

The Huron Signal

DEVOTED TO COUNTY NEWS

AND GENERAL INTELLIGENCE

FORTIETH YEAR.
WHOLE NUMBER 324.

GODERICH, ONT., FRIDAY, NOV. 11, 1887.

D. McGILLICUDDY, PUBLISHER.
\$1.50 A YEAR IN ADVANCE.

The Huron Signal

IS PUBLISHED
EVERY FRIDAY MORNING.

AT THE OFFICE:
NORTH-STREET, GODERICH.

It is a wide-awake local newspaper, devoted to county news and the dissemination of useful knowledge.

RATES OF SUBSCRIPTION:
\$1.50 a year; 75c for six months; 50c for three months. If the subscription is not paid in advance, subscription will be charged at the rate of \$2.00 a year.

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Legal and other casual advertisements, 5c per line for first insertion, and 3c per line for each subsequent insertion. Measured by a nonpareil space.

Local notices in nonpareil type 5c per line. Local notices in ordinary reading type 1c per word.

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These terms will in all cases be strictly adhered to.

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A fully equipped Jobbing Office is carried on in connection with the ordinary newspaper business, where first-class work is turned out at reasonable rates. Everything in the printing line can be done on the premises from the illuminated poster to a visiting card.

All communications must be addressed to
D. McGILLICUDDY,
Editor of THE SIGNAL,
Goderich, Ont.

The Haldimand election contest takes place to-morrow. The fight during the week has been red hot with odds in favor of Colter, from whom the constituency was stolen last February.

PERHAPS one of the peculiar phases of Canadian politics is to see postmaster H. A. L. Whyte, of St. Marys, on the political stump in Haldimand in the interest of Dr. Montague. Whyte is not such an orator and knows mighty little about politics, but that doesn't lessen the indecency of his action in this case.

Now that the protest has been withdrawn against Robert Porter, M.P. for West Huron, we want to see the new post office and custom house rear its majestic presence in our midst. We have had enough talking about the matter, and now let us have a stately edifice of more durable material reared skyward.

MUNICIPAL matters are beginning to boom. We understand R. Radcliffe, the local agent of the C. P. R. in Goderich, is in the field as a candidate for the mayoralty. Mr Radcliffe came within close range of election last year, and we are informed, is stronger today in the hearts of his townsmen than ever before. Mayor Seger, we understand, will also seek re-election.

JOHN MACDONALD, of Toronto, the well-known dry goods merchant has been called to the Senate. John Macdonald is a staunch Reformer, and his selection by the Tory Government is a departure from its usual line. But we doubt that Senator John Macdonald, of Toronto, will cut a more imposing figure than John Macdonald, the merchant prince of that city.

We haven't thus far noticed the name of that silver-tongued orator, John Brown, leading on the Conservative cohorts in Haldimand. The yeomanry of the old constituency are missing a lot of fun when Brown is not in their midst posing as a Northwest volunteer, and exhibiting the scar he didn't get at Batoche, as evidence that his assertions are the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth—distorted and falsified from start to finish.

THERE is a rumor afloat that Hon. Edward Blake contemplates retiring from Canadian politics and accepting a constituency in the Imperial parliament. If he concluded so to do, Ireland would have another eloquent tongue to champion her cause on the floor of the House, and in the event of the establishment of an Irish Parliament on College Green, the erstwhile Canadian Liberal leader would not fail to occupy the place of a later Grattan.

WHAT'S UP?

Things That Are Happening
Around Us.

Where is the location of the Pumping House to be?—An Epistle to the Gentiles.—No News from Engineer Jennings—John Campbell Currie.

—There seems to be a grand scramble about the location for the prospective waterworks, and up to the time of writing I don't think the council has decided upon a site. Some, I've been told, favor the Seymour property, others want the Hawley lot, others are anxious to buy a site from George Parsons, others want to block up one of the streets near the dock, and others want—well, yes they want the Earth, upon which to erect the pumping house. My own opinion is that the present council had better leave the matter over until a more progressive board takes hold of municipal matters after the next municipal election.

—I see my old and highly respected co-laborer in the public interest, Thomas Kydd, has been letting daylight in upon the railway question, and I observe from the able epistle to the Gentiles, which he published last week, that our town council doesn't deserve all the praise for the railway agitation that now prevails, or, in fact, any praise at all. Now, I don't belong to the railway committee, and therefore no charge of egotism can be laid against me when I say that the whole credit of initiating the railway agitation and of furnishing important information to the C. P. R. authorities lies entirely with the men who accepted the citizen's committee, and not one man now in connection with the town council had set or part in the matter.

