

The Late Hon. Mr Blair.

We copy from the Ottawa Citizen the following particulars respecting the Hon. Mr Blair's illness and death.—The Hon. A. J. F. Blair, President of the Privy Council, whose state of health for some time past has been very indifferent, died late on Sunday night. The circumstances which immediately surrounded his death are, we believe, as follows: During last week the deceased suffered much from cold and was in a weak condition; but on Saturday, feeling somewhat better and stronger, he ventured to leave his rooms and proceeded to the Privy Council Office—and while there, in answer to the enquiries of friends, said that he felt a little better than he had been during the early part of the week. During the meeting of the Council he experienced a relapse, and appeared to be in a weak condition and suffering intense pain. He was taken to the Rideau Club, during the afternoon, where strong stimulants were administered to him; and as he complained of, and was evidently suffering from chills, he sat by the stove. At seven o'clock p. m. a conveyance was procured to take him to his boarding-house—Mr Graham's, Victoria street, and he attempted to walk to the door, but his strength was not sufficient, and he would have fallen prostrate had not an attendant rendered him assistance. He tottered to the door and had to be assisted into the conveyance which was in waiting for him. On his arrival at Mr Graham's, medical advisers were at once summoned, who, upon arriving, at once pronounced him beyond hope of recovery. The deceased was in an unconscious state from the time he left the Club until he died, between ten and eleven on Sunday night.

Convict Labour in Ireland.

A description in the Irish Times of the working of the convict farm at Lusk, Dublin, gives much that is interesting and instructive in the economical working of prisons and the judicious arrangement of criminals. It appears that a swampy common, of about 170 acres in extent, was taken in hand by way of experimenting on the best means of redeeming land. A gang of convicts was brought on, and under judicious managers the land was drained, the subsoil brought to the surface, manure was applied, and also lime to correct the acidity; houses, barns, and outbuildings were erected, and finally, the tract has been brought to high state of fertility. There are about 60 acres in grain, 40 in choice meadow, 8 in root crop; 4 in vegetables, and the remainder in pasture. So good is the farming that this year, while crops throughout Great Britain are below an average, the crops of the convicts are above. What is more remarkable still, the prisoners require very little watching; a few warders are employed, who act more as overseers and managers than as sentinels. Prison earnings are allowed each convict, which accumulate until his time expires, and is then given him so that he may emigrate or have means to start again honestly in life. Such is the reputation of these men as faithful labourers that we are told the demand for the discharged convicts by farmers in the vicinity far exceeds the supply.

OCEAN CABLE FROM SPAIN TO CUBA.—The Spaniards, far from meditating a sale of Cuba—as was wildly reported a week ago—are, on the contrary, intent on binding it closer to the monarchy by means of an ocean cable. By royal decree, the Colonial Minister at Madrid has been directed to take the matter in hand, and he has accordingly invited tenders for a line, to pass southward to the Canaries, across to Porto Rico and Cuba, and thence to Mexico, Panama and South America. It will be rather a heavy undertaking for Spain. But the first step was the great difficulty in the case of these sea telegraphs, and the experience of English and Americans has made the task a comparatively easy one.

VESEVIUS.—The correspondent of the London Times, writing from Naples on the 14th of December, says: Vesuvius, the eruptions of which have been hitherto a source of amusement, has this week awakened considerable apprehension. On Tuesday night the spectacle was grand beyond all power of description. Large masses of lava were shot up to a great height, one of which, even from the city, was seen to fall like a mighty rock, and roll down the sides of the great cone. Streams of red hot lava were flowing over the crater and bathing the whole of the upper part of the mountain, with fiery lava, ashes and sand, were sent up with an immense impetus, irradiating the sky far and near. At intervals during the whole of the night there was a loud and continued cannonade, as of artillery, which was heard in the most distant part of Naples. Clouds and darkness hid the mountain from us for two days, and what was going on under their mysterious veil it was impossible to say; but a north wind swept them all away, and then Vesuvius was again revealed in all its magnificence, and one must almost add, in all its terrors.

Family compartment cars in the latest advance in railway comfort. Each car is divided into five different and entirely separate apartments, affording passengers the conveniences of a hotel. Each state room can be arranged to sleep comfortably six passengers if required, and during the day supply all the comforts of a drawing room. Cars so fitted leave New York for Chicago via the Pennsylvania Central, and at a small advance on the ordinary fare.

A carpenter named Freonau, attired in his working dress and wearing his apron, appeared before the Tribunal of Correctional Police at Paris, on a charge of singing the Marseillaise aloud on the Boulevards, and crying out "viva la Republique!" The accused said that he had been drinking at the time, and that

A western paper adds two more words to the brood of which the World is the unhappy mother. It tells how a party "festivated" and narrates the doings of a "celebrity."

