

THE NORTH-WEST.

For many a long year tedious negotiations have been carried on between the British and Canadian Governments respecting the acquisition of the great North-West territory to its rightful owner, Canada, but hitherto without material results. While the exodus of our young men to the States and elsewhere still continues and increases year by year, one of the most fertile portions of the American continent nominally under British rule is suffered to remain in all its primitive wildness and uncultivation, save and except a few spots where hardy and adventurous settlers have made a home; in the expectation that the whole of the country would soon be occupied. While the Imperial Government pays due respect to the hearing of our delegates and arguments in favor of territorial acquisition for Canada, our enemies also have the ear of the government, and their representatives in the Parliament and Cabinet—and between the parties the Government seems to be dazed, and official red-tapism called forth by the arguments and counter arguments elicited on both sides of the question. Our claim has been often reiterated in their ears, and they have refused to do us justice. But it must be remembered that British statesmen have to take thought for two hundred millions of subjects, and that a matter that is of vital interest to these Provinces elicits little attention elsewhere throughout the empire. Add to this that the monopolists of the North-West have many specious arguments to bear on their side of the question, which they have steadily kept in view of the British officials, and we can easily account for the mantle of the circumspection office being thrown over the vast regions known under the general name of the North-West.

There have been so many disappointments and false rumors about the terms which the Hudson Bay Company would demand, that the despatch sent over the Atlantic cable the other day must be received very cautiously. The sum said to be offered to the Company for their territorial rights is £300,000, which, all circumstances considered, is not an unreasonable sum, if the figures are rightly given. This is probably the result of the efforts of Sir George E. Cartier and Mr. Macdougall, who have spent several months in England, negotiating with the Company and with two successive British Governments, and it is to be hoped that the terms offered by Earl Granville will meet with acceptance by the Hudson's Bay Company.

If the Company persist in their old course of dogged obstinacy the people of Canada have an easy way of settling the dispute by going into the country and taking possession; and instead of our young men betaking themselves to distant parts of the American Republic, they would find the magnificent prairies of the North-West to present a capital field for the display of their industry. A little pluck is all that is necessary at first, for after a settlement is once made good roads and every other requisite will shortly follow. A more practical way of settling the dispute cannot be devised; and if the monopolists continue to decline a fair bargain with the British and Canadian governments, they will have themselves to blame if their pleasant dreams are rudely dispelled by the advent into the North-West region of thousands of industrious settlers, determined to make a home there for themselves and for their children.

Destitution in Guelph.

It is a fact that has long been a source of regret to our citizens, that in accordance with the promise made a few days since, we have collected some facts regarding the destitution existing in this town, which we deem it proper to lay before the benevolent public, the majority of whom are probably unaware that there are many families in our midst suffering from sickness and want, and utterly unable to do anything for their own relief. Just at this season, when the severity of winter is over, the necessities and miseries of the poor are too apt to be comparatively forgotten. During the bitter days and nights of midwinter, those who enjoy the blessings of comfort and plenty are more likely to reflect upon, and be more zealous to relieve the necessities, than just now when perhaps really the greatest need of assistance exists. Many who have struggled through the long winter, now find their means completely exhausted, and no employment to be obtained; others again have been prostrated for months by sickness of such a nature that even though recovered they are shrunken while others are cripples or confirmed invalids. Even if all were well and able to work, at this transition period between winter and summer, when every kind of business is dull, there is absolutely no labor to be had—hence, if speedy help be not rendered starvation will stare many a poor family in the face. We give the outline of a few cases recently brought under our notice merely

as types as dozens of others equally urgent. One poor woman, a widow, who has two little children depending on her labors for support, found upon the streets a poor fatherless, motherless wail, stricken with the small pox. With a charity sublime in its self sacrifice, she took the little fellow home, nursed him and saved him. Now nobody will employ her, and she and her little ones are suffering.

In another case, on one of the coldest days last week, we are assured that the only food for a family of famishing children was a few cold potatoes. There was not a spark of fire, and the mother was out in the woods gathering fallen branches which she had to carry home on her shoulders. Their next meal had to be earned or begged.

