Huron Signal.

GODERICH. C. W., MARCH 7, 1865.

WHAT WE WANT BESIDES CONFEDERATION.

THE people of Upper Canada are waiting very quietly for the result of the Confederation Scheme now under consideration. If they are guilty of a little apathy in the matter it cannot be said, at least, that they manifest any opposition to a proposed change in the Constitution of the country, which, it is promised, will give them increased commercial facilities and greater National coherence. The squabbles, and bickerings, and recriminations, and chronic crises to which our legislature has subjected us for the past eight years, renders almost *any* political change acceptable; and if any enhancement of our commercial and agricultural interests can be obtained at the same time, we shall all the more readily give our adhesion to the Confederation scheme, *as a whole*, however much some of us may dislike some of the details. But, after all, supposing Confederation can be successfully launched, much remains to be done before Canada will be in as prosperous a condition as could be desired.—Sweeping changes must be effected. Monopolies must be broken up or restricted, Agriculture, and Trade in all its branches must be fostered, and some means must be devised for the purpose of diverting to our shores a much larger proportion of the emigration that annually leaves the over-crowded countries of Europe.

The British Possessions in North America have been cursed with Monopolies of a most serious character. The good people of Downing street seem to have considered their American possessions of so little value that any duly Incorporated Company might purchase millions of acres of land for a few cents per square mile. It is easy to mark out upon a map sections of country larger than England itself and ratify the bargain over a bottle of old port; but the sons of British parents find it a serious matter when, on emigrating to the New World, they find themselves face to face with the Monopolists with their Charters, their exclusive privileges and their vested rights, by virtue of which they control harbors, and retard settlement throughout vast tracts of country. We cannot charge our Canadian Governments with having established great monopolies, but they have contributed to the system on a small scale. Instead of encouraging emigration to the greatest possible extent by throwing the Crown Lands open to *actual* settlers, our rulers have sold townships *en bloc* to greedy, grinding speculators—instead of encouraging commerce and navigation, they have sold or granted important harbors to private companies. We have a notable example of this latter iniquity at our very doors. Mr. Dickson, in his speech a few days ago, concluded by expressing his conviction that if some check were not put upon the monopolizing tendencies of the Grand Trunk Railway the people of Huron would have to seek a remedy for evils inflicted upon them by improving the coast harbors and thus enabling the farmers to send their produce to market by water. Valuable as such a resource might become, it should be remembered that a former administration, in the coolest possible manner, handed over the Harbor of Goderich, by far the best on this coast, to the Buffalo and Lake Huron Railway Company, thus endangering the most important interests we can ever have as a people. This is exactly what we mean by Monopoly, and we contend that whatever *legal* rights the advisers of His Excellency may have, they have no *moral* right to place a large population, either present or in prospective, at the mercy of a corporation whose only interest is gain, and whose direct object it is to crush out all competition. The people of this country must be prepared in future to demand justice for themselves and their children, and to send into Parliament or the Local Legislature men who are opposed to Monopoly in all its forms—men who will be independent enough to do right when it is demanded, no matter how powerful the influences operating against them.—By every possible means they must encourage legitimate trade throughout all its ramifications, because in that way alone can the latent wealth of the country be developed and rendered tributary to the general progress of the people in all that can unite, civilize and elevate a community. Agriculture, our chief reliance, may be promoted in various ways, and it is of vital importance that the legislature of the country should carefully avoid any form of class-legislation that by even the remotest contingency can throw obstacles in the way of the entire success of the farming community. Thousands of the settlers of this country have been hampered and in many cases *ground down* by the Monopolizing powers granted to a few.—What is past, of course, cannot be remedied, but the future may be rendered full of promise and hope by just and equitable legislation. One of the first steps demanded by our situation and circumstances is the throwing open of public lands *free* to all *bona fide* settlers that may be induced to make this the country of their adoption. We have always held that a man brave enough to take his axe and his yoke of oxen into the backwoods, there to endure innumerable privations whilst he hews out for himself and family a *home*, deserves to have placed under his control as much land as he can reasonably cultivate. One great reason for the poverty of our struggling settlers is found in their inability to clear the land by an immense outlay of severest labor and at the same time grind themselves down to meet the annual instalments hanging over their heads. Remove this burthen from the man's body and mind—give him his land as freely and cordially as he could obtain it in the Western States, and you make a new being of him. His energies are then unclogged, and in a very few years he is surrounded by the comforts of life, in securing which he contributes largely to the revenue of the country. Such a liberal policy as this would draw more emigration to our shores than could be effected by hundreds of European agents and millions of high-flown pamphlets without it. It is a policy that would place us on an equality with the Americans—a policy dictated by sound reason, humanity and common-sense, and it will be a red letter day in our calendar indeed when it is irrevocably stamped upon our statute books. Eloquent M. P. P.'s sometimes dilate upon the vast populations that will spring up on the fertile plains of the Red River and Saskatchewan country, but we can tell them that fertile as those plains are they will *never* be filled up while land is held at 7s 6d stg. an acre and while the whole of the vast area is under the blighting, demoralizing ban of a huge, soulless Monopoly, which is a disgrace to the times we live in and to the age that gave it birth. No. Away with Monopolies, whether they be of land or water! Give the sons of our settlers room to work in—give them to feel that a fair portion of the soil is their inalienable birthright—give every man here, who feels that he has within him the elements of enterprise and push, the assurance that he shall have full scope for whatever powers he may possess, and there will be less grumbling and infinitely less of the weakening caused by the departure of so many of our young men for foreign shores. As a people we have much to do for ourselves. We want more community of feeling—more unity of action—and shall we say it?—more of that liberality of soul that can occasionally sink *selfishness* and give birth to the more generous traits of our common humanity. Unite us under a National flag if you can, but above all give us good Government, liberal and free institutions, a free field. Without these Confederation will prove a delusive dream; with them it must prove a glorious success.

