

# The Huron Signal

DEVOTED TO COUNTY NEWS AND GENERAL INTELLIGENCE

THIRTY-NINTH YEAR.—WHOLE NUMBER 2027.

GODERICH, ONT., FRIDAY, JAN. 8, 1886.

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## THE HURON SIGNAL

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FRIDAY, JAN. 8TH, 1886.

## THE SCOTT ACT.

### The Temperance Question About to Assume a New Phase.

The Honorable Government wishes to Enforce the Measure Upon the Local Legislatures.

The following special Ottawa despatch we clip from the Toronto World:

Ottawa, Jan. 5.—The liquor question has been the cause of much trouble in Dominion politics. Now that the McCarthy act has been declared unconstitutional, and even the Scott Act is doubted, there is a desire among members of the Federal Parliament to get rid of this troublesome matter—in other words, to unload the whole business on the Provincial Legislatures. A Cabinet Minister hinted today that Sir John would probably introduce a bill repealing the Scott Act, and not only repeal it, but put a clause in the bill declaring that in view of the recent decisions in England, the whole subject be and is within the jurisdiction of the provinces. That would then leave the way open to the Local Legislatures to pass prohibitory measures, each for itself as it saw fit.

The World for the past year or two has been the mouth-piece of the liquor party, and gives more pointers as to their position than does any other paper. It is impossible for the Government to do all that is laid down in the despatch, but that a movement is on foot at Ottawa to burke the Scott Act, is no-assured.

Meanwhile, the position of the temperance question in Scott Act counties is thus:

The Dominion licenses are so much waste paper. The liquor vendors appointed by Judge Doyle and his colleagues can be prosecuted today for selling even under a medical certificate.

The Local Government will, without any unnecessary delay, issue licenses to respectable druggists only under the Scott Act.

It is probable that the administration of the Scott Act will be in the hands of one fit man, who will protect the interests of the licensees and honor the law. The licensees may not be issued by an expensive Board, as is necessary under the Crooks Act. It may be sufficient (and equally convenient) to have the licenses issued direct from the office of the Provincial Secretary.

The Ontario Government has not fully decided on all these points, but it is likely that one thoroughly fitted inspector will have charge of the administration, and he will be expected to act in conformity with the law, without fear, favor or impartiality.

So far no man has appeared who is better fitted for the position of county inspector than Stephen Yates. The Government could not make a mistake in appointing him.

The election of W. H. Howland to the mayor's chair of Toronto, by a majority of over 1700, is the great event of the week. It looks as if the Queen city is determined that civic corruption, police incompetency, jobbery, "masses" politics, the balk, the blot, the beer keg and bumper, the healer, the hoodlum and the howler, must all be stamped out.

Now that Messrs. Ball and Butler have been re-elected to the school board, we hope they will turn in and work in the interest of the pupils, so that the ratepayers will get the best returns for the money expended in keeping up the public school. The first thing wanted is a capable principal who will honestly give his time and abilities to the raising of the standard of education. A number of the members of the school board as at present constituted have, through their children, suffered from the incapable tuition of the past two years. Let them now choose whether they will be true to their children, the ratepayers and themselves, or will they longer bear with an educational loss methods and barren results.

## WHAT'S UP?

### Things That Are Happening Around Us.

**Election Results—The Big Suncombe Boom—Winter—Our Fire Brigade—Who Wants a Change—Who'll be Warden—Female Voters—School Trustees—The Compliments of the Season to All.**

Well, the racket is over—the municipal elections, I mean. In Goderich a good man has been elected in St. Andrew's ward, in the person of James A. Reid, and St. David's has supplanted E. Campion by placing Robert Thomson in the third seat. I have no fault to find with the result, although, to be up and up, there are a few good men left out that I would like to have seen elected instead of some of the "blocks" who still clutter the board.

In Colborne, Arthur Allen and John Kerrigan ran a warm contest, and Joe Beck and Charlie McHardy did it also hot and heavy. The result showed that the temperance party didn't hang together, and, as a consequence, was downed by the beer mob. Bennillor gave the heavy temperance majority, and the beer kegs made their opponents kick the beam in Salford. The cold water principles of the Lake road section also went up Salt Creek. There's a nigger in the fence, somehow.

