coolly, Clinton doesn't stand very high among the towns of Huron after all. Monday evening last, a municipal reformer named Jackson, who now occupies a seat on the Clinton council board, made an assault upon the standing of the town, and proved by unquestioned figures, either that the town should be less pretentious, or that a system of false assessments has heretofore been resorted to in the matter of personal property. After Jackson gave the figures of some of the fraudulent private assessments, reeve McMurchie was moved with a feeling of compunction, and endorsed the general statement made by Jackson, that Clinton was wrongfully assessed for personal property. He gave the assessments of the following places in support of his contention:—

Goderich	\$75,000
Windsor	75,000
Essex	50,000
Brampton	50,000
Clinton	35,000

It will be seen from the above that Clinton trails the procession a long way back, and that it must now either cease its boasting about the amount of business it does, or raise the assessment upon the machinery, dry-goods and other personal property with which it does its boasted business.

The Toronto World blames the Scott Act for the increase of pauperism in Goderich township. This is the only township in Huron that had but one hotel in it, and the loss so far to the township treasury by the stopping of the license is only \$33. The World had better get some stronger argument against the Scott Act than the increase of pauperism in Goderich township.

Mr. MEREDITH in his speech upon the reply to the Address last week, and Mr. White in his speech at Dunnville on the same day, each endeavored to prove that the recent decision of the Privy Council on the license question was not a defeat for Sir John A. Macdonald, but for Mr. Mowat! How stupid, not to say dishonest, this line of argument must appear to any who will read the exact words spoken by the Dominion premier at Yorkville in 1882. He said:—"Since confederation my decision has often been given as minister of justice, on constitutional questions, and in no single case has my judgment been reversed. I believe the Crooks Act is not worth the paper it is written on."

He also called Mr. Mowat "little tyrant," and boasted that he would teach him a lesson. The lesson has been taught the boastful Macdonald, and it is the silliest sort of twaddle for the Tories to affect that that case went against the Province and not against the Dominion Government. Where is the McCarthy act today? It is gone with "the chief-tain's" reputation as a constitutional lawyer.

The Vidette has come out with a "patent" notice. This is an important one on the old second-hand plates, and folk on now read what is printed. Altogether the general tone of the paper is improved, save in another lift, Tom.

The above, from the Goderich Star's correspondence column, is not a graceful compliment to the Vidette—another Tory sheet, by-the-way. The Vidette is a little paper in Gorrie, with a limited field, but, nevertheless, doing its best to fill the corner in which its lot is cast. It deals principally with local news, and its miscellaneous pages are now printed on the co-operative plan—a good system for country journals where the advertising patronage is limited. Previous to adopting the "patent" limit the Vidette used "plates" from ready-set matter, and this is another labor-saving process which many country papers adopt. The Star correspondent has no reason to "throw slurs at the little Vidette for using 'plates,' and if he is aware of the fact that the great county town journal—the Star—also loaded up with 'plates,' he might not have written the above item. The Star editor should have drawn his pencil across the item against the Vidette, when he knew the Star was guilty of the same crime—if crime it be.

A White Lie.

"I say emphatically that no party advantage will compensate for any falsehood uttered in its behalf. I say that the public man who is guilty of falsehood before a public audience not only sins before God, but makes a mistake from a party point of view."—(Hon. T. White at St. Thomas.) "Then, gentlemen, as regards the commission which was issued this year. We are told that it was not issued until it was found the rebellion had broken out. Nothing could be further from the truth than this statement.—(Thos. White at Weston.) "The order-in-council appointing the commission was passed in the month of January; on the 4th of February notification of the appointment of the commission was forwarded to the Metis, and as soon as possible thereafter the commission left for the Northwest."—(Hon. Thos. White at St. Thomas.)

The Duck Lake fight was on March 28th; according to vol. xvii of the Sessional papers the commission was appointed on March 30th, four days after, and left for the Northwest on Feb'y 4th. Thomas, it is wicked to lie.—(Oranham Banner.)

BROUGHT HIM TO TRAIL—The Exeter correspondent of the Seaforth Expositor says:—The Salvation Army are causing considerable excitement just now, the cause being that certain members of the army got "under the power," as they call it, when they lie on the platform on their backs, some of them with their arms stretched upwards, for hours at a time, apparently lifeless. On Sunday evening the excitement was greater than usual, a great number of the soldiers getting "under the power." The congregation were allowed to go up to the front and satisfy their curiosity. A certain person in the audience stuck a pin in his overcoat, and when "Happy Jim" was laying on his back in the corner, gently prodded him with the toe of his boot. Jimmie all at once thinking it was time to wake up, quickly helped himself on to his feet with a wild yell. He was evidently not so much "under the power" that a vigorous prod from the sharp end of a pin could not reach a tender spot.

WHAT'S UP?

Things That Are Happening Around Us.

The Legislature safe—Archib Campbell on the "Wooden Men"—Alex. Apollon—Advice to Presbyterians—The "Welsh Minister"—An Easy Question to Answer—The Big Boom.

County councillor Jacques, of Howick, nearly knocked things cold, so far as the Legislature is concerned, so far as he is told. Jacques is the man who advocates providing assessors with tape reels to measure dogs' tails, and to value each annual according to the length of the caudal appendage, as I explained to the readers of this progressive journal last week. Well, the old man got it into the hair that surrounds the half-spot on his head, that it would be a good scheme to introduce a motion into the council to have the clerk and warden memorialize the Legislature to abolish itself. Taught by his experience in legislating for the better assessment of dogs, he sought legal advice before introducing his measure for the abolition of the Legislature, and consulted one of the leading legal lights of the county upon the question. The answer to his query was as pronounced, if not quite as satisfactory, as that of the celebrated Delphic oracle in several historical cases. It was to this effect, "Right you are, my dear sir. Memorialize to abolish the Legislature, but be careful and don't ask to have county councils done away with. Your township may persist in sending you to the county council, but you can depend upon it, you'll never occupy a seat in the Legislature. So you won't lose anything by agitating for the abolition of the latter." For some reason or other Mr. Jacques did not press his motion for the abolition of the Legislature, but he is careful and don't ask to have county councils done away with. Your township may persist in sending you to the county council, but you can depend upon it, you'll never occupy a seat in the Legislature. So you won't lose anything by agitating for the abolition of the latter." For some reason or other Mr. Jacques did not press his motion for the abolition of the Legislature, but he is careful and don't ask to have county councils done away with. 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