

SUBSCRIPTION ACCOUNTS.

We are now sending out our accounts to all subscribers in arrears. We want them to settle forthwith, without any more delay. Subscription accounts being overdue will positively be put in suit if not paid within a month. We wish all such to remember that this is a final notice, so the sooner they cash up the better.

NOTICE.

Frederick Garrod is no longer authorized to act as Agent for THE MERCURY, or to collect any accounts whatsoever due to this Office.

OUR PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

The Chief Superintendent and the Government.

More than once during the late session of the Legislative Assembly, the operation of the new School Act was made the subject of comment. Several members condemned in strong language some provisions of this Act, the arbitrary and injudicious regulations of the Council of Public Instruction, especially in reference to the frequent changes of text books in schools, and in the number of studies prescribed. It was suggested by the Chief Superintendent, and urged by more than one member, that certain amendments should be made in the Act, but the Government decided to give the measure a trial for another year, before hastily making any changes. By that time they will be able, from evidence furnished, to arrive at a more definite opinion with regard to the working of some of its provisions, and be in a better position to propose such amendments as may be considered necessary for the carrying out of the law, and for the improvement of the schools in the Province. In the meantime a temporary Act was passed, giving the Government power to alter or annul any order of the Council of Public Instruction. It will thus be able to control this hitherto autocratic institution until some means be devised for permanently checking its eccentricities.

In connection with this subject there appeared in the Globe of Tuesday, extracts from certain correspondence which has lately passed between Mr Blake and the Chief Superintendent of Education, which was ordered to be printed and laid before the Legislative Assembly. Some of these letters are very spicy, and when printed in full cannot fail to be read with special interest. The correspondence originated in difficulties that had occurred in the County of Brant touching certain school sections. After some communications on the subject had passed, Mr Blake, pointing out what he considered to be an anomaly under the existing School Law, suggested that the state of things disclosed indicated the propriety of some remedial legislation, and intimated that, if Dr Ryerson concurred in that view, the Government would be glad to learn what change he (Dr. R.) would propose. Dr Ryerson replied that there were other matters as well as the one referred to which it might be better to consider, and suggested that he should have a conference on the subject with Messrs Blake, McKellar and Mackenzie. He also adds "I have been anxious to get release from work which oppresses me more than in former years rather than have anything to do with any further school legislation."

Mr. Blake in reply said that the Government did not propose during that session to have any legislation on the subject referred to unless required, and added that if there were any points on which Dr Ryerson thought legislation urgent, he would lay them before his colleagues. This brought from the Chief Superintendent a lengthy memorandum, in the conclusion of which he referred to the discussion during the session of 1870-71 on the School Bill, and intimates that it was made a party question by the then Opposition. On the 10th of February Dr. Ryerson in a letter to Mr. Blake says: "The infirmities of age must compel me to retire before long, and I have thought that my immediate and early retirement would enable the Government to exercise its discretion more freely in regard to the Department and system of public instruction." He goes on to state that he tendered his resignation to the late Government and that John Sandfield Macdonald expressed the opinion that he should be allowed to retire on his full salary; also that he declines bringing the matter before the Legislative Assembly until "both parties should be disposed to consult and agree as to what should be done; as I would not consent to anything being done, which should not be agreed upon by leading men of both parties in the Legislative Assembly." He proceeds to refer to his position financially, to the obligations he has incurred, and adds: "I have expressed my conviction that the Legislative Assembly would not be disposed to allow me more than the law allows a retired Judge from the Court of Queen's Bench; but I cannot meet my subscription obligations (and I have no other debts) and do what I shall presently explain without my present means of support. If the Government think proper to allow me a year's salary on retiring, and place me on the same footing as a retired Judge, I can fulfil my subscription engagements and accomplish my literary objects. I can show beyond a doubt, that, apart from my long work in the Department, I have caused a saving to the country of more than one hundred thousand dollars, and the diffusion of a large amount of useful literature; besides causing the commencement and development of certain branches of domestic manufacture, accompanied by an unprecedented extension of the ordinary book trade.

The literary work referred to by the doctor is a proposed History of the Founders of Canada, and the constitutional system of the Government. In case the Government had agreed to his suggestion, he hints that an Office of Public Instruction be created as a Department of the Government, Mr. Blake to be head of it, and to have charge of the University, U. C. College, Institutions of Deaf, Dumb and Blind in addition to the Normal, High and Public Schools, with the present Deputy Superintendent, Dr. Hodgins, as acting Chief, Mr. Blake to take the title of Minister of Public Instruction. The doctor then goes on to refer to the past "little differences" between him and Mr. Blake, and concludes by giving that "young man" the following certificate of good character: "Though I differed from you strongly and expressed myself vehemently in regard to your proceedings last year on the school question, and especially in respect to myself, I believe you have the heart of a true Canadian, and the intellect of an educated statesman, and that you have the ability to make yourself a great blessing to what I believe is your, as well as my, native country."