In Seaford I see, Beattie downed Alice Davidson, the apostle of Alcoholism, in the contest for the reeve ship, by a majority of 151.

In Brussels, however, which gave a rousing majority for the Scott Act, the beer mob carried the day. Brussels has acted queerly of late years, so far as voting is concerned; now you see it and now you don't. This winter has caused a lot of cold water principles to freeze up all over. In the other municipalities—well, please! I'm not going to tell what happened in the whole lot. Hunt it up in the election news column, the way I did.

The waterworks, electric-light, agricultural park scheme, got a big send off on Monday last, when the "people's voice" was heard. What the result will be when a properly matured scheme is brought down, and only the free-holder and long lease tenants vote, I am not sufficiently posted on the prophetic business to tell at the time of writing. There is one thing I can say, and that is that, so far, I haven't heard anybody bring down anything that comes within a day's march of a definite scheme. Butler's Big Boom reminds me of Bob Burdette's bravesman's description of agnostic doctrine, as being a railway that commenced nowhere, used no stations, employed no conductors, and nobody knew where the terminus was. But everybody is whooping it up, all the same, and I am more than ever convinced that the less an ordinary man knows about a scientific matter, the louder he'll shout.

The girl with the dandy toques and nicely trimmed toboggan suit has plucked up courage during the week, and has taken the natty uniform out of the trunk and shaken the camphor out of it. It looks today as if the galaxy of stars tumbled the "Goderich Winter Sports Club," would yet have a chance to shine before the season closed. Bring out the moccasins and the blanket coat, for goodness sake, and let us all know how the noble redman kept out the cold when Jacques Cartier was only an immigrant.

I heard one of the neighbors say the other day that he would have more confidence in John Butler's sincerity on the waterworks scheme, if that would-be philanthropist, would bend his mighty intellect toward the improvement of the fire company. Butler is chairman of the fire and water committee, and since he assumed that position our fire brigade has gone to the dogs, as the saying is. A few years ago we had as fine a volunteer fire brigade as could be found in any town in Canada. Today, I wonder our insurance rates have not been increased because of our lack of fire-protection. Since Captain Dancy gave up the position of fire warden the brigade has tottered to a fall, and one of these days we may realize our unprotected position to its fullest extent, if the matter is not remedied at once. The water-works cry will keep until it is trotted out as a stalking horse next election, and in the meantime the town is in a helpless state so far as fire-protection is concerned. Let chairman Butler and his associates cease talking and begin to act.

## THE WATERWORKS.

### Running by Wind in the Town Hall on Saturday Night.

Also a Little "Gin" on the Question of the Electric Light.

There was a large turnout of ratepayers at the town hall on Saturday to hear the candidates and others speak on the question of waterworks, electric light, etc.

Mayor Horton occupied the chair, and in exposing the meeting said that he understood the proposition to be to sink two large holes and work them by one engine, each stroke bringing water, and that would give us a supply that would be all we would need, for it would not be possible to go into the scheme on the same scale as in the cities. He would like to say that McCleary & Co., the iron founders of London, had been in correspondence with the council to extend their works to another town, and they had said that in such an event they would need 100 houses for their workmen, and a large supply of water would be needed. They would have to get similar terms to those granted the Patersons by Woodstock. They would need to have the water extended to them if they came here. He must say, however, that if the waterworks did not increase the population it would increase taxation. The electric light he considered a luxury, and could be easily done without. As to the agricultural park, he didn't think this was a natural centre for agricultural purposes; yet with good grounds and buildings and a track we might attract more people to our public gatherings.