Fracas in the House.

There was quite a row in the House on Wednesday 1st. Some of the opposition members who charge the Government with having bribed the Press to support their Confederation scheme, in which there is not a word of truth we believe, renewed their attack. Mr. Dufresne moved for a return of orders given to Mr. Cote for printing and stationery, whereupon an altercation sprang up between the mover and Mr. Cauchon, who finally advanced to Mr. Dufresne and made some angry remarks. The latter then gave the lie direct and was slapped in the face for his pains. In the commotion that arose, Hon. J. S. McDonald requested to have the galleries cleared, which was done, and the affair was discussed for several hours with closed doors. It is stated that Mr. Cauchon apologized to the House for his share in the transaction. It is a pity that a grave Assembly should be disturbed by any such exhibition of temper.

The Trade between the U. S. and British America.

At the meeting of the Detroit Board of Trade last week, Duncan Stewart, Esq., speaking to a resolution, wished to say that he entirely concurred in the views expressed by the gentleman that the time has come when business men are to decide the great questions of commerce and finance. We have lately seen our legislators in a moment of passion sweeping away one of the most important commercial treaties ever established. *He referred to the reciprocity treaty between the United States and Canada, under which a trade has sprung up greater than that between the eighteen richest nations of Europe.—He mentioned it as a curious fact and one worthy of great attention that the trade of all the countries of Europe put together, as shown by actual statistics, is but little over one-half of that between the United States and the British North American provinces.* And yet all this has been sacrificed by a Congress which has thereby shown its incompetence to deal with these questions so peculiar and at the same time so very important. He merely mentioned this fact as an illustration of the duties which the times require of business men. By uniting the business and commercial intelligence of the leading men of the cities of the country a power will be brought to bear which Congress cannot defy.

DEATH OF MR. GOWAN.—This gentleman, who was so horribly injured by the late accident is reported by the *Free Press* to have expired on Tuesday the 28th ult. Mrs. Scanlan, of London, still lies in a very precarious state.

☞ Mr. Jno. Falkner, late M. P. P. for Hochelega, has been convicted of *crimping*. He is sentenced to pay a fine of £100 together with fifteen months imprisonment.

☞ James Dickson, Esq., M. P. P., is entitled to our best thanks for a first instalment of the Confederation Debates, which are printed in neat and convenient form for binding, when completed.

ATLANTIC MONTHLY.—The March No. is upon our table. Barring the political articles which are not calculated to edify Canadians, the list of contents is good. Dr. Johns, Edward Everett, Notes of a Pianist and Memories of Authors are articles that will be read with much pleasure by the general public. For sale at this office.

We have also received *Our Young Folks* for March from the same publishers, Messrs. Ticknor & Fields. It is a nice little magazine for youths.

New Brunswick and Confederation.

The Elections in New Brunswick have, thus far, gone adverse to Confederation.—Five leading supporters of the scheme have already been defeated, and it now appears certain that New Brunswick will wash its hands of the whole scheme. As it interposes between Canada and Nova Scotia the result may be disastrous to a Union of all the Provinces. Selfishness outweighs Patriotism.

☞ Vandenhoff is giving readings in Toronto.

Arrival of the 'New York.'

NEW YORK, Feb. 28.—The steamer New York, from Southampton on the 15th, has arrived. The cotton market is entirely unsettled, little or nothing doing. Wednesday morning's quotations nominal. The Confederate steamer Stonewall, late the Orinde, fast from Copenhagen, put into Terrol on the 4th inst. She was still there on the 15th. The Duke of Northumberland died on the 11th. The *Shenandoah* burnt the following shipping off the Cape of Good Hope:—Barques *Edward, Alena* and *D. Godfred*; brig *Susan*, schooners *Lizzie, M. Stacey* and *Charter Oak*. The *Times* says:—We are assured from New York that President Davis has the game in his own hands, and can secure the independence of the South either with Northern assent or despite of it, according to his pleasure. The clue of this startling mystery is found in the statement formerly credited in America, that the Mexican Emperor has conveyed in trust to Napoleon the Northern portion of Mexico, to be held and administered by a French Viceroy, in liquidation of French claims on Mexico. This cession must entail recognition of the South by France, England and Europe. Cardinal Wiseman was not expected to live. A Royal decree authorizes the circulation of the encyclical, without admitting propositions contrary to the institutions and legislation of Italy. Letters from Rome state that the Pope declines to conclude a concordate with Mexico, but will not withdraw the Nuncio from that State. The Government has laid before the Chamber a proposition to increase the capital of the Bank of Prussia, establishing branches in other German States. The United States steamer *Iroquois* arrived at Table Bay on Jan. 9th with the crews of the barque *Edward* and schooner *Lizzie M. Stacey*, burned by the *Shenandoah*. They were landed at Tristram de Acunha, whence they were taken by the *Iroquois*. The other vessels noticed above had been reported previously.