A third case is that of a poor widow with two children. During the winter both these latter have had the small pox, and for a long time, we are told, their principal food has been bread and water. As in the former case work could not be had even after the disease had completely passed away. Meanwhile the rent of the rickety shanty and other bills have accumulated beyond all possibility of present liquidation by the widow without assistance, and she will soon have neither food nor shelter.

But the other day, a little girl about ten years old came to the house of one of our citizens with a basket on her arm. It contained a miscellaneous collection of stale meat, cold potatoes and turnips, mouldy crusts, &c., such as some of our dainty dogs would turn from in disgust. She was one of a family of seven, and at that hour (four o'clock in the afternoon) not one of them had eaten anything that day. All winter they had been living from hand to mouth. For two days the father had got no work, and the result was starvation or beggary. Though the day was cold and the snow deep the poor child's feet were visible through her gaping shoes, and her only protection from the piercing winds was a print dress and an old straw hat. How many more are there in our town no better fed or clad?

We must not be understood to ignore the existence and most laudable efforts of the Ladies' Benevolent Society. It has done a noble christian work among the poor of the town during the winter, and still continues its benevolent labors. But the means at its disposal are altogether inadequate to relieve the distress that must be expected to exist here and there among a population of six or seven hundred. Besides, it cannot supersede the necessity for private charity, nor was it ever intended to do so. A wide field for individual benevolence is still open; and we hope that among such a population as ours it will not be neglected.

Wm. Reynolds, Esq., the oldest settler in Pilkington has removed to the township of Oxford, where he has purchased a farm near the Lake Erie shore. Mr. Reynolds was held in high esteem by all who knew him, and his departure is much regretted.

BY TELEGRAPH

Terrible Disaster on the Pacific Ocean.

Two Hundred and Seventy Lives Lost.

LATEST DESPATCH.
Special to Guelph Evening Mercury.)

SAN FRANCISCO, March 29th, 1869.
The steamer Great Republic arrived here last night from China. She brings news that the steamer Heron, of the Pacific Mail Steamship Company, was wrecked on the 13th February on an unknown reef outside the harbour of Yokohama. Two hundred and seventy lives were lost. The vessel is a total loss and nothing whatever was saved. Mr. Chase, the first officer, is among the lost. The Heron was under a Japanese charter, and had four hundred passengers. She had a large number of Japanese troops on board—all of whom were drowned.

HOTEL ARRIVALS.

COULSON HOUSE,
GUELPH, March 29, 1869.

The following are the arrivals at the Coulson House up to 10:30 this morning: J. McIntyre, Montreal; R. C. Stinson; Hamilton; A. C. McMillan, Mount Forest; J. Wright, London; J. F. Cross, Fergus; J. Goodwillie, Georgetown; W. Whyte, Arthur; C. Morton, Montreal; J. R. Hatt, Dundas; R. Watson, Toronto; W. Frail, Hamilton; J. Stephenson, Buffalo; A. Elliot, London; J. Campbell, Mt. Forest; Mrs. Young, Paisley.

DIED.

WILSON. At Stratford, on the 29th March, Elizabeth, wife of Mr. James Wilson, late of Eden Mills, aged 41 years.

The funeral will leave the G.T.R. station, Guelph, tomorrow (Thursday), for Eden Mills, on arrival of train from the West, at 9:15 a.m. Friends and acquaintances are invited to attend.

New Advertisements.

BOOKS LOST.
Lost yesterday afternoon a silver BROOCH, South's Bible, &c. The finder will be rewarded for leaving it at D. Naismith's, Wyndham Street, Guelph, 29th March.

FARM WANTED.
Wanted in the Township of Guelph or Eramosa a farm of from 150 to 200 acres. Address, giving all particulars, and stating price and terms, to J. C. Gilmore, Guelph.

SITUATION WANTED.
As housekeeper of necessary governess in a respectable family. Remuneration not of so much consequence as comfortable home. Enquire of Mr. Wells, Post Office, Guelph.

BOARD WANTED.
Board wanted, in a private family in town, by a young lady. Apply at this office.