John Butler expressed himself as sorry to see that the mayor had shown so little anxiety for three propositions. He didn't think it was fair for the mayor to throw cold water on the town where he resided. The speaker had a right to assume that population would increase in Goderich just as well as in other places if they only put forth efforts to make it (hear, hear). Whether the water was pure or not, it was necessary for manufacturing purposes that there should be plenty of water available. It was not long since water was so scarce in Goderich that the people were petitioning the council to give them permission to use water that was in the public tanks. The town had good natural advantages. It was nicely situated geographically, had excellent roads, beautiful scenery, pure air, etc. But there was truth in the old proverb that "the Lord helped them that helped themselves." (Laughter.) The people were not absolutely bound to the scheme as now proposed, for it might be that the present scheme was not a good one. The question was: Shall we have water-works or not? He believed that water could be procured at the price set down in the circular, or less. The electric light could be supplied at one half the usual cost by using the water power at the Falls. The cost, as placed in the printed estimates, had been given by practical men. He was prepared to say that there were men not far away, who were ready to take the contract for \$55,000. He then read a list which showed that at the highest the taxes would not be raised more than 25 per cent, and that if the works were successfully they would cost the town little or nothing. He pointed to Whitby, Palmerston, Wingham, Tilsonburg and Windsor to show that with much less population they had a larger amount of water. He cited Guelph and Stratford to show that the waterworks were paying in these towns. He instanced the case of the town clock, to show that while the originators were sneered at years ago, no one would vote to have the clock put away. And so it would be with the waterworks. He closed by declaring that the wealth and population of the town would increase if the scheme was adopted.

C. A. Hamber said the matter had been pretty fairly ventilated by Mr. Butler. It would be to the benefit of the community if meetings of this kind were held oftener. It would strengthen the position of the council if these matters were brought before the public more frequently. There had been a good deal of work getting the figures, etc., for the statement which had been presented to the electors. The idea was to bore two holes, so that every stroke of the engine would give us water and balance the engine. It would be necessary to bore any 300 feet, and strike pure water, and this water would come up near the top the well, and could easily be pumped. He thought the water should be put in a high tank or reservoir higher than any of the buildings in town, and so be used in case of fire. As to the work, fully three-fourth of the money spent in labor would remain in town. The tax increase would not be so high as had been computed. The G. T. R. would be likely to use the water, which now had to be pumped from the river at a cost of \$1,000 a year. Sarnia, Seaford and Wingham had works, and when in Wingham recently the speaker had asked a verbal if they would be now willing to do without the waterworks, and they all said, no, we were perfectly satisfied with it, and would not do without it under any consideration. He thought the electric light and the agricultural park were propositions not of such importance as the waterworks. He wound up by making a direct and vigorous bid for support at the polls on Monday.

## THE BLAKE BANQUET.

### A Grand Gathering of Liberals in London Next Week—Large Delegation Expected From This District.

Arrangements have been completed for a grand banquet to Hon. Edward Blake in London, on the evening of the 14th inst. We bespeak for the banquet a large attendance from this section as well as every other portion of Western Ontario. Arrangements have been made for reducing rates on all railways, and a low figure has been placed on the banquet tickets. Full particulars can be had at this office.

We have no doubt the Reformers of the west will show their sympathy with Mr. Blake and their appreciation of his services to the Reform party by being present on the occasion. We have a crisis in our national affairs, perhaps the most grave that the country has seen for the past ten years, and the public will be most anxious to hear Mr. Blake's views upon the present situation. They know that these views will be well considered, and that the course he will recommend to them will be both just and prudent.

The Reform Associations in the different ridings should at once meet and endeavor to secure a good representation from every section of the country. An admirable list has been secured by the Reform Association on London in which to hold the banquet, and no effort will be spared to make it agreeable to the hundreds who will come from abroad to encourage the leader of the Reform party in the arduous work in which he has been engaged.

The Men "Rebellees."

All the indications in the lower province show that the Blex "rebellion" against Sir John Macdonald grows stronger every day, and that the ministerial efforts to suppress or circumvent have been unsuccessful. The manifesto of Sir Alex. Campbell, the cajolery of Mr. Chapleau, the efforts of one or two followers, and the boldy threats of the Mail have alike failed. The Mail articles have in fact produced a very strong feeling of indignation in the other province. The French Canadians have expressed their opinion and are seeking to accomplish their ends in a perfectly constitutional way. Thirty or forty of them have a perfect right, if they wish, to vote against Sir John Macdonald; and if they decide to do so they need not be denounced in most violent language.

Judging from the tone of the ministerial press the "chieftain" is doomed. It is said Hon. Mackenzie Bowell admits that the government will be defeated. The Mail the other day held out the olive branch to a few of the bolters, but declared that many of the "disaffected" ones have travelled so far with the Parti National and with Mr. Edgar's machine that return is out of the question. Let them lie where they have made their bed. If the government should fall on this question by reason of their defection, by it so; but let them recollect that between the defeat of Sir John Macdonald and the formation of a ministry pledged to avenge Riel's death there must be an appeal to the Canadian people.

