

The nomination of candidates to fill the vacancies in the Legislature for North Norfolk, South Norfolk, North West and East Durham has been fixed for Friday, January 19th, and the election for Friday, January 26th.

In carrying out the decision recently come to by the American Government, Secretary Blaine has written to the Collector of Customs at Burlington, instructing him that animals for his district from Canada can be imported only at St. Albans, Vt., and they must be passed by the veterinary inspector before being allowed to proceed inland.

The circular issued by Sir Henry Tyler, President of the Grand Trunk railway, announcing the retirement of Sir Joseph Hickson as General Manager, bears high testimony to his long and efficient services. Sir Joseph's career, taking leave of his staff is also published. In this he speaks of the valuable co-operation of all the officers on the road, and states that he shall continue to take an earnest interest in its welfare.

Among the prominent Canadians who have died during the year are:—  
Lieut. Governor McLean, of Nova Scotia; Senators John Macdonald and Thomas Archibald; Hon. Wm. O'Leary; Hon. J. O. Charbonneau, ex-Premier of Quebec; Messrs. Hurd, Purley, Chisholm, De St. Georges, and Deschamps, members of Parliament; J. B. Freeman, M. P.; John Page, Chief Engineer of Canals; Andrew Robertson, Montreal, etc.

A rumor comes from Ottawa, that in order to get Sir Hector Langevin out of the way, he will be appointed Lieutenant Governor of Quebec, and the present Governor will be put on the bench. It is said that the Government are anxious that both Sir Hector and Mr. McGreevey should be out of Parliament before the Opposition have an opportunity of ventilating the McGreevey scandal and bawling transactions which have lately been brought to light by Mr. Tarbo.

The Herald, in a very vaporous article, replies to that published in the Mercury on the Mayoralty contest. But as it does not touch on a single objection we made to the fitness of Mr. Howard's opponent for the office any further allusion by us to this point is unnecessary. These objections stand unchallenged and unmaneuvered, and having stated them plainly, but without prejudice or ill-fellowing, we are content to leave the decision with the ratepayers. We must, however, repeat the intimation that we are influenced by any political animus, or are seeking to run the contest on political lines. Happily for the past few years very little of the political element has been introduced into our municipal contests, and we have no desire that the present one should be an exception to this. What we have written in regard to the subject was solely in the interests of the city and for the good government and good name. Nor have we been actuated by personal feeling or spleen, as is alleged by the Herald. It is easy, bringing forward such a charge when argument fails. But this will not deter us from what we consider a faithful discharge of our duty, even though it may offend the over-sensitive nerves of our contemporary, which seems odd if it is a convenient excuse for taking up a side issue and thus evading the main question.

In inserting letters from correspondents it must be understood that we do not hold ourselves responsible for the opinions expressed by them.—Ed. Mercury.

Letter from Mr. Chaudwick.

To the Editor of the Mercury:—  
Dear Sir.—If Mr. John Smith were honest enough of making reforms in the mode of assessing generally there are doubtless many ways in which he might make himself useful, but he will never effect anything by his present way of abuse, insubordination and falsehood.

I have more than once exposed the malicious slanders invented by Mr. Smith, and I ask your permission to have as public an exposure of these slanders as you have already given regarding some of Mr. Smith's remarks at the nomination in St. John's ward.

Mr. Smith is by you reported as having stated that the total personality of the present Council is only \$4,900, and insinuating that the aldermen are let down easy. The assessment of personality of the Council for 1899 is \$8,500 instead of \$4,900. The personal as a percentage of the same gentlemen for 1891 is \$15,000, (they are really assessed for more, but in making the calculation I have taken of a proportion in cases where the alderman has a partner).

Mr. Smith also stated that Mr. O'Keefe's place of business had been reduced \$1,000. I had heard that this piece of intelligence had been circulated before, but I never could bring it home to the source till now. I say in the most emphatic manner that this statement is a deliberate falsehood, and that Mr. O'Keefe's block (on Wyndham street) has not been reduced a dollar. With regard to Mr. O'Keefe I would further say that he is now assessed for \$2,000 for a property which he bought two years ago for \$8,000, and he makes no complaint. I am informed that Mr. O'Keefe turned the poles on Mr. Smith at that meeting, as also did Mr. Dowler, who was as much as being assessed upon on personal property. Mr. Dowler stated that as an enterprising citizen who came to stay, he had purchased his residence and also his store, upon which he had spent quite an amount in improvements, which accounted for his not having as much in his business as he otherwise might. As to the base insinuation that the aldermen are all assessed low because aldermen, I have simply to say I took office every member who coupled a seat in the council with the office, with the exception of the alderman who now before the council.

It must be pointed out to everybody that the assessment of aldermen is not as much as an attempt to injure them.

Yours truly,  
John O'Keefe.

Guelph, January 1, 1901.

Explosion at Sherbrooke.

Sherbrooke, Que., Jan. 1.—There was an explosion at the gas works in this city last evening. The force of the explosion was so great that the building and the gas pipes to the structures. Mr. Gaudet, Mr. Desnoes and a boy were in the building at the time. The two latter were killed. The force of the explosion was so great that the building and the gas pipes to the structures. Mr. Gaudet, Mr. Desnoes and a boy were in the building at the time. The two latter were killed.

The Trouble with the Indians.

Ottawa, Jan. 1.—A special to the Star from Winnipeg, Feb. 1, says: A blizzard, which is fast assuming the proportions of a blizzard, began falling here and at the agency at noon of today. Up to eleven o'clock this morning everything is reported to be quiet. That further fighting will occur there seems no doubt. It is reported that the Indians are making a stand. The cause of the explosion is yet unknown. Strange to say, only one of the building was destroyed, and the interior, with the machinery, is badly damaged.

