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Huron Signal

DEVOTED TO COUNTY NEWS AND GENERAL INTELLIGENCE

GODERICH, ONT., FRIDAY, DEC. 25, 1885.

THIRTY-EIGHTH YEAR—
WHOLE NUMBER 2007.

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to do business in that line at prices that cannot

be beaten, and of a quality that cannot be

surpassed.—Terms Cash

FRIDAY, DEC. 25TH, 1885.

THE ONTARIO LEGISLATURE.

It has been decided to call together

the Ontario Legislature for business on

Thursday, 28th January next.

The temperance people of Huron are

rejoicing at the prospect of deliverance

from the present license board and its

minions.

The Seaforth *Expositor's* article on

"Official Barmecides" has made a sensation

around the court house. Nobody but

officials will quarrel with the Seaforth

editor because of his article.

M. C. CAMERON, M.P., will give an

address at Brucefield on Tuesday. He

is also expected to speak at Wingham

next month. He will pour some hot

shot into the fast breaking ranks of the

Tories. And his shots are going to tell.

The Wingham *Times* very correctly

remarks: "There is a wheel within a

wheel in this revolving barrister business.

The Conservative press pointed with

pride to the fact that the Government

had appointed impartial county judges

to fill the positions, but what of the re-

volving barristers' clerks whom the judges

have appointed to do the work for them?

Can it be claimed that they are free from

bias? It strikes us that it would have

been equally as well, and less hypocrisy

would have been displayed, had the

government carried out their original

intention regarding the appointment of

those who were to prepare the voters'

lists."

The little yarn got up by one of the

school trustees, (who, by the way is now

seeking re-election) that the board of

model school examiners conspired against

the principal of our model school, and

by unjust "plucking" on school law,

lowered the rating of Goderich school,

turns out to have been made out of

whole cloth. We punctured the bubble

last week, and showed the absurdity of it.

This week the trustee is without a new

twister. He says the standard was

higher than in some other counties.

Well, what if it was? The same stand-

ard was observed in the examination

of a Goderich and Clinton schools. In

Clinton only 3 of this year's class were

"plucked." In Goderich 8 failed. The



GLORIOUS NEWS.

Grand Triumph of Provincial

Rights.

THE PRIVY COUNCIL KILLS

THE MCCARTHY ACT.

THE LIQUOR LICENSES IN HURON

"NOT GOOD."

The Derelict Commissioners and

Inspectors Must Go.

Macdonald's Disgrace and Mowat's Magni-

ficent Victory.

Macdonaldism has received another

terrible blow. The McCarthy Act, which

has been wanted to the skies by the

Tories, big and little; the legislation that

was going to crush "that little tyrant,

Mowat," the Act that was going to

prove the silly and false charge that

"the Crooks Act was not worth the paper

it was written upon," the McCarthy

Act is dead.

The Privy Council has not even per-

mitted the Dominion Government to re-

tain the power to license vessels or grant

wholesale licenses. The whole bill has

collapsed like a soap bubble—but a

costly bubble it has proved to be.

Macdonald is a poor lawyer. His bad

law has cost the country a pretty penny

of late. He and his bad law should be

put in the same boat and sent adrift.

Sir Charles Tupper has sent the fol-

lowing telegram from London:

To G. W. Burdidge, Deputy Minister of

Justice:

"In re the liquor license decision.

"The Queen's order, after the pream-

bles, reads: 'Their Lordships do this day

agree humbly to report to your Majesty

as their opinion, in reply to the two

questions which have been preferred to

them by your Majesty, that the Liquor

License Act, 1885, and the Act of 1884

amending the same, are not within the

legislative authority of the Parliament

of Canada. The provisions relating to

the adulteration, if separated from their

operation from the rest of the Acts,

would be within the authority of the

Parliament, but as, in their Lordships'

opinion, they cannot be so separated,

their Lordships are not prepared to re-

port to your Majesty that any part of

these Acts is within such authority."