What a terrible threat! The French members can regard it with equanimity. They seem determined to punish Sir John Macdonald for humbugging and deceiving them. There will be no ministry "pledged" to avenge Riel's death. But it is very likely that there will be a ministry formed to carry out Mr. Blake's policy of "the land for the settler,"—the land for the man who lives on it and works it. If that single idea had been the guiding-star of Sir John Macdonald's policy, and had been carried out in its entirety, there would have been no rebellion. But the guiding principle of Sir John Macdonald was the land for the colonization companies and for his camp followers; and the settlers were harassed that Son-in-law Jamieson and a horse like him might be enriched.—[Lindsay Post.

## WHAT'S UP?

### Things That Are Happening Around Us.

While Rome deliberates Saguntum perishes. A little bird whispered to me the other day that it would be well for our public school trustees to look out for another principal, as the present one has his eagle eye fixed upon the school inspectorship of West Huron, which will become vacant by the resignation of Inspector Miller at the January meeting of the county council. A number of folk pooh-poo the idea of his candidature, but I am in a position to know that unless some of the more reputable Conservative reeves frown down the scheme, Huron will be cursed with an incompetent official. A greater calamity couldn't happen the teachers and scholars of West Huron.

Already the quidnuncs are counting noses in the county council. If the Conservatives have a majority it is as good as settled that Clegg, of Wingham, or Tom Kay, reeve of Uxbridge, will be elected warden. If the Reformers show to the front, it is generally conceded that Ratz, of Stephen, will rule the roost. Personally I don't care a red rag who sits in the warden's chair, for after Kelly in '85, anybody will suit me for '86.

A pretty good female vote was polled in town on Monday, and the good work done was evidenced by the returns. The women did their work quietly but well. If some of the men who vote were as consistent as the women, there would not be a whisky vote in the town council, and only two municipalities in Huron would elect anti Scott candidates. But a lot of so-called temperance men are no good.

The trustee elections were carried by the old incumbents. In St. David's ward the lack of inclination or opportunity to canvass on the part of W. R. Robertson made the victory of his opponent a foregone conclusion. And right here and now I must knock the bottom out of a foolish notion that prevails amongst many good-intentioned people. They are object to personal canvassing, and when asked to serve the public always state that if elected they will do their best, but if canvassing is wanted they are opposed to such a method. They think when they make talk of that kind that they raise themselves a couple of cubits in the public estimation. They never made a greater mistake in their lives. The great unwashed multitude, the horny-fisted toilers and moilers—they who make parliamentarians, legislators, mayors, aldermen, councillors, and school trustees—these are they who don't like to see a candidate whose nose is tilted skyward, but rather would they be recognized by office seekers as important factors in the well-being of the body politic, and be looked upon as the strong rugged backbone of society, which is able and willing to bear up and sustain a worthy candidate, if asked to do so in a proper manner. All things being equal, I and hundreds of my way of thinking, will always vote for the man who is willing to paddle his own canoe, row his own boat, wheel his own wheelbarrow, hoe his own row, and do a large share of his own canvassing. To the ambitious and aspiring candidate for public or private place, I would say in conclusion, if you want to get there, don't wait for the position to come to you, or you'll years after the unattainable. Depend on your own exertions, and use every proper means—if the mountain won't come to Mahomet, Mahomet must go to the mountain.

I didn't make any resolutions to change my course this year. I'd been there before and got lost so often that I thought I'd quit the resolution business. But if some of you other fellows will undertake to breeze up, you can depend upon it that you will have my sympathy and good wishes in your vain attempt.

I omitted last week to wish you all "A Happy New Year," and so I say it now.

A.J.A.X.

When the bill creating the supreme court of Canada was introduced to the house Sir John A. Macdonald was leader of the Opposition. The bill as introduced made the new court supreme in fact as well as in name, but as the leader of the Opposition objected to this, and made a "truly loyal" speech in advocacy of "the right of appeal to the foot of the throne," the government of the day wisely yielded the point, and there was thus created a tribunal which is of the most anomalous character. As the Ottawa Journal suggests, it is rather curious and postically just that Sir John should have been repeatedly humiliated by the Imperial Privy Council, to which he paid much deference. Probably legislation to make the supreme court supreme would now impress him less unfavorably than formerly.

