

The South American War.

Most people are aware that war is raging in South America, and that it has been carried on with perseverance, not to say animosity, for a number of years, but comparatively few are aware of the causes which led to its being waged. As it assumes a considerable degree of importance on account of the heroism of the Paraguayans, who have fought like Trojans against the power of the extensive empire of Brazil, it may not be out of place to rehearse the events which led to this desperate and protracted struggle. About the year 1863 Gen. Flores who had been exiled by the Republic of Uruguay, returned to put himself at the head of a revolutionary movement. The Legislature at once issued a proclamation of outlawry against him, and despatched a body of troops to quell the rebellion. Flores was at first defeated, but afterwards won a signal victory, and with his triumphant forces advanced on the capital. Through the mediation of foreign ministers resident in the Republic, negotiations were opened between the contending parties, but the attempt to settle the differences was rendered abortive by the unreasonable demands of Flores. Meantime the sympathies of the Brazilian subjects resident in Uruguay were strongly in favor of the insurgent chief, and on this account they were subjected to many annoyances. Their own Government interfered on their behalf, and demanded indemnity for the losses they had already sustained, and those they might afterwards sustain by the actions of the belligerents. The demand was met by a refusal, and Brazil immediately espoused the cause of Flores, blockaded the ports of Uruguay, and sent an army into the territory.

It was now that Paraguay became embroiled in the quarrel. She protested against the action of Brazil, but finding her remonstrances disregarded made cause with Uruguay, and proclaimed war against Brazil. But in the meantime Montevideo, the capital of Uruguay, had been taken by the Brazilians, and Flores was installed as President. Of course there was an alliance formed between the Republic and the Empire against the courageous Paraguayans. In 1865 the Argentine Republic violated the laws of neutrality, and exhibited its sympathy for the cause of Brazil. Paraguay at once declared war against this new enemy, and as a consequence forced her to league with the other two. A solemn covenant was then entered into by the three powers, by which they bound themselves never to desist until they had not only subdued but disabled Paraguay by compelling her to surrender her munitions of war. This was a formidable combination, but Paraguay remained undaunted, and success smiled upon her first efforts. One Brazilian town after another submitted to her arms, and for a considerable time she went on conquering and to conquer. But reverse came, and her troops were beaten back into their own territory, and compelled to take up a position in Humaita, a strongly fortified city on the Parana. All that offensive and defensive art could do was done to render the place impregnable, and since that time it has defied the efforts of the besiegers. Attempts have been made by other powers, but without avail, to produce a reconciliation. Brazil is powerful, and it looks as if Paraguay with all her heroism must at last succumb. A day or two ago we published a description of a naval engagement between the belligerents, in which the bravery of the Paraguayans and the power of the Brazilians were conspicuous. The former were defeated, but with characteristic contumacy they announce their determination not to submit yet.

JOBBERY.

The Montreal Witness says the Vine Growers' Association is again before Parliament. This is one of the most transparent humbugs of the day, by which a few individuals, as managers, expect to make a good thing out of the stockholders and the public. We say the public, for there is a remission of excise duties on their products, which may, by clever parties, be turned to a profit of an indefinite amount annually. Let Parliament beware of all private jobs; and, speaking of such, the Bank-Note Engraving Company, in which the proprietors of the Gazette are or were interested, appears to be one of the most profitable of the day. The history of the affair, so far as we can glean it from speeches and documents, is briefly as follows:—Two companies of engravers, each, it is believed, abundantly capable, tendered for the work—one at 20 per cent. and the other at 25 per cent., below the rates charged by American engravers; but our Government (we wonder which of the Ministers of the Crown was responsible for this proceeding), advised the two to unite, and Mr Chamberlain, who was a partner in a government organ, and a partner in the Ministerial candidate for Missisquoi, was united with them. This united company then got the work to

enterprise, that their requisites should come in free of duty, and, if they had to print notes in Ottawa, that they should get accommodations in that city free. Mr Chamberlain, we see, says that he sold his stock when he became a candidate for Parliament; but he does not say to whom. This company has already for less than two years' work \$50,000 from Government, which by one of the former tenders, would have been only \$60,000, and by another \$64,000. How much of this profit, over and above a business profit, went for political purposes, we are not informed, but the affair appears to be just another instance of the way things are too often conducted in Canada.

Great Western Railway.

The report of the half yearly meeting of the Shareholders of the Great Western Railway Company lately held at London, shows the line to be in a most flourishing condition. The management is all that the Company could reasonably expect or desire, the per centage of running expenses are diminishing, while the semi-annual receipts from through traffic are increasing. There is, however, a small falling off in the local traffic. The laying of the third rail has proved a wonderful advantage to the Company; and the Detroit and Milwaukee road, which is under the control and direction of the Great Western, is also assuming a more and more hopeful condition. The chairman adverted to the claims now being pressed upon the Government with reference to the loans advanced to aid the Great Western, and expressed the hope that a satisfactory arrangement be made. We heartily congratulate the company and all concerned in the management of the road on the exceedingly gratifying condition of its affairs.