West and South Wards commenced at 9 o'clock yesterday (Monday) morning, and during the day the candidates with their friends were actively at work scouring the town for voters, and bringing them to the polls. The work was gone into and conducted in a good humored, pleasant kind of way, with one exception, which we shall refer to hereafter, and when the polls closed all parties, after a little chaffering, quietly dispersed.

In the South Ward Mr. T. Heffernan took the lead at the opening of the poll, and kept it during the day, his opponent, Mr. Kennedy, being 28 behind him at five o'clock. This is mainly to be attributed to the fact that Mr. Heffernan was early in the field, and had made a very close canvass of the ratepayers, many of whom had pledged themselves to vote for him before it was known that Mr. Kennedy intended to be a candidate. Under these adverse circumstances, therefore, Mr. Kennedy made a good run, and he has no cause to be ashamed of his defeat.

In the West Ward the contest was close and keen. The votes were almost evenly divided between Mr. Howard and Mr. Buckland—both good men—and in the opinion of many their qualifications and claims to office were so evenly balanced that they had great doubts for whom they would vote. Mr. Howard kept slightly ahead of Mr. Buckland during the day, and at five o'clock he was declared the successful candidate by a majority of one!

In the East Ward the battle was equally close, and even more keenly contested. In the early part of the day Mr. Sayers was a good few votes ahead of Mr. Allan, but as the hours went on his majority gradually decreased, until about four o'clock it had dwindled down to two. Now came the tug of war. The friends of the two candidates made a vigorous effort to bring up all the unpollled votes, and there was racing and running in all directions, the eager canvassers every now and then giving an anxious look at the clock. Shortly after four o'clock an incident occurred at the Market House door which is a disgrace to our town and to a free country. James Gay was proceeding, along with two of Mr. Allan's friends, to vote when the door of the Market House was shut in his face by some of Mr. Sayer's friends and neither he nor his friends could gain admittance. A very noisy crowd also gathered about them, and the hustling, hooting, shouting and hurrahing was tremendous for a few minutes. Poor Jamie was set upon as if he had been a wild beast, and in spite of the utmost efforts of Mr. Allan's friends, the "free and independent" electors on the opposite side hustled them away from the door, and so annoyed and confused James that he left in high indignation, declaring he would not vote at all. Mr. John Hewer took him under his fatherly care, and having accompanied him to his home, entertained him with a highly moral lecture on the purity of elections till the clock struck five. Such high handed proceedings deserve the severest censure from all who wish to accord to every man the full liberty of deciding and acting on his own judgment.

As the hand of the clock neared five the excitement grew intense. Mr. Sayers was one ahead of his opponent, and though Mr. Allan had two votes yet to be recorded in his favor, they were too late. One of his voters got to the door a minute after the clock had struck. It was all over, and Mr. Sayers was declared elected by a majority of one!

When the Returning officer gave the state of the poll at the close Mr. John Stewart protested against Mr. Sayers' return on the ground that several of his voters were disqualified by the statute. We understand that the protest will be proceeded with in due form.

Mr. Sayers mounted the table and thanked his friends for their support. He had come out because at the late Election, when he had given a true, loyal, Conservative vote, he was told he would be routed out of the East Ward. After a good deal of loose talk about the means that had been used to get parties to vote against him, he pitched into the Mayor elect, and said that he had dishonoured his position in canvassing the Ward against him.

Mr. Wm. Allan briefly thanked his friends for so nobly supporting him.

Mr. Higginbotham said that Mr. Sayers had treated them to a political speech. He had accused him of interfering in the election. He did so as a ratepayer of the Ward, and if his being Mayor was to deprive him of that right he would sooner ten times over give up the position.

The following is the state of the poll at the close:—

SOUTH WARD.	
Heffernan	84.
Kennedy	56.
EAST WARD.	
Sayers	66.
Allan	65.
WEST WARD.	
Howard	98.
Buckland	97.

ERAMOS.—At the close of the poll the vote stood as follows: For Deputy Reeve, Res, 167; Parkinson, 66. For Councillors: Ferrish, 216; J. Dickison, 178; McKerlie, 126; H. H. Swinford, 47; D. Stewart, 43; A. McNab 15; John Grievie 16. The first three are elected.

ERN.—Mr. Duncav McMillan was elected Deputy Reeve over Mr. Ed. Johnston by a considerable majority. The Councillors elected are, Chas. McMillan, John Berry and James Gibson.


PUSLINCH.—Mr. Leslie resigned his pretensions to the Reeveship in the morning, and in consequence Mr. Sirtion was elected by acclamation. When the poll closed Mr. Cassin had a majority of 20 over Mr. Robert Beattie for the Deputy Reeveship, but there were many persons legally disqualified who voted for both parties, and a scrutiny of the books was being made to-day—so that it is impossible to say which of the two gentlemen will ultimately establish his right to the seat.—The old Councillors, Duncav McMillan, Peter Gilchrist and Martin Spruhan, have been returned.