LIVERPOOL, Feb. 14.—Cotton dull and declined ⅛d to ¼d; sales for two days 6,000 bales, including 2,000 bales to speculators and exporters. Flour dull but steady. Wheat quiet and steady. Corn dull. Beef dull and nominal. Pork quiet; market bare.

Arrival of the Canada.

HALIFAX, March 3.—The steamship Canada, from Liverpool on the 18th, via Queenstown on the 19th February, arrived here at 9 o'clock this a. m. Her dates are two days later than those already received.

LIVERPOOL, Feb. 18, evening.—The sales of cotton to-day foot up only 2,500 bales: market closing unchanged. Breadstuffs quiet. Wheat firmer. Provisions quiet. Beef steady. Produce easier. In the absence of later news America than to the 4th of February, per steamship Hibernian, the English journals continue their speculations on the recent peace conference held at Fortress Monroe.—The London Times of the 17th things that thus far there has not been the least sign of any real movement in the direction of peace. The dream of the South of a powerful confederation amount almost to a monomania.—So long as that idea stands in its pedestal the war must rage on, and it can see no symptoms of its early overthrow. In the House of Commons on the 17th, Mr. Layard in response to Mr. Watkin, bore testimony to the zeal, tact, discretion and ability with which Lord Lyons has discharged his duties at Washington. In no one of the many thousand cases had he failed to obtain the highest approval of the government, and his duties had become so laborious that in one year his despatches filled sixty folio volumes. Under such circumstances it was not surprising that his health had broken down, and for the present the government forebore to press him to decide whether he would return to Washington or not. In the meantime Mr Beverley Hume was most satisfactorily discharging the duties of the embassy. Mr Watkin complained that the government was allowing the reciprocity treaty to be set aside without the slightest attempt to avert it by negotiations. He complained that an intercepted letter had been published without explanation stating that President Lincoln had himself signed the order for breaking the blockade at Mobile, and that too while the American ambassador was complaining of British subjects doing so. He moved for the papers. Mr. Layard said there were no papers to produce. The Index says that 715 American ships have been transferred to the British registry since the commencement of the war.

A treaty of commerce has been signed between France and Sweden. The absence of any allusion to America in the Emperor's speech to the legislature attracts attention in England. A Turin telegram says great uneasiness prevailed there. It was that Mazzini was at the bottom of the agitation. The eruption of Vesuvius was increasing. No damage had yet occurred. That of Etna was diminished.

It is stated that proposals for a further considerable reduction of the Austrian army, especially in Italy, had been submitted to the Emperor for approval. The cession of certain provinces in Mexico to France had been discussed in the French Privy Council. The project was advocated by the Duke de Morneck, supported by M. Fould, but Drouyn de L'Huys objected on account of a possible war with the United States, and the Emperor ultimately agreed with him. Additional details state that the city of Paysander was taken by the Brazilians after a sanguinary conflict lasting 56 hours. Great mortality existed in Paysander on its capture. The Brazilian army was marching on Monde Viedo. The Banda Oriental government was about to send a commission to Europe to solicit the mediation of France in the Brazil question.

The funds have partially recovered the fall produced by the first news of the peace conference, but under the impression that the real sequel to the conference was not known. Prices were not fully re established. The demand for money was active, and only in exceptional cases was anything done below the bank, minimum 5 per cent.

The Amalgamation Bill.

The Brantford delegates, his Worship the Mayor and J. D. Clement, Esq., returned home yesterday (Friday) from Quebec.—When they left the seat of Government, the most confident opinions were expressed as to the fate of Mr. Wood's Amalgamation Bill. It was so unpopular that the only prudent course left was to withdraw it, and this Mr. Wood was fully expected to do.—*Hamilton Times.*

The Tarters pull a man by the ear when they want him to drink, and keep pulling him until he opens his mouth, when they pour down the liquor. We know some folks whose ears would not require much pulling.

A MATTER OF COURSE.—A traveller just returned from the west, says the New York Post, informs us that he witnessed two accidents in one day last week on a railroad line in Northern Ohio. Asking the conductor of the train if that sort of thing was usual, he received the reply that seven "accidents" had occurred during the week on that line! The conductor had come to that degree of philosophical coolness which led him to regard the break down of a train as an ordinary and inevitable circumstance; but our informant was not in the employ of a railroad corporation, and was thankful to escape with whole bones.