Mr Blake replies in a long letter, in which he refers in pretty strong language to Dr Ryerson's attack on him last year in his published letters, when the School Bill was under consideration in the House. It is a most complete summary of all Dr Ryerson's charges against him, and looks like a formidable bill of indictment. At the close he refers to the Dr's suggestion about him taking the office of Minister of Public Instruction, and to the good character he now gives him, and closes as follows: "I have put together your public and your private utterances. I shall not draw the obvious inference or deduce the inevitable conclusion. I hope and believe you would be bright in trusting to my fairness, even did I, as you assume I do, entertain ill-feelings towards you; but I have not the least ill-feeling towards you or any other of my fellow-men. I shall humbly endeavour in my dealings with you to exemplify that Christian charity, of which, as a minister of the Gospel, you have doubtless preached, though you think it consistent with the practice of the virtue to pull a sword leave before the world the language here set down."

Dr. Ryerson replies to this in a long and rather weak letter, in which he tries to reconcile his statements made respecting Mr. Blake a year ago and those made now. He concludes by saying: "When I proposed to retire from office four years ago my friends condemned my act in the strongest terms, and the country did not approve of it. I have again, of my own will or impulse, proposed to do the same thing; but you have interposed a barrier to its accomplishment. I regret that what I had supposed to be doing a favour (if there were any favour at all in the matter) has been construed as if I had asked a favour, and made the occasion of an ungracious and unjust attack upon me." The entire correspondence, when published, will be eagerly perused, for there is some sharp firing on both sides.

Efforts are being made to secure a steamer service between Sarnia and the head of Lake Superior. The other day Mr. Beatty of the firm of J. & T. W. Beatty & Co. met a number of Hamilton merchants, and intimated that his firm were willing to put on two steamers on the proposed route, and add as many as the future development of the trade would warrant, provided suitable encouragement were given. Those present pledged themselves to give every assistance in carrying out the project.

New Railway projects continue to spring up, and in such rapid succession that it is no easy matter to keep track of them. The latest that has come to our notice, is to build a branch line from the Nipissing Railway to Lake Simcoe, the branch to start from Stouffville, on the Toronto and Nipissing, passing through or near Whitechurch, between East Gwillimbury and Scott, and between Georgina and North Gwillimbury to Jackson Point, on Lake Simcoe, a distance of about 30 miles.

The New York Tribune says that the U. S. Government, in reply to the note of Earl Granville, while pretending to sustain the American Case, really intimates that their claims were not all serious, and that they asked for more than they expect to get.

How Gas Bills Run Up.—The Ottawa Citizen lets its readers into an important secret on gas bills. London is sorely afflicted in this respect.—People who complain of heavy gas bills are very much in the habit of doubting the trustworthiness of the meters used, ascribing the over-charge to false measurements. Where contested bills have been carried into court, the results of the most stringent tests have generally shown that the meters record the amount of gas passing through them correctly. But meters do not record the quality of the gas; and there is as much difference in the illuminating power of good and bad gas as there is in the wearing qualities of a serviceable cloth and the flimsiest shoddy. And here is where the cheat generally comes in. An inferior article of gas not only affords much less light than a good article, but it also passes through the burners much more rapidly, so that the poorer the gas the higher the price the consumer is obliged to pay for it.

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BIRTHS. BIRTH in Garafaxa, on the 1st inst, the wife of Mr. Robt. Blyth, of a son. TOCHER—in Garafaxa, on the 2nd ult., the wife of Mr. John Tocher, of a daughter. CAMPBELL—in Garafaxa, on the 2nd ult., the wife of Mr. Wm. Campbell, Township Clerk, of a son.

MARRIED. EDWARDS—TAYLOR—in Fergus, on the 23rd ult., by the Rev. E. Barker, Mr. William Edwards to Miss Mary Tomkins, both of West Garafaxa. CLARK—TAYLOR—in Garafaxa, on the 23rd ult., Mr. John Clark, of Nichol, to Miss Mary Ann Taylor, of West Garafaxa. ELLIS—MILLER—in Glouanlan, on the 9th ult., by the Rev. Thom. MacGuire, Mr. J. A. Ellis, Elma, to Miss Jane Miller, of Maryborough. McKEONIE—McARTHUR—On the 15th ult., by the Rev. J. G. Calder, Mr. Duncan McKeonie to Mrs. Flora McArthur, both of Arthur.

BROADFOOT—BROCK—On the 14th ult. by the Rev. J. B. Mullin, Mr. Geo. Broadfoot, of Nichol, to Mary Ann, second daughter of Mr. John Bruce, farmer, Guelph P. WILKINS—BLACK—By the Rev. J. D. McDonald, on the 22nd ult., Mr. Hugh Wilkins, of Nichol, to Miss Janet Black, of Pilkington.