Some of the present members of the town council claim to be members of the citizens committee now, but they got in by the little side door, and were not charter members in the concern. I remember when the citizens' committee was formed, an effort was made by some of the then members of the town council to laugh it out of existence, but it required more than a laugh to squelch such old stagers as my venerable friends Kydd, Woodcock, Grace & Lyell, and the old boys are still as lively as crickets, and as chirpy on the railway question as ever they were.

—I haven't observed that engineer Jennings gave a great deal of information to the gentlemen who furnished his back hire (at the corporation expense, I presume,) during his recent visit to Goderich. I thought that the gentleman who had him in hand would pump the engineer dry, but I searched in vain in the local papers last week for a pointer on the railway question from Mr Jennings, and I came to the conclusion either that the C. P. R.'s engineer didn't have any information to give, or the council members who had him in tow didn't know the way to obtain evidence from an unwilling witness. If my old friends Kydd and Woodcock had ever got him into the little office on West street they'd have forced him to give up what he knew or pulled the buttons off his coat. My own opinion is that Engineer Jennings was up here to fret our town council a little and thereby work up a bonus excitement. At any rate he didn't give enough information to boom the old council as railway projectors.

—And now I'll go West for a short time, and bring an old resident of Goderich prominently before readers of THE SIGNAL once more: I observe by Winnipeg papers that John Campbell Currie, an old-time resident of Goderich, has settled down comfortably in Winnipeg as deputy-sheriff of the prairie city. A few years ago everybody knew J. C. Currie, and he was what my friend Mulcahy would call "a broth of a 't'y." He was well and favorably known as the "People's Auctioneer" in this section, and his "Going, gone, gone!" usually attracted all the old ladies of the section and a large sprinkling of the middle aged and young ones to the sales which he attended, and he had a way with him of working "bargains" up to full values, and you never discovered that you were sold until after you got home with your unpaid treasure. I knew John Campbell Currie better perhaps than anybody outside of his wife's relations, and maybe, a brief biographical sketch of our expatriated townsman wouldn't be out of place. He first saw the light of day on or about the 24th of June, 1833, and is consequently coming down

the home-stretch to half a century old. His parents were Highland Scotch, and he early learned to "spoke the Gaelic" and take "sugar in his!" When quite young his family moved up to Bruce county, and were amongst the first settlers in the vicinity of Saugeen; and away back in '53 the subject of my sketch earned undying fame by driving the first wagon into what is now the flourishing village of Southampton. That was in the days of his youth and beauty, and before he was ever haunted with a desire to occupy fat Government positions with liberal salaries and perquisites galore. But I must not digress. For a time honest industry claimed him for its own, and he logged and chopped his full share of the 175 acres of homestead that his father took up on the banks of the raging Saugeen. At the age of twenty-one years he blocked out his first moustache, left home, and went to work at carpentering, at which trade he remained for the next few years, and then drifted into mercantile business at Port Elgin. In Oct., 1863, he made the best strike of his life by marrying a daughter of John Stafford, a well-known pioneer of Bruce county, and the father of Port Elgin. In 1865 he went into the ship-building industry, and built the schooner Favorite, in Port Elgin bay, which, however, didn't prove a git-edged financial speculation, and he sold her in Detroit, returning home in the fall with a plethora of dearly-bought experience and out of pocket to the extent of \$1,400. He next rented the Elgin House, a pioneer hotel at Port Elgin, and in twenty months paid off his liabilities, in full and sold out, which showed that while he proved an excellent Boniface, he knew that his peculiar talents would show to better advantage in other spheres of life. Having now a few hundred dollars ahead, he again invested in marine stock by purchasing the schooner South Wind, of Sarnia, but after making a few good paying trips, she broke from anchor one night in one of Lake Huron's big blows, went ashore, and the cargo and everything was a complete loss. J. C. never did make anything out of his "cold-water" speculations, anyhow, and it wasn't to be wondered at that he did not become a total abstainer under the circumstances. Shortly after the collapse of his second lake venture he took the clerkship of Saugeen, and was a sort of general utility man, drawing conveyances, writing grammatical motions for the township councillors, furnishing copies of minutes of council to the local papers, and dabbling a little in the patent right business. After two years apprenticeship at this multifarious occupation, he got a billet in Walkerton as turnkey and assistant in sheriff's office, but resigned at the end of three months and accepted the position of deputy registrar of Bruce, which he held for some three years. He next crossed the imaginary line between Huron and Bruce and moved to Goderich in 1872, where he secured the position of deputy under the late Sheriff Macdonald, which position he held until the death of the latter. He was a favorite with Sheriff Macdonald, and the last words breathed by the old man before his decease were addressed to him. In Nov., 1884, he was appointed deputy by Sheriff Gibbons, and occupied that position until the late Willie Gibbons was appointed. After that he engaged in business as the "people's auctioneer," became high constable of the county, and ran his little black mare to every hole and corner of the section, so that his name became a household word in this district. He left these parts in April, 1883, and, when I last heard of him, was sound in mind and limb, notwithstanding the rarified atmosphere of the Northwest. Such is the story of J. C. Currie. He won't be fifty years of age until next June, but he has put in a pile of history of the Huron tract into his life since he took the steering gear of his own prospects in hand. He's had ups and downs, hits and misses, losses and findings, and incidents of adventure enough to fill a book, and one of these days I may be tempted to give a more extended biographical sketch, but for the present I will only state that those of us who knew John Campbell Currie down in Huron and Bruce will be pleased to learn that his prospects grow brighter as the years roll by, and wish him and his many years of prosperity and sunshine in the time to come. This isn't an obituary notice; it's a little straight talk about a white man whom many of the readers of THE SIGNAL knew well and favorably.