☞ On Wendesday last the commencement of the New York Medical College for women, was celebrated at the Athenæum, Broadway, New York. Fifteen young ladies who have undergone the usual course of studies to befit a man to practice medicine, received the medical diplomas from the hands of the lady president of the institute.

AMERICAN WAR.

New York, Feb. 28.—The Charlotte, N. C., Democrat, of the 21st, has a vague rumour that D H Hill or Cheatham, from Hood's old army, had struck Sherman's rear and captured 8,000 prisoners, besides a number of waggons. A postscript says it was Cheatham's troops, and the fight took place at Alton, S. C.

New York, March 1.—The Times' Washington special despatch says, in anticipation of a battle between Sherman and Johnston, of which we may receive intelligence at any moment, the war department has despatched well appointed corps of surgeons and nurses to Wilmington, from which point they will be sent forwards to Sherman's army. They are amply provided with hospital stores and everything necessary to the sick and wounded.

The rumour that Schofield has formed a junction with Sherman is regarded here as altogether probable, but the government is confident of Gen Sherman's ability even without Schofield's forces to take care of himself and manage any force the Confederates are able to send against him.—As Lee will undoubtedly use every available resource in the effort to check Sherman's audacious advance, the speedy junction of the two armies is desirable as making assurance doubly sure.

The arrival of deserters from the Confederate army comes in a steady stream, many of them before they leave our lines are separately examined, and their testimony for the past few days is to the effect that A. P. Hill's corps has left for the South, to aid in resisting Sherman. If this should prove true, it is deemed absolutely necessary that Lee must shorten his lines which necessity is the only ground for the rumored evacuation of Petersburg.

Letters from Grant's headquarters say, that though all is quiet in front of Richmond, active operations before long are looked for and the utmost vigilance is observed in our lines.

The military railroad has been completed to the position of the left of the army of the Potomac on Hatcher's Run, and trains will commence running regularly on it to-day.

On Friday last 190 Confederate deserters came into the two armies of the Potomac and the James. They report that the Petersburg theatre, filled with Confederate government stores, has been burned, and this is instanced as an additional proof of the intention to evacuate that town.

The Herald's St. Louis despatches represent the demoralization in Kirby Smith's trans-Mississippi army to be equal to that of the other Confederate armies in various portions of the country. Large numbers of deserters from it are constantly coming into the Union lines at Little Rock. Two-thirds of his men are said to be conscripts, who are satisfied that the Confederacy is a failure, disgusted with the service, and only desirous of making their escape and getting back to their homes.

The Tribune's Washington special despatch says that Gen. Joe Johnston assumed the command of the forces, in front and rear of Sherman, on Thursday last. Gen. Lee will remain at Richmond, and direct the movement from that point as well as handle his own army for the defence of Richmond.

Richmond papers, of Monday, are quiet as to Sherman's exact location, and it is a matter of doubt whether they really know where his main army really is, except that he has crossed into North Carolina.

The World's special despatch says that the Richmond papers of yesterday maintain their reserve in regard to military operations in North Carolina, but as they are not in an exultant mood, it is quite certain that Sherman has not yet encountered any formidable lion in his path.

NEW YORK, March 1.—The steamer Arago reports when off Charleston harbor, on the 26th, was informed that Columbia, S. C., had been burned, and that Augusta had been captured by our forces.

NEW YORK, March 4.—The Richmond *Whig* of yesterday says it is stated that Bragg has succeeded in bringing Schofield to a halt on the North-east river, ten or fifteen miles from Wilmington.

It was thought that Schofield would try to effect a junction with General Sherman at Fayetteville.

The *Sentinel*, of the 1st, admits that Sherman has crossed South Carolina, which shows that he has entered the old North State.

The *Whig*, of the 1st, says that all North Georgia is filled with predatory bands of tories and deserters.

It is reported that Hood will have an important command in Texas.

NEW YORK, MARCH 4.—Gold, 195¼.

Washington, March 4.—The procession is now forming, though a heavy rain is falling, and the streets are almost impassable from mud; the Avenue is filled with a dense mass of people. The ceremonies will take place to the Senate Chamber.

The following is the President's inaugural address:—

Fellow-countrymen,—At this second appearing to take the oath of the Presidential office, there is less occasion for an extended address than there was at the first. Then a statement somewhat in detail, of a course to be pursued seemed very fitting and proper. Now, at the expiration of four years, during which public declarations have been constantly called forth on every point and phase of the great contest which still absorbs the attention and engrosses the energies of the nation, little new could be presented. The progress of our armies upon which all else chiefly depends, is as well known to the public as to myself, and it is I trust, reasonably satisfactory and encouraging to all. With high hope for the future, no prediction in regard to it is ventured.