The London Times summarises the report of the Directors as follows:—The report of the Directors states that the total receipts on capital account amounted to £5,260,508, and the total expenditure to £5,361,806, leaving a balance to the debit of capital of £101,298. The outlay on capital account during the half-year has been £24,241, including the completion of the works on the Car ferry boat, additional signals and sidings for the narrow gauge line, additions to rolling stock, stations, &c. The gross receipts on revenue account amounted for the half-year ending the 31st of January to £400,813, and the working expenses, including renewals, to £193,667, leaving a balance of £207,145. From this was deducted £50,911, for interest on bonds &c., £66,612 loss on conversion of American funds, £4,110 for Detroit fire claims, and £1,285 for deficiency in working the Erie and Niagara Railway, leaving a profit of £84,255, to which was added £1,681, being the surplus from last half-year, making £85,936. Out of this the Directors recommended a dividend at the rate of 4 1/2 per cent per annum, free of income tax, leaving a surplus of £5,725, of which the Directors proposed to set apart £3,000, for the renewal of the ferry steamers, making the renewal fund £5,000, leaving £2,725 for the current half-year. The loss on the conversion of American funds for the half-year amounted to £66,612, as compared with £48,229 for the same half of the previous year. The working expenses, including renewals, were 48.31 per cent of the receipts, against 50.26 per cent for the corresponding half-year. The cost of maintenance and renewals was £43,589 against £39,582 for the corresponding period, being an increase of £3,907. The gross earnings of the Detroit and Milwaukee Railway for the year 1867 were £361,913, and the working expenses £203,942, leaving the net revenue £157,970.

QUICK WORK.

The latest advices from Sydney state that Farrell, who shot Prince Alfred, had been tried (probably by special commission) found guilty, and sentenced to death. It is probable he would be allowed but a short shrift, and there is every likelihood that before now he has made, as far as mankind are concerned, atonement for his crime. That the murder was not actually perpetrated would not likely be considered a valid plea for Executive clemency, and Farrell's intent has in all probability proved as fatal to him as if he had succeeded in killing the Prince. The promptitude with which the would-be assassin has been brought to justice presents a singular contrast to the tardiness with which retribution visits criminals of a like character in Canada. We are not informed of the circumstances under which the shot was fired at the Duke, we do not know if it was in the public streets, and in presence of a multitude of people, but we may infer that the criminal was detected and his guilt decided with no more than ordinary difficulty. In the assassination case which the Canadian authorities are now investigating there were many obstacles to be surmounted before any man could be definitely pointed out as the murderer. Step by step Whalen has been brought to the foot of the gallows, and there is scarcely an individual not of his ilk but believes he should be compelled to ascend the ladder. We are told the case is clear against him, and it is, why defer his trial till October? Why give his associates time to conspire for his liberation, or allow his own ingenuity an opportunity of planning means for his escape? Bolts and bars and warders have been found unavailing to detain less daring criminals than he, unaided by a less reckless band of sympathizers. Kilmalham prison

Mike Murphy's feat may also be remembered with advantage. Something about a special commission was mentioned in the Ottawa news on Monday, and most people will admit that it would be one of the most effectual means of preventing Whalen, if he is guilty, from cheating Calcraft.

New Advertisements.

Senior Girls' School.

THE Senior Girls' School will be re-opened on MONDAY, 4th of MAY, in the new School Room, West Ward School, under charge of the newly appointed Teacher, Miss Walker.

DOG LOST.

LOST on Thursday, the 23rd inst., on the Mark of Square, a black and tan Colley Dog, medium size, answers to the name of "Ponto." Any person leaving him at O'Neil's Hotel, Guelph, or with the subscriber will be rewarded.

AUCTION SALE

CLOTHING!

W. S. G. KNOWLES HAS received a consignment, comprising a vast assortment of GENTS' COATS, VESTS, PANTS, HATS, CAPS, Boots, Shoes &c., &c. Which must be disposed of. He has therefore rented the Store OPPOSITE the MARKET

Commencing on Wednesday Even'g, April 29th, 1868, And continue each evening until the entire Stock is disposed of.

Insolvent Act of 1864.

In the matter of John and Adam Kinnon, Insolvents.

Second and Final Dividend Sheet has been prepared, subject to objection till the Sixteenth day of May next. Dividend payable at my office on the 15th of May.

SPEED LODGE NO. 180.

AN EMERGENCY MEETING of Speed Lodge No. 180, G. R. U. C. A. P. and A. M. will be held in the Masonic Hall on Wednesday Evening next the 29th Inst.

BUCKWHEAT FLOUR

At JOHN A. WOOD'S.

MAPLE SUGAR!

At JOHN A. WOOD'S.

BISCUIT

Arrowroot, Cream, Fruit, Victoria, Abernethy, Wine and Ginger Nut BISCUITS

AMBER SYRUP

At JOHN A. WOOD'S.

DAYS BOOKSTORE.

ENGLISH APRIL MAGAZINES.