TORONTO LETTER.

A Glance at Some of the Attractions of the City.

The Canadian Business University and Shorthand Institute.—The New Y. M. C. A. Building Opened.—The Majority—The Owl Club.

Toronto is the educational centre of the Province. Hither flock the students in law, medicine, theology, pharmacy and dentistry, and here, too, are the leading commercial colleges of Ontario. The largest shorthand classes in the province are in connection with the Canadian Business University and Shorthand Institute, of which concern, Thos. Bengough, the official reporter of the York County court, is president, and C. H. Brooks, secretary. This commercial school has most commodious quarters over the Public Library, and takes up a whole flat of that centrally located building. Book-keeping, penmanship, commercial law, etc., are thoroughly taught, and shorthand is made a leading feature of the course. Of course the student may confine himself to any one study if he pleases. Some good photographers have been turned out of the Institute, and of my own personal knowledge I can recommend Rev. E. Barker, who has charge of the shorthand classes, as one of the best teachers in the profession. Typewriting and business form are also taught, and scores of young men and women are now occupying positions of trust and emolument who received their shorthand and general business instruction, at the establishment of Messrs Bengough & Brooks. I observe the advertisement of this enterprising firm in THE SIGNAL.

And this reminds me that the central reading room and public library on the corner of Church and Adelaide streets has been enlarged during the past month, and is now worthy of its name. The newspaper files are crowded daily by eager readers, and the magazine tables are seldom without occupants. The library is free, but each recipient of a book must have two good ratapayers become responsible for his or her honesty. THE SIGNAL is on file at this institution, and on Saturday it is easy to tell the men from Huron by the way they crowd to the aisle and the stand where THE SIGNAL is opened out. The "What's Up" column is popular down here, and the series of letters by McConnell, Crofts, the two George Coxes, and the venerable Thos Kydd have not escaped a well-deserved perusal. The library is well conducted.

I attended on Thursday evening the dedicatory services of the Y. M. C. A. of Toronto, in their magnificent new building on the corner of Magill and Yonge streets. The admission was by invitation, and there must have been a couple of thousand people present. The structure is an imposing one, of immense size, of good architectural design, and is said to be the most convenient and best planned building of the kind in the world. The cost of the land, building and furniture (including a splendidly equipped gymnasium,) is about \$100,000. The new location of the Y. M. C. A. is said to be about the centre of the population, although fifteen years ago it would have been considered on the outskirts of the city. In addition to the reading room, gymnasium, swimming baths, bowling alley, etc., evening classes are conducted under the auspices of the Association. The secretary, Mr Wm McCulloch, is a warm-hearted Christian, devoted to his work, and well equipped for the responsibilities of his arduous position. At the opening of the new building Hon. S. H. Blake, supported by nearly all the Protestant clergymen of the city, occupied the chair, and addresses were delivered by Mr John Macdonald, Mr McLaren, the well-known lawyer formerly of Montreal, and Mr Caldecott the president of the Association.