GUELPH TOWNSHIP.—Mr. Campbell has been elected Deputy Reeve, and Messrs. Hobson, Darby and Benham have been returned as Councillors.

PILKINGTON.—Mr. John Smith was re-elected Reeve by a majority of 33 over Mr. Hugh Roberts.

**Apartment Wanted.**  
APARTMENTS and Board for a gentleman, his wife, nurse and child, where there would be no other boarders.  
Apply by letter, drawer 40, P. O. Guelph, 7th Jan, 1868. d

**TUBE PAINTS!**  
A FULL ASSORTMENT OF  
**ARTISTS' COLOURS,**  
In Tubes, kept constantly on hand  
**At Apothecaries' Hall!**  
ALEX. B. PETRIE,  
Chemist and Druggist.  
Guelph, 7th Jan, 1868. wd

**PLATT & CO'S**  
  
WORLD RENOWNED  
**OYSTERS**  
Received daily by Express. Wholesale and Retail.  
GEORGE WILKINSON.  
Next door to Telegraph and Express Office.  
Guelph, Jan. 7, 1868. daw tf

**No. 2,**  
Day's Block, . . Guelph.  
  
CARLISLE  
**BISCUIT**  
A LARGE quantity of the celebrated Biscuit just received, which we sell  
CHEAPER THAN ANY OTHER HOUSE IN TOWN.  
Call and see to be satisfied.

**E. CARROLL & CO.,**  
No. 2, Wyndham Street.  
Guelph, 7th January, 1868. dw

**No. 1 Coal Oil.**  
VERY BEST COAL OIL,  
**At Apothecaries' Hall!**  
MARKET SQUARE.  
**Fifteen cts. per Gallon**  
or in Glass Carboys containing Ten Gallons, for \$2.50.  
ALEX. B. PETRIE,  
Chemist, Market Square.  
Guelph, Jan. 7, 1868. dw

**NOTICE.**  
THE business of Messrs. BLAIR & GUTHRIE will be continued at the same office by the surviving partner, Mr. GUTHRIE.  
Guelph, 6th January, 1868. dwlm

**RE-OPENING.**  
MISS FETHERSTONHAUGH'S School opened on Monday, 6th January, 1868.  
Guelph, 6th January, 1868. dw1

**SPECIAL NOTICE.**  
CANADIAN  
**National Series of Reading Books,**  
Authorized by the Council of Public Instruction for Ontario,  
NOW READY FOR DELIVERY.  
PRICES:  
FIRST BOOK, with 31 illustrations, strongly bound in limp cloth—five cents.  
FIRST BOOK, 2nd Part, 34 illustrations, strongly bound in limp cloth—ten cents.  
SECOND BOOK, 56 illustrations, strongly bound in cloth boards—twenty cents.  
THIRD BOOK, 41 illustrations, strongly bound in cloth boards—thirty cents.  
FOURTH BOOK, 45 illustrations, strongly bound in cloth boards—forty cents.  
FIFTH BOOK, 50 illustrations, strongly bound in cloth boards—fifty cents.  
Storekeepers supplied at the lowest Toronto wholesale price for cash only.  
T. J. DAY,  
Opposite the Market, Guelph.  
Guelph, 6th January, 1868. dw

**To the Electors of the NORTH WARD OF THE TOWN OF GUELPH.**  
GENTLEMEN: Having been requested by a number amongst you to fill the vacancy in the School Board created by Mr. Blair's removal from town, I hereby accede to their request, and if elected, I will do my best to forward the Educational interests of the community.  
I remain,  
Yours respectfully,  
ROBERT MITCHELL.  
Guelph, Jan. 6th, 1868. dt

**An Apprentice Wanted.**  
WANTED at this Office, a stout active lad, about 15 or 16 years of age, possessing a good English education, to learn the printing business. None other need apply except those possessing the qualifications above mentioned. Apply at the Mercury Office, Macdonnell street, Guelph, Dec. 26, 1867. dwf

**PRIVATE TUITION.**  
THE undersigned is prepared to give private lessons in English, Latin and Greek, either at his own house or the house of his pupils, two hours of each day.  
GEORGE GRAFFTEY.  
Guelph, 3rd January, 1868. 1nd

**General, Mathematical, and Classical**  
**JADEMY.**  
THE 1.187-FIFTH SEMI-ANNUAL SESSION COMMENCES ON THE SIXTH JANUARY, 1868.

