

MR. WHITNEY'S BILL

To Prevent Irregularities at Elections.

Mr. Whitney has introduced a bill in the Legislature to amend the Election Act. The following are the principal features: The returning officer shall be a resident of the electoral district. On the day of nomination the returning officer shall announce the names of the deputy returning officers. Each deputy returning officer shall be a resident of the polling subdivision in which he acts. The deputy returning officer shall be sworn in by the returning officer.

The ballots shall be printed by the Queen's Printer, and the numbered ballots shall be abolished. The ballots and printed directions to voters to be furnished by the returning officer to the deputy returning officer two days before the poll. Each poll clerk shall be a resident voter in the polling subdivision in which he acts. Agents shall not be given certificates allowing them to vote in polling places other than where they reside. The oath of the deputy returning officer shall be taken by the returning officer.

The returning officer is to attend at the polling place half an hour before the opening of the poll; he shall count the ballots to be used in the presence of the candidates or agents, who shall be allowed to examine the same; that the ballot box shall be placed on a table; that he shall give a statement of the result, whether requested to do so or not, and the candidates or agents shall be allowed to write their names across the flap of the envelopes after they have been sealed. The ballot-boxes are to be delivered to the returning officer by the deputy or the poll clerk. The returning officer is empowered, when a deputy returning officer has failed to sign his return, to count the ballots and sign the statement himself. A recount may be had where the majority is not more than 100.

Bribers, receivers of bribes, persons and persons who exercise undue influence are to receive six months' imprisonment, in addition to the money penalty of \$200. Persons who vote more than once are to suffer three months' imprisonment, in addition to a similar penalty.

REACHED BLOEMFONTEIN.

London, March 13.—Lord Roberts telegraphs: "I directed Gen. French, if there were time, to seize the railway station at Bloemfontein and thus secure the rolling stock. At midnight I received a report from him that, after considerable opposition, he had been able to occupy two hills close to the railway station, which command Bloemfontein. A brother of President Steyn has been made prisoner. The telegraph leading north has been cut and the railway broken up."

Britain Refuses to Recognize the Independence of the Republics.

In the House of Lords on Tuesday Lord Salisbury read the British Government's reply to Presidents Kruger and Steyn. The concluding sentence is as follows: Her Majesty's Government can only answer your honor's telegram by saying it is not prepared to assent to the independence of either the South African Republic or the Orange Free State."

Will Fight to the End.

In their telegram to Lord Salisbury Presidents Kruger and Steyn state that the war was undertaken solely as a defensive measure to maintain the threatened independence of the South African Republic, and is only continued in order to secure and maintain the incontestable independence of both republics. On these conditions and these conditions alone, are we now, as in the past, desirous of peace. If Her Majesty's government is determined to destroy the independence of the republics there is nothing left to us and to our people but to persevere to the end. In spite of the overwhelming pre-eminence of the British Empire, we are confident that that God who lighted the unextinguishable fire of love of freedom in the hearts of ourselves and of our fathers will not forsake us, and will accomplish His work in us and in our descendants.

Killed By a Bull.

Chatham, March 10.—Wm. Stover, of Chatham township, went out to the barn to do his evening chores. Not returning for an unusual length of time, the family became uneasy, and on a search being made the dead body of Mr. Stover was found in the barn yard. From the marks on the body it was evident that Mr. Stover was killed by a bull which was running loose in the yard. Mr. Stover, who was highly respected, was 69 years of age, and leaves a widow, one son and one daughter.

CAMPBELLTON.

Mr. Roderick McPherson, an old pioneer of Dunwich, died in Winsor on Friday. His remains were interred in Kerr's cemetery.

The infant daughter of Alex. Finlayson is very ill with inflammation of the lungs. But slight hopes are entertained for her recovery.

Mrs. D. McArthur has returned from a visit to her sister in Florence.

Col. Plummer's force is rapidly approaching Mafeking and the relief of the garrison may be expected daily.

The People's Popular Trading Place.

T. HOCKIN, DUTTON.

New Gloves Here.

First Importation of Trefousse Fine Kid Gloves Now Here.

Two-clasp "Shelbourne," pique sewn, Derby points, in new greys, beavers, tans and black, at.... \$1 50

- "Dorothy Pique," heavy suede glove a specialty, the best glove shown in the market at the price, in the new greys and beavers, at.... 1.25
- Our 3-clasp "Dorothy," over seam glove, with newest embroidered points, in grey, tan, castor, beaver, brown, green and blue, black with self and white points, at 1 50
- Our 3-clasp "Fancy Dorothy," in all the newest shades, with self and colored embroidered points, at.... 1 65



New Corsets.

- Brush's B. & C.
- Crompton's Metallic, Victoria Yatisi
- The Celebrated P. & D. French Corset.

The Latest in Up-to-Date Shoes for Men, Women and Children.

MILLINERY.

MISS BARNES, who takes charge of our Millinery Department, is now here, and is ready to take orders for early Millinery.

Our stock in this department will be found equal to city stores.

Fashion Sheets Free. Look at our windows if you wish to keep posted.

T. HOCKIN.

THE DISTRICT.

Miss A. Rowland, of Strathroy, committed suicide by shooting.

R. Donnelly, of Glenora, had the misfortune to have both of his legs jammed while working in the stove mill.

A case of smallpox has developed in Lobo, the victim being a man named McVicar, who is said to have escaped from a house in Detroit, where he was quarantined.

St. Andrew's church, Strathroy, has extended a call to Rev. H. A. McPherson, of Acton, to succeed Rev. Prof. Jordan, lately appointed to Queen's College, Kingston.