Last week Mayor Howland surprised the council and the city at large by announcing in writing his definite and firm intention of not again offering himself as a candidate for the civic chair at the next election. The mayor has come up to the highest expectations of his friends. He has made an excellent chief magistrate, and has shown a firmness and devotion to duty that certain "trimming" mayors I wot of could study to advantage. Who his successor will be, is of course unknown. Alderman Dunstead is in the field already, but I

do not think the race will be won by the earliest starter in this case. E. F. Clarke, M.P.P., editor of the *Orange Sentinel*, is spoken of as a candidate, and if he were to run, would likely sweep the city. But he is now the municipal printer, and besides that, a seat in the Legislative Assembly should satisfy anyone. There is one man in Toronto who clearly deserves the position. It is the opinion of many that he was once cheated out of the office; and if hard work in the interest of the exposition and other public enterprises deserves recognition, he should get a big share of the honors. That man is J. J. Withrow. It would be a graceful thing to elect Mr Withrow by acclamation for mayor.

The quarters of the Owl Club were entered by the police and a seizure made of the liquors, etc., on Saturday night. This is one of the many clubs in this city operating without legal permission, that is, they are not incorporated by the Ontario Legislature. The Owl Club (how! club is more appropriate) will find that it is not so easy for a gang of young sports to be their own barkeepers as they conceived. Three young men were playing cards for money when the police made the raid.

Mr Cameron's announcement in last week's SIGNAL has created much surprise here. His abilities are recognized by the press of both parties, and his skill as a parliamentarian has won him a high place in the ranks of his party. It is hoped that a rest from the worries of political life may soon restore the Huron statesman to his wonted vigor.

OWING to the fact that Mr M. C. Cameron has announced that, in the event of a vacancy in West Huron, he would not be a candidate at a bye-election, the petition against the return of the sitting member has been withdrawn. All the coats in connection with the suit have been assumed by the Conservative party.

VOX POPULI.

Matters of Moment Taken up and Discussed.

Anybody Who Has Anything to Say on Public Questions, or Who Desires to Reply Can Do So in this Column.

A Couple of Corrections.

To the Editor of the Signal,
Sir,—In a recent issue of THE SIGNAL I notice that your Leeburn correspondent reports briefly the proceedings of a temperance meeting held at Carleton Place, at which I delivered an address. His misrepresentations are of such a nature as to call for immediate correction. Although I gave numerous statistics gleaned from reliable sources, he mentions but two, and blunders in the statement of each. In the first case, his words are, "He showed that Ontario was in favor of it (the Act) by 71 counties passing it with large majorities." My words were "The Scott Act has been successful in 71 of the 92 counties to which it has been subjected." The reader requires but a slight knowledge of the geography of Ontario and the history of the Scott Act to see the difference between these two statements. In the second case I stated that since the appointment of Dr Williams as P. M., he had up to Oct. 20th, made 88 first convictions at \$50 each, and 9 second convictions at \$100 each. Your correspondent represents me as stating that all these convictions were secured in the West Riding, which I did not. I do not wish to discourage your contributor at Leeburn but simply to correct the error and warn him to be a little wider awake in the future, as such errors sometimes do great harm, no matter how good the intention of the writer may have been. Yours truly,
D. G. CAMERON.

Natural Gas at Courtwright.
Courtwright, Ont., Nov. 2.—Last week, while drilling for water on the farm of Adam Courtney, about half a mile from this village, a rich vein of natural gas was struck, which blew the drilling tools and derrick into the air over 100 feet. Two subsequent attempts resulted in a like manner. The wells were visited yesterday by a man thoroughly posted in the utilization of natural gas, who said that more gas was escaping daily from each of the three holes than is produced by all the wells in Port Huron. A movement is on foot to introduce the gas from these wells into the business houses, mills and salt block in the village.

A Good Corn Sheller for 25 Cents.
A marvel of cheapness, of efficacy, and of promptitude, is contained in a bottle of that famous remedy, Putnam's Painless Corn Extractor. It goes right to the root of the trouble, there acts quickly but so painlessly that nothing is known of its operation until the corn is shelled. Beware of substitutes offered for Putnam's Painless Corn Extractor—safe, sure and painless. Sold at druggists.

FROM WASHINGTON.

What Has Transpired at the United States Capital.