On the occasion corresponding to this four years ago, all thoughts were anxiously directed to an impending civil war. All dreaded it—all sought to avert it. While the inaugural address was being delivered from this place, devoted altogether to saving the Union without war, insurgent agents were in the city seeking to destroy it—without war, seeking, to dissolve the Union and divide its effects by negotiation. Both parties deprecated war, but one of them would make war rather than let the nation survive and the other would accept war rather than let it perish; and the war came. One eighth of the whole population were colored slaves—not distributed generally over the Union, but localized in the southern part of it. These slaves constituted a peculiar and powerful interest. All knew that this interest was somehow the cause of the war. To strengthen, perpetuate and extend this interest was the object for which the insurgents would rend the Union by war, while the Government claimed no right to do more than to restrict the territorial enlargement of it. Neither party expected for the war the magnitude or the duration which it has already attained; neither anticipated that the cause of the conflict might cease, even before the conflict itself should cease. Each looked for an easier triumph, and a result less fundamental and astounding. Both read the same Bible and pray to the same God, and each invokes his aid against the other. It may seem strange that any men should dare to ask a just God's assistance in wringing their bread from the sweat of other men's faces, but let us judge not that we be not judged. The prayers of both should not be answered. That of neither has been answered fully. The Almighty has his own purposes. Woe unto the world because of offences, for it must needs be that offences come, but woe to that man by whom the offence cometh. If we shall suppose that American slavery is one of those offences which, in the providence of God, must needs come, but which, having continued through his appointed time, he now wills to remove, and that he gives to both North and South this terrible war as the woe due to those by whom the offence came, shall we discern that there is any departure from those divine attributes which the believers in a living God always ascribe to him? Fondly do we hope, fervently do we pray, that this mighty scourge of war may speedily pass away. Yet if God wills that it continue until all the wealth piled by the bondmen's 250 years of unrequited toil shall be sunk, and until every drop of blood drawn with the lash shall be paid by another drawn with the sword, as was said three thousand years ago, so still it must be said that the judgments of the Lord are true and righteous altogether.—With malice toward none, with charity for all, with firmness in the right, as God gives us to see the right, let us strive to finish the work we are in, to bind up the nation's wounds, and care for him who shall have borne the battle, and for his widow and his orphans. To do all which may we achieve and cherish a just and lasting peace among ourselves and with all nations.

The Hamilton Military School.

The *Spectator* says:—The Military School was opened to-day. The time was occupied in examining the applicants for admission, and some forty-six gentlemen were admitted, while a number was rejected by the examining committee. Clothing has also been issued to those who have been admitted, and to-day at 9 o'clock drill will commence. The candidates are such as will be likely to prove a credit to the School; and it is to be hoped that the standard will be kept up. The government have sent up all the requisites, such as books, forms, &c., &c. The Board of Examiners consist of Lieut.-Colonel Lowery, 47th Regt., Commandant of the School, Lieut.-Col. Booker, 13th Batt., and Brigade Major Villiers. We trust that the School will meet with every possible success.

☞ The Hamilton Military School has opened with 52 candidates for commissions.

Town & Counties

☞ Under the influence of a bright sun and warm south wind the snow is disappearing apace. Shouldn't wonder if we were to see a little mud soon.

☞ A shanty was burnt on the flats on Sunday night last. Loss about $4. No Insurance.

SAUVE QUI PEUT.—The Good Templars speak of trying a vote on Dunkin's Bill throughout the County of Huron.

☞ A fire occurred in Mitchell on the 28th ult. The Union Hotel was consumed, and a man named Small was burned to death.

THAW.—We have had quite a rapid thaw during the past few days. The snow has almost disappeared from our streets, but we are told that the sleighing is as good as ever a few miles out of town.

☞ A correspondent is very much mistaken in supposing that in our remarks on the "Dorg poem," we meant to give a slap at him. We are peculiarly sensitive on the subject of poetry and feel it a duty to pick out what we consider the best for publication.

TOWN COUNCIL.

FRIDAY, March 3.

The Council met. Present the Mayor, presiding, and Councillors Gibbons, Horton, McKay, Runciman, Smith, Clifford, Cameron, Hays, Booth and Longworth.

The minutes of last meeting were read and signed by the Mayor.

Petition from Jas. O'Grady praying that the Council would give him till June to pay his statue labor tax.

Mr. Smaill was instructed to have the sum settled by labor.

Letter from Mr. Colerick stating that his name had been put down for a wrong lot on the Assessment Roll. Referred to Revision Com.

Letter from one John Murray stating that he had been taxed for a dog, when he had never owned such a thing. It was suggested that the case should be referred to the court of Revision, which was done.

Account from Mr. Forby $3.00. Referred to Cemetery Com.

Report of the Finance Committee with reference to the account of Mr. Conlan, the committee found that he had been already overpaid and therefore recommended that no action be taken in the matter. It was also recommended that the prayer of the petition of Mr. J. R. Black be granted.

The report was adopted.

The Clerk read a By-Law for licensing shops and taverns, which was submitted as usual, adopted and ordered to be printed for distribution.

The Council then adjourned until the last Friday of March, unless previously convened by His Worship the Mayor.