Nelson Buchanan, a student at the Woodstock Baptist College from Kaslo, B. C., died on Thursday night. It is the first time in twenty five years a death has occurred among the students at the college.

There are now twenty six cases of smallpox in Ontario, distributed as follows: Toronto Junction, 15; Toronto, 3; Amberstburg, 3; Township of Walden, Mersea, and Sandwich East, Essex County, one each; Mosa and Lobo, Middlesex county, one each.

COUNTY NEWS.

W. Ollett, of West Lorne, had his leg broken while rolling logs in McKillop's mill.

Rev. J. H. King has not accepted the call extended to him by the Baptist congregations of Rodney, West Lorne and Aldborough Plains.

J. C. Schleibant, of West Lorne, has disposed of all his property in Aldborough except his personal effect and his property in the village of Brownie & Co., of Detroit, for \$40,000. The property was purchased for the standing timber, says the Sun.

Quite a serious accident happened to John Head, of the 7th con. Aldborough, on Saturday last. He was a leading a colt to water when the animal in play broke from him and kicked the blow striking Mr. Head just over the ear. He was rendered unconscious for a time the blow being a severe one. Had the animal been shod or had it struck him a little nearer the front of the skull, the blow would no doubt have proved fatal.

Thomas Green, J.P., at one time a large woolen mill proprietor at Union, one of the most prominent residents of the county and one of its best read men, died in London in the eighty fifth year of his age. He was an Englishman by birth and came to Canada in 1842. He sides the mills at Union he also ran large mills at Avon, north of London. He lived from 1842 till six years ago at Union. He was for years a director of the Southern Loan Co. He leaves no family, but his wife survives him.

PRESBYTERY OF LONDON.

The Presbytery of London met in London yesterday, with the Rev. Mr. Milloy, the Moderator, in the chair. After the opening routine, the Rev. Robert Stewart, B.A., of Melbourne, was elected Moderator for the next six months, and took the chair accordingly.

A call was submitted from the congregation of Dresden, in the Presbytery of Chatham, in favor of Rev. N. Lindsay, of Lobo and Caradoc. Rev. Mr. Lindsay accepted the call.

Rev. John McNeil resigned his charge of the congregation of Dunwich, being compelled to retire from active service on account of impaired health. The Presbytery with much regret accepted the resignation, to take effect after March 25th, the pulpit to be declared vacant on the first Sabbath of April.

A request was read from North Ekfrid Mission, asking to be connected with some other congregation that they may be under a stated pastor.

The following were appointed Commissioners to the General Assembly, which meets at Halifax next June: Rev. Messrs. Stuart, Wyllie, Kay, Leitch, Steven, Dr. Sutherland, Barrett, Little, Lawrence, ministers; and Messrs. D. McAlpine, Ed. Waugh, C. Fitzgerald, J. I. Sutherland, M. McPhail, D. Campbell, Wm. Wallace, P. Stevenson, elders.

On motion of Rev. Mr. Barnett, a committee, consisting of Rev. Messrs. Stuart, Steven, Kelso, Drummond and I. Rathburn, elder, was appointed to deal with the request of the mission of North Ekfrid, consider the whole question of rearrangement of the Appin, Tait's Corners, Dunwich and Pinal charges, visit the fields if necessary, and report.

A committee, consisting of Rev. Messrs. McGillivray, Stuart, Thos. Wilson, Reeds, and C. E. Somerville, elder, was appointed to visit the Westminster, Tempo and South Delaware, and Belmont and Kilmartin congregations, with a view to considering rearrangement of these congregations, and to report.

Rev. Mr. Steven People's Societies. A conference of the societies within the bounds is to be held on the Monday before the second Tuesday of May in St. Andrew's Church, London.

The Sabbath school report was given in by Rev. Mr. Barnett, of Kintyre. The home mission report was submitted by Rev. Mr. Henderson, and the amount necessary for the requirements of North Ekfrid, according to grant of Home Mission Executive, be applied for and also that the services of a student be applied for for the summer months.

A Berlin paper claims that before the commencement of the Boer war the Czar promised Queen Victoria that under any circumstances to take advantage of England's difficulties.

SPRING, 1900.

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Drake & McPherson.

...MILLINERY

Our stock of Spring Millinery is sparkling with Newness. The very latest Styles and Novelties the market can produce are here. MISS TODD is again in full charge of this department. Ready to trim a hat for you while you wait, if need be.

New Prints and Gingham

Are peculiarly tempting this season. Designs are new and in pretty blending of colors.

SHIRT WAISTS---New Lines, well made, Serviceable and Fashionable.

DRESS GOODS.--- We have the Up-to-Date Novelties in Costumes and a Splendid variety in all the Newest Colors. DRESS TRIMMINGS---Fringes are right, also Pleated Kneecaps and All-over Laces. We will be pleased to show these to you.

SILKS AT ALL PRICES

30c., 50c., 65c., 75c., 90c., \$1.00 and \$1.25.

HATS AND CAPS---The Largest Variety we ever had for Men, Boys and Girls.

...CROCKERY...

Crockery at the old prices and that is giving you a great advantage. Our stock in this line is double what it was last year.

GROCERIES are always Fresh and Up-to-Date.

FISH---Dry Cod, White Fish, Herring, Finnan Haddie.

SEEDS---Red Clover, Alsike, Clover and Timothy Seed. Over two and one-half tons just received.

BOOTS & SHOES---We have an abundance and we ask you to come and see them.

PAIRS ARE UP IN PRICE.---We have only five dozen of these Splendid Fiber Pairs left, worth 45c. Our price while they last is 35c.

FINE AND COARSE BARREL SALT.

Drake & McPherson.