Proposed Postal Telegraph—Electrician Changes—Secretary Lamar for Chief Justice—Warding off Cholera—A Fresh New York Reporter.

From our Special Correspondent.
WASHINGTON, D. C.,
Nov. 8th, 1887.

One of the most widely known and popular of Congressmen is the late American Minister to Turkey, the Hon. S. S. Cox, of New York, who is known to fame as "Sunset," and the wit of the House as well. Messrs Cox and Mills are the only members prominently named for chairmanship of the ways and means committee of the Fifty-third Congress, but as the New Yorker declines that great honor in advance, the Lone Star statesman appears to have the field to himself, and will probably attain the distinction to which he aspires.

Mr Cox has just reached the capital, and he expresses some interesting views upon political and legislative questions—especially the tariff, which he believes will be materially modified this winter by the passage of a compromise measure repealing the tobacco tax and placing a large number of the necessities of life on the free list.

Of contemplated legislation none is of more general interest or importance to the people of the United States than the proposed postal telegraph, which finds many advocates, particularly among those statesmen who were influential in pressing the Interstate Commerce bill to a successful issue. In fact, it seems that the country's only safe hope and protection against the grasping greed of the grinding telegraph monopoly, is Government control of that system of communication. And that it will come sooner or later there is little reason to doubt, unless the lobbyists can raise enough boodle to capture Congress, which I do not believe is purchasable, as a whole, though there are reasons for concluding that some members have their regular prices for votes and influence. If that were not true the occupation of the lobbyists would be gone, and these persuasive individuals would disappear from the corridors of the Capitol.

Other legislation that is needed and will be attempted is a change in both the time of electing Congressmen and the date for the meeting of that body. At present a Congress is chosen thirteen months before it convenes, which is neither in accord with our plan of popular representation, nor with the advanced ideas that dominate and permeate the modern republican system of government. The right way would be to elect Congressmen in November, and have the session begin—not on the first Monday in December, as now,—but on the first Monday in January, following the election,—thus at a single stroke of good policy dispersing with the long interim and the useless holiday adjournment, which latter, coming in two or three weeks after the opening of the session, seems to your correspondent to be largely in the line of a farcical performance for a body of such power and dignity as the National Legislature.

There is a good deal of gossip floating around the White House which those who are well-posted claim to have some foundation in fact. It is said that among the first communications that will go from the President to the Senate will be Secretary Lamar's nomination for Supreme Justice, and that Postmaster General Vilas will be appointed to the vacant portfolio, to be succeeded himself by Geo. M. Dickinson, of Michigan. I merely give these reports for what they are worth, and that may be much or little.

There is a regular rule in all the Federal Departments denying admission to visitors after 2 P.M., which has been strictly enforced except in the State, War and Navy Department buildings; but the watchmen in those Departments have now been enjoined to compel strict compliance with the prevailing custom—so visitors may govern themselves accordingly, unless they are fortunate enough to pass with the superintendent.

In response to the urgent appeals of the New York authorities the National Government has given orders to use all proper and vigilant means to prevent the landing at that port of cholera-infected vessels—two of which have lately arrived there from Italy. Two of the crew of one of these ships succeeded in reaching Washington, where they were hunted down and disinfecting by the police.

The past week a youthful newspaper correspondent created a great sensation by mailing to Chief Justice Waite a bogus "infernal" machine. At first it was attributed to anarchist sympathizers, but the youth, when confronted with the evidence of his indiscretion, said it was a joke. In the eyes of the law it is a criminal offence.

RETURN OF THE FISHING FLEET.—Tuesday last the tug James Clark, W. H. Siebold and Dispatch returned from the northern fishing grounds, bringing with them seven of the boats. These boats are behind, those of John Bain, James Craig, and Alex Craig. The boys report a good catch, and are well pleased with the result of their season's labor.

New and early and...
GREAT BARGAIN.
The country seat of the Hawley...
The only wide-awake local newspaper...
RATES OF SUBSCRIPTION:
ADVERTISING RATES:
JOBING DEPARTMENT.
ROSS, LICENTIATE OF THE...
LN, PHYSICIAN, SURGEON...
NNON & SHANNON,
and Insurance.
LOAN—PRIVATE.
ST—ANY AMOUNT OF...
LOAN APPLY TO...
O LEND—A LARGE...
LEE,
LIFE, INSURANCE,
KEY LOANING AGENT,
PRIVATE FUNDS,
CTIONEERING.
VOX GENERAL AUC-