The Co. A. S. Spring Show.

The Spring Show of Seed Grain, &c., took place in Dark's Hotel yesterday, (2nd inst.). Notwithstanding the thaw and consequent softness of the roads, the attendance of farmers was good, and the show itself was decidedly the best that has ever been held in this section, both as regards the number of samples shown and the quality of the grain. There were, in all, thirty-six entries, principally of 10 bushels each, and the Prizes were awarded as follows:—

SPRING WHEAT.—1st, John Cox, 6th con., 64 lbs.
2nd, James Lomas, 64 lbs.
3rd, James Elliott, 63 lbs.
OATS.—1st, Jno Salkeld.
2nd, P. Carrol.
3rd, Jno. Hunter.
BARLEY.—1st, D. McIlwaine.
2nd, J. W. Elliott.
3rd, James Young.
PEAS.—1st, Jno. Hunter.
2nd, John Andrews.
3rd, Jno. Salkeld.
TIMOTHY SEED.—1st, Gordon Young.
2nd, Wm. Elliott.
CORN.—1st, Wm. Elliott.
2nd, J. W Elliott.
3rd, None shown.

After the reading of the Prize List, a considerable quantity of the grain changed hands, many farmers being glad to pay a few cents extra for the sake of obtaining first-class seed. We look upon this show as being one of the most important, and it is therefore a source of satisfaction that it is improving so much from year to year. Mr. John Cox, it will be remembered, took the first prize for Spring Wheat last year. His success this year, in the face of so much competition, speaks well for the quality of his soil and the manner in which it is cultivated.

GODERICH TOWNSHIP.

FIRE.—We have received the following particulars of a serious fire in the above township. It appears that Mr. Joseph Rutledge of the Huron Road came home late on Wednesday night, the 1st inst., and went out to the barn, a frame one—to feed his horses. Setting a light down on the barn floor he got up on a pretty high mow to throw down some hay. Unknown to himself, the first forkfull he threw fell directly upon the light and immediately took fire. He continued pitching down the hay until he thought there was sufficient, and then descended to find the loose dry material in a blaze. The attempt to throw the burning hay out side the door made matters worse, for in a very few moments it became evidently impossible to save the barn. Mr. Rutledge then rushed to save a valuable colt, but in the hurry and confusion he could not unfasten the halter. Leaving the beast to its fate, he proceeded to remove a set of harness worth some $75.00 He also succeeded in getting one of his team horses out of the stable, but the frightened animal ran in again and was burned to death with its companion. In a short time the barn and stable with their valuable contents were utterly destroyed. Mr. Rutledge's loss will, of course, be very heavy. We have not heard of there being any insurance on the premises, but the probability is that there was none whatever.

Since writing the above we learn that Mr. Rutledge's loss also includes 100 bushels of wheat and several sheep besides his stock of fodder, and that there was an insurance of $600.

FIRE IN CLINTON.

On Monday morning last between twelve and one o'clock, the Victoria Hotel, in Clinton, belonging to Mr. Wm Campbell, was discovered to be on fire. Mr. Donald Campbell was the first to discover it and give the alarm. The fire was then confined to the attic over the private dwelling house attached to the premises on the south side. It speedily burst out from under the roof on the south gable, and in about two hours the whole building, dwelling house and Hotel was burned to the ground. A considerable portion of the furniture and things in the house was saved, though, necessarily a large portion was also consumed. By the active exertions of the fire companies and the neighbors, the fire was prevented from communicating to any of the adjoining buildings, one of which—that occupied by Mr Geo Laycock as a dwelling housey book store and job printing office, was so near to the burning building that it seems almost a miracle that it did not share the fate of the hotel. Fortunately the wind was very low, and in a favorable direction, and a great quantity of snow lay on the roofs. Mr. Campbell's loss is very large, there being but four hundred dollars insurance on his premises made to secure a mortgage there was on the premises. Mr. Laycock's goods and printing material were all removed, and the house somewhat damaged by the tearing down of doors. His Stationery goods and books were laid down on the snow in the street, and must be very considerably injured from having become damped; his printer's forms and cases of type, too, were knocked into *pi*, and altogether were as bad as if the premises had been burnt. He is insured for $1000 in the Niagara Mutual and Provincial, which will probably cover his loss by damage in removal.—So satisfied was every one who saw the fire that the whole block of frame houses would be burnt that the neighbours removed the goods in the buildings north of Mr Laycock's. Mr Laycock has not been able to occupy his premises as yet, but we suppose he will be in them again in a day or two.

MANCHESTER.

TEMPERANCE CONVENTION.

MANCHESTER, Feb. 9th, 1865.