DIED. MR. in Purham, on the 28th ult., James Hunter, son of Mr. John Hunter, late of Fergus, aged 1 year and 10 months.

WE beg to call attention to Mr Horsman's advertisement about Ploughs. The Plough referred to is having a large demand, so great has it become that three car loads have been forwarded to Mr. Horsman to supply the farmers in this neighborhood this Spring. All pronounce them the best general purpose Plough made; as a guarantee of this we need only say that they are manufactured at the celebrated Agricultural Works of F. W. Glen, Ottawa. The price it will be observed will be kept at \$13, the old figure, until the 1st of April, when it will be raised to \$15 in consequence of the advance in Iron and Steel. We should therefore recommend our farmer friends to loose no time in procuring one at Mr. John Horsman's, Hardware Merchant of this town.

CANADA LIFE ASSURANCE COMPANY ESTABLISHED 1847. Cash Income over \$1,000 per day. Investments over \$1,250,000. Affording with the uncalculated capital of \$875,000 a Security of Over \$2,000,000. For the exclusive protection of Assurers.

Claims paid for Deaths since commencement \$800,000. Annual Income over 400,000. Sums Assured nearly \$10,000,000. The strong financial position of this Company and its MODERATE RATES. Render it one whose advantages are not surpassed by any other, and explain the fact that it stands at the head of all the Life Companies in Canada. Detailed Reports and Tables of Rates may be obtained at any of the Company's offices or agencies.

A. G. RAMSAY, Manager. March 2, 1872.

EGGS FOR HATCHING. F. STURDY is now Booking Eggs from his Importer Poultry. Send stamp for circular.

F. S. having only a small number of hens of each variety, to prevent disappointment he would lose no time in sending in their orders which in all cases must be accompanied by the cash. Also state when the eggs will be wanted. Guelph, March 6, 1872. dwim

PLASTER, PLASTER! Just Received.

600 Tons Fresh Ground Plaster! Paris and Caledonia. Also a large quantity of Lamin Salt and Soda. For sale at the Montreal Warehouse, below the Railway Crossing. G. BALKWILL. Guelph, Feb. 20th, 1872. dwim

NEW BOOKS Day's Bookstore.

Bonar's Light and Truth The Gospels The Lesser Epistles Bonar's Family Sermons Bonar's Old and New Bonar's A Stranger Here Bonar's Catechism of the Scottish Reformation Bonar's Story of Grace Bonar's Night of Weeping Bonar's Eternal Day Bonar's Morning of Joy Bonar's God's Ways of Holiness Bonar's Hymns of Faith and Hope

SIXCASES NEW BOOKS Just Opened DAY'S BOOKSTORE, WYNDHAM STREET, GUELPH.

NEW MILLINERY SHOW ROOMS. MISS ELLIS. Begs to inform the public that she has just received a fresh lot of MILLINERY GOODS. In all the latest styles, and respectfully solicits an early call. One door east of the Royal Hotel. Guelph, Oct. 5, 1871. do

GROS GRAIN. VELVET RIBBONS. IN STOCK.

SIX HUNDRED BOXES. Also large additions. EX STEAMERS QUEEN AND EGYPT. John Macdonald & Co. TORONTO.

MONEY, MONEY, MONEY! To lend, at reasonable rates, on security of real property, in sums to suit borrowers. Apply to GUTHRIE, WATT & GUTHRIE. Guelph, Dec. 27, 1871. 3ud

FOR SALE AT A BARGAIN.—Convenient to the Great Western station, Lots 53 and 54 being corner Lots well fenced and a good dwelling house on each lot, with stable and pump. For further particulars apply to JAMES McDONALD on the premises or at this office. Title perfect. Feb. 22-1872.

New Advertisements.

Great Excitement in the Boot and Shoe Trade.

PREST'S GREAT CLEARING SALE STILL GOING ON AT COST AND UNDER.

THE Subscriber begs to thank his friends and the public for their patronage during his Great Clearing Sale, and would inform them that he will continue it

THIRTY DAYS LONGER

In order to clear off the balance of his stock, during which time everything in the store will positively be sold off

AT COST AND UNDER.

Don't forget the place—Next door to Day's Bookstore.

F. PREST, Guelph, Mar. 5, 1872. dwim West side Wyndham Street.

REMNANTS ALL SOLD!

STOCKTAKING OVER!

PILES OF NEW SPRING GOODS

WILL BE FORWARD

IN A FEW DAYS!

LOOK OUT FOR THEM.