News from the West.

A correspondent at Pine River gives some particulars of Monday's fight at Wounded Knee Creek. One hundred and sixteen warriors and forty squaws lay suffering in death. As for the squaws they were not killed with particular intent notwithstanding that they had been running around with scalping knives trying to stab the soldiers. They were killed principally by reason of being mixed with squads of braves that made dashes to gain the avails, and were mowed down by the battery. It was a ghastly and bloody day, whose horror was added to by the screams of the dying soldiers.

While the fight was in progress, the Indians were being taken to the reservation. The soldiers were not more than five or six yards from the center of the savage conflict, and were paying no more attention to it than if it were so much away. As a most striking illustration of how deeply rooted and ingrained is the ghost dance faith, even the children of these fanatic Indians have become like the rest of the tribe, a little while ago could just talk plainly, ran up to one of our interpreters just after the fight, and asked him to take a toy tomahawk at him, exclaiming: "The soldiers wouldn't have killed my father (one of the braves) if they hadn't been close enough to touch him with their guns, because he had a ghost shirt on, and a white man cannot kill one of us when we have a ghost shirt on, unless they can touch us with their guns."

More Indians were killed in Monday's battle than in any one Indian fight for the past 25 years. At the beginning of the fight the Indians were numbered at 300, and at the end of the fight they were numbered at 100. The Indians were numbered at 300, and at the end of the fight they were numbered at 100. The Indians were numbered at 300, and at the end of the fight they were numbered at 100.

The Methodist Magazine for January. The Magazine begins its 38th volume with a capital number. It is considerably enlarged, and is more copiously illustrated than ever. The romantic region of the Black Forest is fully described with many pictures, one by the Editor and the other by Mr. Alphonse Blackwood. Lord Brassey gives an account of the return voyage of the Sunbeam after the lamented death of Lady Brassey in the Southern seas. The Rev. Mr. Bond in his charming "Vagabond Vignettes" has an account of the journey from Berlin over the two Locomotives to Bayreuth and Silesia. Rev. M. B. Knight begins what promises to be an important series on the important question of the Canadian postal, with a monograph on Arthur Lockhart. An able paper by the Rev. W. Arthur, M. A., is that called The Mission of Methodism in Purifying and Elevating Society. A new department of Popular Science is introduced with two papers—One on The Wonders of a Geological Journey, and the other The Former Level of the Upper Lakes, with an engraving. A thrilling Irish story of the flight of Derry, by James E. Sullivan, is given; also another capital story of Christian Endeavor. Mr. Shannon gives a graphic sketch of the Yumbie Prison, New York. The novel on recent topics, current books and religious intelligence are as full as usual.

Municipal Nominations.

NARAHAYATA.—James Manning, Rev. D. H. Theobald, Dep. Councilors—John Marshall, Thos. Moore and James Mahon. All are elected by acclamation.

Exp. Townships.—The Council for this township were elected by acclamation as follows:—Reeve, John McGowan; 1st Deputy, Robt. Mudd; 2nd Deputy, O. W. Hammond. Councilors—A. Booth and W. Molloy.

Grand Trunk Railway.

GOING EAST.  
Express 6:50 a.m.  
Accom. 7:00 a.m.  
Passenger (mail) 7:10 a.m.  
Through express 7:30 a.m.  
Come West.  
Express 7:30 p.m.  
Accom. 7:40 p.m.  
Pacific Express 8:00 p.m.  
Mixed 8:10 p.m.

Mixed 8:10 p.m.

Great Western Division.

GOING WEST.

Express 6:50 a.m.

Accom. 7:00 a.m.

Passenger (mail) 7:10 a.m.

Through express 7:30 a.m.

Come East.

Express 7:30 p.m.

Accom. 7:40 p.m.

Pacific Express 8:00 p.m.

Mixed 8:10 p.m.

Mixed 8:10 p.m.

The Home Rulers.

CHIEF OF THE IRISH.

Dublin, Jan. 1.—It is understood that Mr. O'Brien has asked John Dillon, now in New York, that Dillon consents to return to Ireland as leader of the Irish party. It is further understood that the Home Rulers are in a state of confusion, and are in a state of confusion, and are in a state of confusion.

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News from the West.

The first supply of Koch's lymph was brought to Toronto on Wednesday. Arrangements are being made for its use in appropriate cases in the hospital.

The Dominion Island Bivouac Department is considering the advisability of establishing a standard for milk, as well as the introduction of legislation to prevent fraud in the manufacture of milk, lard, oil, etc.

The well known banking house of Bateman & Co., of New York and Washington, has made an assignment. This has caused considerable surprise in financial circles, both in New York and London, where the standing of the firm was good.

The number of settlers arriving in Manitoba for the past ten months is 10,104.

In 1891 when Sir Joseph Hickson first entered the Grand Trunk Company, his mileage was 1,200 and earnings only \$765.79, while today his mileage is 4,107 and his earnings about \$3,155,000, or the increase of about fourfold in the last 30 years.

Dr. Day, of Toronto, has been appointed rector for Hastings.

Farmers in Western Alberta think of starting their ploughs in the warm weather or earlier.

Maine experienced severe weather on Wednesday. At Bangor 35° below zero was registered, and at Fort Fairfield the record was broken with 60° below.

W. A. Winslow & Co., upholsterers and furniture manufacturers, Montreal, have failed, with liabilities of \$65,000.

A Czech, blacksmith, Cobourg, tried every means to save his life, but failed, suffering with dyspepsia. Four bottles of Burdock Blood Bitters cured him.

Children Cry for Pitcher's Castoria.

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