## C. Crabb said he came to listen and not to talk. He had read the scheme proposed, and all he had to say was that if Mr. Butler or anyone else, would take the contract as formulated in that scheme, let them have it. He thought the estimate was much too low. For sanitary purposes we must in future be supplied with water, but according to the plan only a small section of the town would be covered, and the people who lived out of the fire limits would not be served by the waterworks. He wished Mr. Butler had given the rate on the dollar in these towns that had "waterworks and high taxes. What was needed in Goderich today was more economy and less extravagance. He read an extract from an Waterwork paper as to the cost of a system, but owing to the impatience of the audience he did not complete the reading and computation. He closed by saying that if manufacturers were to come here we would need waterworks. He would be pleased to see the McCleary company encouraged to come here. Hon. A. M. Rose, M.P.P., who was present, was called for, and he had had no opportunity of considering the proposed scheme. He understood that the question was now whether the town should have a chance of voting on a scheme. For sanitary purposes good water was needed in Goderich, for owing to the nature of the soil, the water was, as a rule, too much charged with surface drainage. If a reasonable expenditure would get us a good system of waterworks, he was in favor of it. The electric light was a luxury, and he did not feel like voting for it. The electric light was more expensive than gas, at least so it was found to be in the legislative buildings. As to the proposed agricultural park, he had been told that fourteen acres could be had for \$1,400, and he said that if this was so, it would be a good thing to get it, as it was cheap. If properly handled such an investment would be a good one. With our natural advantages, we should try to build up a large and profitable business resort. We had all the qualifications; and by using a little expense, and seeing that our water was pure, we could make the town a very desirable and popular summer resort. He knew of no town in Ontario, and for the past few years he gave a good deal over the province; that was better situated for such a purpose than Goderich. It was necessary, however, that the rate of taxation should be as light as possible, so as to get more persons to come here and make Goderich their homes. He would vote for the waterworks and the agricultural park, reserving the right to vote against the scheme finally if it did not come up to expectations. Joseph Williams said he had told Col. Ross too much, as that gentleman had used his intended arguments. He would speak upon the question when the real scheme came up. J. Butler said that the electric light was the light, and would be the light of the future. It would be as cheap as gas if run by water-power. The town of Dunville had electric light, and the people could have it in their houses for 75c a week. Peterboro had 275 lights, and in the saving of police and freedom from burglaries it had more than cleared itself. He would tell Mr. Crabb that he was prepared to take the contract for \$55,000, if the ratepayers would give it to him, and retire from the council. (Tremendous burst of applause.) He then proceeded in a humorous manner to read his views on the harvest and future punishment. He claimed that with waterworks, etc., in a few years Americans would come here and build a \$30,000 summer hotel. Stephen Yates from the body of the hall made a short but stirring speech, which was received with applause. For years there had been a steady pull to take the county buildings away from Goderich, and the town must be alive to its own interests. He lived outside the limits of the proposed scheme, but he was willing to pay an extra \$2 or \$3 a year for the benefit of the town in aiding any good scheme of waterworks. F. W. Johnston, reeve, thanked the electors for returning him again during his absence. The town of Sarnia had now reached a population of 7,000. Since the waterworks were put in the people were satisfied with them, and the cost had got to be scarcely anything. The waterworks had also induced manufacturing to go there, among them stove works and agricultural works. The town is going ahead, and this winter they had started to lay a number of pipes, in order to give employment to laboring men. He had seen in the True Signal that the scheme was immature, and that it should have been got up by capable men. He thought those who got up the circular deserved credit for their work. A few well-placed electric lights would cost but little more than the miserable lamps that are now in use. Mr. Butler again rose and said that it was utterly impossible to say just now what the water would cost. That depended upon how many used it. Sarnia began with a patronage of \$900, and last year it had \$5,700. There are 16 miles of piping, and the cost was \$75,000. The meeting then closed. ANNIVERSARY SERVICES—A series of anniversary sermons will be preached in Victoria street church on Sunday, the 17th inst., by Rev. J. H. Garson, of Guelph, morning and evening. A tea-meeting will be held on Monday evening, at which several popular speakers will appear.

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