A. O. BUCHANAN

Fashionable West End Dry Goods Store, Alma Block. Guelph, March 6th, 1872. dwy

For Clover and Timothy Seed

CHEAP AND GOOD GO TO

PERRY'S GROCERY STORE.

IN TEAS AND SUGARS

Great Bargains are to be had.

FISH, FISH, FISH, FISH,

Quite a variety suitable for the Season.

SALT, SALT, SALT!

FOR SALE AT

PERRY'S GROCERY STORE!

THE STOCK OF

PRESERVES, JELLIES,

—AND—

CANNED FRUITS,

Generally runs low in every household at this season of the year.

JOHN A. WOOD,

Is prepared to supply the deficiency, having in stock the largest and best assortment ever shown in Guelph.

CANNED GOODS JAMS

Strawberries Raspberries Blackberries White Cherries Red Cherries Pears Plums Peaches Pine Apples Quinces Rhubarb Pippins String Beans Sweet Corn Tomatoes Green Peas

Green Gage Apricot Strawberry Raspberry Red Currant Black Currant Damson Gooseberry Orange Marmalade Lemon do

JELLIES Red Currant Black Calves Foot Lemon and Orange

AT JOHN A. WOOD'S

Fire, Marine and Life INSURANCE Provincial, Lancashire and Phoenix. Canada Landed Credit Com'ry Lower rates than any Loan Co. in Ontario.

JOHN McCREA, Agent. Office over Bank of Commerce Buildings, Guelph, Nov 28th, 1871. dwim



IMPORTANT TO THE SICK.

DR. McCULLOCH, The Celebrated European and American Physician, itinerant of the Hospitals of the chief cities of England, Ireland, Scotland, France, Germany, the United States of America, and Dominion of Canada.

Will PERSONALLY VISIT GUELPH And may be Consulted At the Royal Hotel, From Monday, March 4th, to Tuesday, March 12th, 1872.

By all who are suffering from Chronic Languishing Diseases, such as Consumption, Bronchitis, Asthma, Catarrh, and all affections of the Chest, Throat, Heart, Nervous Debility, Scrophula, Ulcers, Liver Complaint, Rheumatism, Skin Diseases of all kinds, no matter how long standing, Dropsy, Chlorosis, and Cancer of the worst stage, without the use of the knife.

And all Blood Diseases, Salt Rheum, Dyspepsia, Epileptic Fits, or Falling Sickness, Apoplectic Fits, or loss of Sense and Motion, Paralysis, Nouralgia, Chorea or St. Vitus Dance, Scurvy, Gout, or Thick Neck, Abscess, Tumors.

All Diseases of the Eye and Ear treated successfully. The Diseases of Children, from infancy to adult age, treated successfully.

Female Complaints of all kinds and descriptions, whether Acute or Chronic, will be treated successfully. N.B.—If you are suffering from any of the above Diseases, do not delay, but visit the Doctor at once, so that you may have the benefit of his cure and treatment, and may be restored to health the sooner. See testimonials in posted bills. Guelph, Feb. 23, 1871. dw5w

R. CRAWFORD, MANUFACTURER

WATCHMAKER & JEWELLER, Next the Post Office.

Having resolved to go into the manufacture of WATCHES AND JEWELLERY

Exclusively, I will sell for a cash the present stock of Watches, Clocks, Jewellery, &c.

BARGAINS WILL BE GIVEN Until the whole stock is sold off.

The Jobbing Business will be carried on to a fuller extent than ever.

Observe the Address—NEXT THE POST OFFICE, GUELPH, ONT. Guelph, Feb. 12, 1872. dw

1872

STATIONERY

ANDERSON

Has a complete and cheap assortment of BUFF, AMBER, BLUE, SALMON, CANARY and CREAM LAID

ENVELOPES Note, Letter, and Foolscap

WRITING PAPER RULED AND PLAIN.

BLANK BOOKS A large stock on hand, consisting of Day Books, Ledgers, Journals, Cash Books, Bill Books, and Letter Books.

LAW STATIONERY A FULL SUPPLY ON HAND.

As the above was bought cheap for cash, I cannot be undercost. Call and examine, goods and prices

AT ANDERSON'S GUELPH

ICE CREEPERS For Heels of Shoes!

JUST THE THING FOR SLIPPERY SIDEWALKS. Price Very Low

JOHN M. BOND & CO'S GUELPH. Guelph, Feb. 10, 1872. do

ELECTRO AND CARRIAGE-PLATING SHOP.

The undersigned begs to inform the public that he has purchased the business of the late E. J. Robinson, and that he intends to carry it on in all its branches. Prices, &c., as usual. Small articles plated from 15 cents and upwards. Country orders promptly attended to. He has also moved his

New Machine & Repairing Shop To the same premises, where all orders in that line will be promptly attended to.

JOHN KIRKHAM, Guelph, Jan. 10, 1872. dw