The effect of this decision is that the

Dominion Government has not even the

power to grant licenses under the Scott

Act. The Ontario Government at the

earliest possible date will appoint new

commissioners and inspectors to enforce

that Act. There will be a new aspect of

the Scott Act in this country when ear-

nest and faithful officials are appointed

to enforce the law.

We must congratulate our talented

representative, M. C. Cameron, upon the

all-round success of his motion to suspend

the operations of the McCarthy Act until

the Privy Council settled the question of

jurisdiction. The saving to the country

has been considerable, and Mr. Camer-

on's claim that the Dominion License

that as it is impossible to separate those

from the other provisions of the Act,

they are unable to advise that any por-

tion of the Act is ultra vires. So that

Sir John Macdonald will not be able

even to keep up his army of commis-

sioners and inspectors under pretence of

enforcing the Scott Act.

If the advice of Mr. Blake and his

supporters had been taken the question

of the authority to issue licenses rest-

ed would have been authoritatively set-

tled before any attempt to pass a Domi-

nion License Act was made. The money

wasted in attempting to enforce the Act

would thus have been saved to the coun-

try.

Had not Mr. Meredith consented to

be dragged after Sir John Macdonald

like a dumb idol, Ontario's victories in

the Streams Bill, the Boundary Award,

and License Question would have been

to him matter of rejoicing instead of gall

and wormwood.

The people who were gulled into tak-

ing Dominion licenses may possibly re-

cover their money, but the money paid

by the taxpayers to support the officials

appointed under it has gone into pockets

from which it cannot be extracted.

Sir John Macdonald has been an au-

thority on constitutional law ever since

1873. On November 3rd of that year he

said:—"I have never made a constitu-

tional or legal proposition in which I

have not had the support of the legal

advisers of the Crown in England." The

Privy Council on six different occasions

has pronounced this all nonsense.

Toronto World (Ind.)

Mr. Mowat is the one statesman who

has been in repeatedly frustrating the

schemes of the wily leader of the

Canadian Tories. The latter's defeat on

every point in the river and streams and

the boundary disputes are matters of

history. Yesterday word was received

that the Ontario government had scored

a crowning victory by the decision of

the privy council invalidating the do-

minion license act. This decision will

be received with popular satisfaction,

and we trust that it will put an end to

the aggressive upon provincial rights

and privileges which have so long been

a source of irritation in our public life.

Our provincial laws are as a rule good

laws, and even if they were not it is our

business to amend or repeal them, and

not the business of the other provinces.

Toronto News (Ind.)

It is announced that the final decision

of the imperial privy council on the long

disputed question as to whether the Do-

minion or provincial government has the

right to issue liquor licenses, is in favor

of the province. This was only to be

expected—in fact, any other decision,

after the previous rulings of that body

on issues very closely approaching the

direct question, would have created con-

siderable surprise. Sir John himself can

hardly have hoped for success after the

repeated defeats he has sustained in con-

tests with Premier Mowat before the

privy council. It is none the less

WHAT'S UP?

Things That Are Happening

Around Us.

Municipal News—Truster Matters—A Reg-

ular Gobbler—John Butler's Big Boom

—Why Fred Johnston Wants to Run

for Reeve Again—Chit-Chat.

Nobody knows what to make out of

the present municipal situation in town.

A week or two ago there was a rumor

that Mayor Horton was going to retire,

and that F. W. Johnston was aspiring

to the big chair; that John Butler was

wanting to occupy the reeve's seat at the

council, and that Gromme Cameron was

also aspiring to the reeve'ship, having

served as deputy for the past couple of

years. I have inquired into the matter,

and find that Fred is not itching for the

mayorship, and at present has no idea of

giving up the reeve'ship, if by any means

he can prevail upon the ratepayers to

continue him in office. This will throw

John Butler back on St. George's ward,

and will also keep Cameron in the junior

reeve'ship. The latter doesn't think

that F. W. J. is acting straight in the

matter, as he claims that that gentleman

last year tacitly decided to retire from

the reeve'ship at the end of the present

term. I intend to let the boys fight

this little battle out between themselves,