Bow Bells, Belgravia, Englishwoman, Family Herald, St. Pauls, Cassel's Magazine, People's Argosy, Temple Bar, Cornhill.

SCOTTISH JOURNAL.

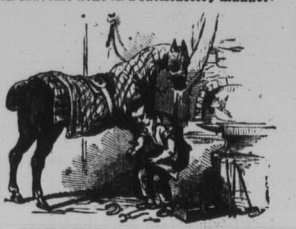
At Day's Bookstore, opposite the Market, Guelph.

HOUSE AND SIGN PAINTER, Paper Hanger, Glazier, &c.

Shop on QUEBEC STREET, near Mr. Howard's Store and Tin Depot. All orders from the Town and Country will receive prompt attention.

NEW BLACKSMITH SHOP

THE subscriber begs to inform the people of Guelph and surrounding country that he has leased and fitted up the Blacksmith Shop, being that old and well-known stand on Cardigan Street, near Goldie's, formerly known as the People's Mills, where he intends to carry on the Blacksmith business in all its branches.



IMPORTANT TO FARMERS.—The subscriber begs to intimate to farmers that he is now manufacturing, and has for sale first-class Steel Mould Board Ploughs, (Gray's pattern), Ploughs of other patterns made to order. Wagons and all kinds of Farm Implements made to order and repaired on the most reasonable terms.

WOOD WORK.—A first-class wood worker kept in connection with the shop. The subscriber having had long experience in the above business, hopes by strict attention to the wants of his customers to merit a share of public patronage.

Don't forget the Stand, near Goldie's Mills. CALEB CHASE, 41m-6m.

Apothecaries' Hall!

Sewing Machine Oil.

Sewing Machines

Superior to all other Oils. Will wear longer, and does not clog up the finest parts of the machine.

A. B. PETRIE,

Chemist, Market Square. Guelph, April 23.

Insolvent Act of 1864 FOR SALE

THE Stock-in-trade of ROBERT RUTHERFORD of Guelph, Ont., at so much on the Dollar of the Inventories, Prices, Goods and Inventory to be seen on the premises.

Up to Saturday, 2nd May, and may be made either en bloc or separately for DRY GOODS or GROCERIES.

Terms cash, or approved credit. PHILIP S. ROSS, Assignee of Estate of R. Rutherford.

Insolvent Act of 1864 AND AMENDMENTS.

In the Matter of GEORGE ROYCE, of Decatur, in the County of Halton, AN INSOLVENT.

WILL be sold by Public Auction, in the Market Square, Guelph, ON SATURDAY, 2nd MAY, 1868, By W. S. G. KNOWLES, Auctioneer, one span of Horses, without any reserve.

The Town of Guelph. TENDERS WANTED.

SEALED TENDERS will be received by the undersigned till MONDAY, 4th MAY, for removing the Weigh House, Scales and Market Clerk's Office, and for fencing in Cattle Yards in connection with the said Weigh House.

TO FARMERS. WANTED by a young man, a situation with a respectable Farmer. Enquire at THE EVENING MERCURY Office. Guelph, April 13, 1868.

ALE AND CIDER! JUST RECEIVED AT H. WALKER'S, 100 Doz. Magnificent Sparkling CANADIAN ALE!

Penner's Champagne Cider, in Prime Order, at \$1.50 per dozen. Also, in Pints and Quarts at \$2.00 and \$3.00 per dozen.

HUGH WALKER, Wholesale and Retail Fruit Dealer, Wyndham-St., Guelph.

JACKSON & HALLETT (SUCCESSORS TO JOHN L. LEWIS.) No. 7, Wyndham-St., GUELPH. The Subscribers having purchased from JOHN L. LEWIS the whole of his extensive GROCERY AND LIQUOR BUSINESS! ARE PREPARED TO CARRY IT ON IN ALL ITS BRANCHES. CASHE FOR PRODUCES Their Stock of Liquors will be found heavy, well selected and assorted. DANIEL JACKSON. J. HALLETT.

BEDDING PLANTS!

C. & A. SHARPE HAVE for sale a large number of the following assortment of BEDDING PLANTS!

VERBENAS, LANTANAS, PETUNIAS, HELIOTROPES, GERANIUMS, Etc., Etc.

VEGETABLE PLANTS.

CABBAGE PLANTS, in best Varieties, CAULIFLOWER, in best Varieties, KEYS' TOMATO, 30 days earlier than any other Variety extant, CUCUMBER and MELON.

BRITANNIA HOUSE

WYNDHAM STREET, GUELPH. ANOTHER CHEAP LOT OF GREY AND WHITE COTTONS!

500 PIECES NEW Canadian Tweeds, very Cheap JUST ARRIVED AT HEFFERNAN BROS.

LOOKING UP

WITHIN the last few days trade has been looking up considerably, and A. O. BUCHAM

ATTRACTION DEPARTMENTS.

Dress Goods, Straw Goods and Millinery, Jackets and Jacket Materials, Buttons and Trimmings in all the Newest and Leading Styles.

Ladies are invited to call and inspect our Stock. A. O. BUCHAM.