BOARDERS.
Board can be had for a lady and gentleman, or three gentlemen, at Mrs. LAIDLAW'S, near the stable works.

MEXICAN EVER-BEARING STRAWBERRY

WM. STEVENSON, Nurseryman, Guelph.

HAVING been appointed Agent for the sale of this remarkable plant for the County of Wellington, is prepared to take orders to be delivered this Spring at

\$2.50 per Dozen.

Orderers containing sworn certificates as to its peculiar bearing qualities from June until frost to be had on application.

WM. STEVENSON, Nurseryman, Guelph, 29th March.

APPLES AND POTATOES

No. 2, 2000 Sap Buckets No. 2, At E. CARROLL & CO'S, No. 2, Day's Block, Guelph.

No. 2, 1000 Bbls SALT, No. 2, At E. CARROLL & CO'S, No. 2, Day's Block, Guelph.

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No. 2, Tons Paris and Caledonia PLASTER, No. 2, At E. CARROLL & CO'S, No. 2, Day's Block, Guelph.

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AT J. & D. MARTIN'S

Wyndham Street, Guelph, 24th March.

SALE BY AUCTION.

AUCTION SALE OF

Fancy Goods!

AND STATIONERY.

AT CLARKE'S MUSIC STORE.

THIS EVENING.

W. WARNER CLARKE,

Market Square, Guelph.

Guelph, March 21.

CLOVER AND TIMOTHY.

FARMERS,

Buy your Clover and Timothy at

HUGH WALKER'S

Good Seed at a Small Price.

HUGH WALKER,

Opposite the English Church, Wyndham-st.

Guelph, March 21.

LADIES!

The House Renovating Season is near at hand.

WALL PAPER!

10,000 Rolls at my prices

3,000 " at your prices

2,000 " at any price.

As I intend to barter out my entire stock of Wall Paper, bargains can be obtained, at

THORNTON'S

New Cheap Bookstore.

Guelph, March 22.

SUGARS and SYRUPS

REDUCED IN PRICE

JOHN A. WOOD

Alma Block and Lower Wyndham-st.

Guelph, 29th March.

PUBLIC NOTICE.

NEW PROVISION STORE!

West Market Square, (Adjoining John Hart's).

FLOUR, FEED

and POTATOES, any quantity. Also Smoked Hams to be had.

HIRSCH & KENNEDY, Guelph, March 21.

TOWN CLERK AND TREASURER

Application for the offices of TOWN CLERK AND TREASURER will be received until half past seven o'clock on MONDAY the 5th day of April next.

Applicants to name three good and sufficient securities for \$1,000 each.

Town Clerk's Office, JAMES HOGG, Town Clerk, Guelph, 29th March, 1869.

CARD.

JAMES JASSIE CO. having disposed of all their Retail Grocery business in the Alma Block and Day's Block, I beg to inform you that I have purchased their long established Family Grocery Business, No. 1, Day's Block, so successfully carried on under my management.

By keeping the very best class of Goods at the lowest possible prices, and by close personal attention to the business, I hope to receive the continued favors of all old customers, with an increased patronage from the general public.

JOHN RISK, Guelph, 16th March.

1869. 1869.

SPRING IMPORTATIONS.

NEW GOODS.

301 Cases and Bales at the Golden Lion.

Newest Styles and Designs in Fancy and Staple Dry Goods,

And bought by our MR. CHANCE, with great care, in the FIRST BRITISH MARKETS, and direct from the Manufacturers, all of which will be opened out, and on inspection at our store here in the course of a week or so.

Our Business will be Conducted Strictly on the One-Price Principle

HOGG AND CHANCE.

Guelph, March 2, 1869.

JUST RECEIVED,

THE NEWEST STYLES OF

HATS & CAPS

AT THE

GUELPH CLOTH HALL,

WYNDHAM STREET.

SHAW & MURTON.

Guelph, March 4, 1869.

ON WEDNESDAY, 7th APRIL NEXT

at noon, when the same will be offered for sale at the place and in manner above mentioned. Others will be received up to the 3rd April by the above named Solicitors.

Guelph, 25th March, 1869.