The second annual County Convention of the I. O. of G. T. met at the Village of Manchester, pursuant to the call of the County Dep. Grand Worthy Chief Templars—Messrs Stephen Yates and James Wilkinson. The meeting was well attended by delegates from different parts of the County. Bro. Stephen Yates, of No. 304, presided; bro. James S. Stitt, No. 304, was appointed Secretary. The chairman briefly recapitulated the progress of Temperance since the last convention, giving it as his opinion that there ought to be more County Deputies appointed in order more fully to occupy the temperance field and more particularly in view of the approach contest in most of the municipalities, to wit: the adoption or rejection of the famous "Dunkin's Bill." The delegates endorsed the Chairman's opinion—the matter was fully discussed, and it was finally decided to appoint four deputies for the County, their respective territories to be as follows, viz: Manchester Division—Ashfield, Wawanosh, Colborne and the N½ of Hullett; Bluevale Division—Howick, Turnberry, Morris and the N½ of Grey; Seaforth Division—Tuckersmith, Usborne, McKillop, the S½ of Hullett and S½ of Grey; Goderich Division—Stanley, Goderich township, Hay and Stephen. The following gentlemen were nominated as County Deputies for the above Divisions and unanimously elected, viz: Manchester Division, bro. S. Yates, C. D.; Bluevale Division, bro. Joseph Leach, C. D.; Seaforth Division, bro. W. Cluff, C. D.; Goderich Division, bro. James Wilkinson, C. D. Dunkin's Temperance Bill was then discussed in all its bearings. Bro. James Wilkinson, in an able speech, explained many of its leading provisions: he advocated the united action of the friends of temperance of all the different temperance organizations in the whole County, of whatever name; however beneficial it might be for general purposes to have the temperance army marching in separate companies and under different leaders, yet it was now necessary to unite their numbers and energies for one purpose, viz: to carry this Bill in every Municipality in the County of Huron. Bro. Dickson, of the B. A. O. of Good Templars, agreed with the last speaker; he thought now was the time for united action—Dunkin's Bill was a great boon to Canada—we had been petitioning the Legislature year after year for a really substantial Liquor Bill, and now that a good one was granted, we must leave no stone unturned to secure its general adoption. If we will not be at some sacrifice, *who will?* Let us go nobly to work and endeavor to carry the bill in every township, and when carried see that it is enforced.—Some men were glad that we had got the bill, and bade it "*God speed;*" but he would not give one active temperance man for fifty of those "*God speed you's.*" If we would merely wish it well and supinely allow it to go by the board, how could we again petition the House for the Main Liquor Law? He thought he could guarantee the co-operation of his brethren of the B. A. O., and approved of the speedy assembling of delegates from all the different Temperance bodies at some centre place in the County to take into consideration the best means to secure the adoption of the bill. It was moved by bro. Wilkinson, seconded by bro. Dickson, and resolved, That this Convention recommends a meeting of two representatives from each temperance organization in the County at Clinton, on Wednesday the 7th day of June next, at 11 o'clock, for the purpose of a concentration of temperance influence and to take measures for causing a *County vote* to be taken on Dunkin's Bill. It was moved by bro. McDougall, seconded by bro. Cluff, and resolved, That a copy of the above resolution be sent to each temperance organization in the County. The convention was then declared closed by the chairman until the call of the County Deputies.

JAMES STEELE STITT,
Secretary.

The delegates then attended the annual Soiree of Maitland Temple I. O. of G. T., held same evening in the Good Templars' Hall at Manchester. The soiree was a decided success in every respect. After partaking of a splendid tea, the audience was addressed by the Rev. Mr. Bailey, a travelling temperance lecturer, the Rev. T. Hadwen, of the Wesleyan Church, Mr. James Dickson, of Toronto, the Rev. James McCartney, of the Wesleyan Church, and the Rev. Mr. McCappin, of Goderich. The Dungannon choir, under the efficient leadership of Mr. James Harcourt, late of Toronto, now of Wawanosh, gave some excellent pieces of music during the evening. At the close of the meeting three hearty cheers were given for the Queen, and the audience separated—highly pleased with the evening's entertainment.

J. STEELE STITT,
Secretary.

DISGUSTED.—The editor of the Kincardine *Review*, a legal gentleman, after driving the goose quill for a short time, has retired in disgust at the settlement of the County Town question. He returns to the *more remunerative* and no less important duties of his profession, which will, henceforth, receive his whole attention. A very sensible decision. The editor's lot is one of hard, grinding, treadmill work and wretched remuneration—frequently none at all.

TUCKERSMITH.

FURIOUS DRIVING.—John Lapsley, James Grey, and Alex. Ramsey were brought up before D. L. Sills, Esq., J. P., last week for careless driving, and mulcted in a fine and cost of $9.00 each. The case is appealed.

Kirk has Opened Again!

Mr. J. Y. S. Kirk has re-opened in the store next Mr. Butler's book store, and takes the right way of letting people know of his whereabouts ("tho' we say it as oughtn't to.") by a liberal use of Printer's Ink. The store is fitted up and stocked in a very superior style. Anti-Dunkin's-Bill men will find at Kirk's every article in the drinking line, and the strictest temperance advocates can procure a splendid article to replenish the "cup that cheers but not inebriates," as well as something good to eat with it, as cheap no doubt as the cheapest.

HAY.