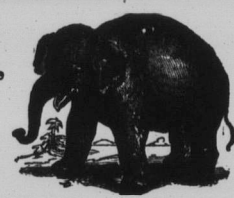
THIS long established and popular Institution offers special advantages to old and young. Its rural situation affords a degree of freedom from temptation seldom attained without undue restraint, while the comprehensiveness of the curriculum meets the wants of all classes of advanced students, comprising a classical course for those preparing for the University or the professions.—A thorough English and Mathematical Course, especially adapted to the wants of first-class teachers and the general student. A complete Commercial Course, including not only those branches requisite to the mere accountant, but also others indispensable to the intelligent and business man.  
Regular instructions in Plain and Ornamental Penmanship and Vocal Music.  
Terms in advance—\$20 per quarter of 2 1/2 months; Classics, \$10 per annum extra; Reading Room and incidentals, \$1 per quarter.  
The most respectable references given if required. Send for a circular.  
McCAIG & McMILLAN, dw  
Rockwood, 27th Dec, 1867.

**NEW FRUITS**  
The most complete,  
The most choice,  
The most select,  
The Best and Cheapest  
22 lbs. New Currants for . . \$1  
11 lbs. New Valentia Raisins 1  
10 lbs. New Seedless Raisins 1  
8 lbs. New London Layer do. 1  
Orange and Lemon Peel, 30c.

**FILBERTS!**  
Brazil Nuts, Walnuts, Almonds, shelled or unshelled, Figs, Prunes, Dried Cherries and Cranberries, Oranges, Lemons, Dried and Green Apples, Canned Fruits and Vegetables of every description.  
HUGH WALKER,  
Wholesale and Retail Fruit Dealer,  
WYNDHAM STREET, . . . . . GUELPH  
Guelph, 13th December, 1867. dw

**SPECIAL MEETING**  
of the Members of the Mutual Fire Insurance Company of the Co. of Wellington.  
At the request of D. Guthrie, Esq., and other members by requisition presented to the President of the Company, a special meeting of the members will be held in the Anglo-American Hotel, Guelph, on  
WEDNESDAY, 15th INST.,  
at 1 o'clock, p. m., to take into consideration the loss sustained by Messrs. James Masie & Co., at the late fire in the Alma Block, Guelph.  
By order of the President.  
CHAS. DAVIDSON, Sec. & Treas.  
Guelph, 4th January, 1868. dwid  
News Record, Fergus; Times, Elora; Chronicle, Waterloo; Telegraph, Berlin; Farmer's Friend, Preston, and Volksblatt, New Hamburg, copy in weekly till date, and send in account.

**LADIES' SCHOOL.**  
MRS. WM. BUDD begs to inform her pupils and friends that the present vacation terminates on MONDAY, 6th January, 1868.  
Norfolk Street, Guelph, near the Marble Works.  
Guelph, 31st Dec, 1867. dw2

**BARGAINS EXTRAORDINARY**  
OPPOSITE THE MARKET, GUELPH.  
  
OPPOSITE THE MARKET, GUELPH.  
**SMITH & BOTSFORD,**  
Will sell, during the next six weeks, the balance of  
**THEIR WINTER STOCK AT COST.**  
Call and see their prices, and be convinced that this is no humbug. **ONLY ONE PRICE.**  
**SMITH & BOTSFORD,**  
Sign of the Elephant, opposite the Market.  
Guelph, 4th January, 1868.

**Great Book Sale!**  
NEW Oyster Rooms  
Valentine Wald  
BEGS to announce to the public that he has fitted up Oyster Rooms in connection with his Hotel, on  
MACDONNELL STREET.  
The very best of Liquors, and choicest Cigars will always be kept.  
The Rooms are under the superintendence of Mr. H. McCracken, whose courteous attention, as well as his thorough knowledge of the business, will insure satisfaction in all cases.  
The very Best of Oysters  
always on hand, and served up in all styles at short notice.  
TOM and JERRY, and all kinds of Fancy Drinks prepared in the most approved manner.  
Guelph, 27th December, 1867. dw6m

**Wool, Hide and Leather**  
DEPOT,  
No. 4, Day's Old Block, Gordon Street.  
Guelph, July 31, 1867 (dw D. MOLTON)

**LIBRARIES**  
With Standard Book of the Choicest Description.  
Guelph, 2nd January, 1868. dw1

**FRASER & HENDERSON**  
SELL THE BALANCE OF THEIR STOCK AT NEXT COST!  
AND IN MANY INSTANCES UNDER COST!  
desirous to sustain the high reputation which they have acquired during the last ten years, for their being the Cheapest Dry Goods Store in Guelph, are now prepared  
FRASER & HENDERSON will not and shall not be undersold by any, no matter what their pretensions may be, and when they advertise a CHEAP SALE they mean it. Goods will be marked in plain figures, and sold for cash only. NO SECOND PRICE.  
Parties indebted to the firm will please pay up before the FIRST OF FEBRUARY.  
FRASER & HENDERSON.

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