SUDDEN DEATH.—The wife of Bernard Hoffle, Esq., tavern keeper, Village of Zurich, died very suddenly last Thursday night. She was in ordinary health, till about 4 o'clock, afternoon, when she complained of a slight headache, and said she would take a rest in bed for an hour or two. On going to arouse her, at about 7 o'clock in the evening, she was found dead in her bed. Much sympathy is felt in the Village for the bereaved husband and motherless children.

SEAFORTH.

DRILL SHED.—A drill-shed is in course of erection in this flourishing village. It is to be hoped that the officers will not fall out about the ways and means! You take, I suppose.

FANCY FAIR, &c.—A Grand Bazaar was held in Govenlock's store on the 1st and 2nd instants, the funds realized to be expended in furnishing and altar-piece, railing and melodeon for the English Church. Mrs. Ord presided at the refreshment table, Mrs. Jarvis and Mrs. Strong superintending the sale of fancy articles. Both heaven and earth seemed combined against the success of the undertaking, as the Bazaar opened with showery weather, and the Church-wardens, Edward Hickson, Dr. Smith and others, notified the public not to attend as it was not under the direction or management of the Church authorities. A feud, unfortunately, exists among the members, some of them admiring the incumbent and others the reverse. What a pity that a house should be so divided against itself.

MARKETS.—You will perceive that the markets have not changed materially. Sleighing still holds out.

McKILLOP.

CONTESTED ELECTION.—The election of Mr. Joseph Evans as Councillor for one of the wards of this township, was contested by John O'Connel, J. P., on the ground of his being Collector last year rendering him ineligible. Mr. Evans put in a disclaimer and a new election was called for on Monday last. Ex-Councillor John O'Connell and Joseph Evans were again candidates. Evans was re elected by a majority of two. I hear his election will be again contested.

LICENSES RAISED.—The Municipal Council of this township has doubled the license this year on whiskey shops!

STANLEY.

COUNCIL ROOM, 27th Feb., 1865.

Council met this day pursuant to adjournment from last meeting. There were present, the Reeve in the chair, Messrs. Cameron, Riley, Simpson and Baird.

Minutes of last meeting were read and approved. The report of the Inspector of Taverns was received and read, when it was

Moved by Alex Cameron, seconded by Thos Simpson, That the following petitions for Tavern License be accepted, and certificates granted to the parties on their payment of the License money to the Inspector:—Jno Turner, Richard Ching, Mrs Drysdale, J D Cameron, Jas Pollock, Fred Aherns, J Bolton, H Haacke, Mrs Tooby and J Rattenbery; also Richard Somerville, Matthew McClenchy, Edward Elliott and Jas Walker, provided they come up to the requirements of the By-Laws—Carried.

Moved by Alex Cameron, seconded by J W Riley, That the following Township officers find security for the current year for the following amounts:—

Township Treasurer	$16,000
" Collector	16,000
" Assessor	1000
" Clerk	1300
" Inspector	500

—Carried.

Moved by Alex Cameron, seconded by J W Riley, That Patrick Mannahan be Pathmaster on the Sauble Line from C Johnston's to J Pollock's—Carried.

Moved by T Simpson, seconded by Thos Baird, That the sum of $16 be paid to Robt Elliott for clearing a jam at Bathwell's bridge, across the River Bayfield, when finished to the satisfaction of this Council—Carried

The account of Returning officer, Clerk and Constable, for the taking of a poll, in connection with the Temperance Act of 1864, was received and ordered to be paid.

Moved by Alex Cameron, seconded by J W Riley, That the Council now adjourn to meet again at Varna, on Monday the 13th day of May next, at 10 o'clock, a. m.—Carried.

JOHN ESSON, T'p Clerk.

HYY.

To the Editor of the Huron Signal.

DEAR SIR,—Last year I wrote you concerning a fearful disease which proved rapidly fatal to children in the Southeast corner of this township. In the month of January, this year, we have been visited again with a disease of somewhat similar nature, which carried off 3 or 4 children in 20 or 24 hours. The symptoms of which are as follows:—A feeling of chillness and weariness coming on suddenly, and soon followed by severe pain in the head, when vomiting begins, but only to the extent of unloading the stomach—great intolerance of light and sound—pulse regular and not accelerated—skin cool—eyes large, pupils dilating and contracting alternately on the least movement of the head, which seems as if hung on a pivot. The brain throbbing most violently as if wishing to escape from its boney habitation. In this condition they remain only a short time, when delirium with stupor leading to profound coma—death soon closing the scene. In my opinion the desease is active Congestion of the brain, caused by exposure to cold. "Any "cause which greatly increases the flow "of blood to the head, or which greatly "impedes its reflux, may give rise to a "congested state of the brain,"—*West*—which coming on suddenly in a child previously to all appearance in perfect health may terminate in death in four-and-twenty hours. The external appearance of the body after death is spotted; purple spots of different sizes not at all noticeable before death, and owing to congestion of the cappilary circulation. The position in which the body was lying when death took place showing the greater amount of discoloration. The gravitation of the blood to the sur