Huron Signal.

GODERICH, C. W., JAN. 24, 1865.

THE WAR NEWS.

The Federals seem to have established themselves in Savannah since its capture. Postal service with the North has been resumed, large stores of captured cotton are being shipped, and neighboring farmers are invited to trade in the city. Sherman has again assumed the offensive, and it is asserted that further victories may soon be expected. Two Federal monitors were sunk in Charleston harbor on the 16th by torpedoes. The peace stories are revived again. It is now stated that the mission of Blair to Richmond was not so futile as at first reported, and that having held long conferences with Mr. Lincoln, he has gone back to the Confederate capital, armed with power to arrange for further negotiations towards a peaceful arrangement of existing difficulties. Wilmington is said to be so completely shut up that blockade running is out of the question. Cotton, however, to the value of $3,500,000 has been shipped from Wilmington to Nassau during the past ten days, and great activity exists amongst blockade runners.

Complimentary Dinner to D. H. Ritchie, Esq.

Prompted by a desire to manifest their appreciation of the public services and private virtues of D. H. Ritchie, Esq., his Stanley friends entertained him at a Complimentary Dinner on Friday evening last, at Bolton's Hotel, Bayfield. The evening was a very pleasant one, and we were glad to see that although the dinner was a family one, so to speak, many of Mr. Ritchie's friends from Goderich, Clinton, Brucefield, Seaforth, &c., were present on the occasion.

When dinner was announced Dr. Woods of Stanley took the Chair, supported on the right by the guest of the evening, and W. W. Connor, Esq., on the left by Dr. Cole and A. M. Ross, Esq. Peter Adamson, Esq., County Clerk, filled the Vice-Chair. Amongst the guests we noticed Mr. Alex Johnston, Reeve of Stanley, Mr. D. L. Sills, Mr. A. Campbell, Mr. Richards, Dr. Gardner, Mr. F. H. Barker, Mr. John Esson, Mr. T. Walsh; Messrs. Moore, Davison and Ross of Goderich, Mr. John Jocelyn, and about sixty of the most respectable farmers, professional men and merchants of the neighborhood.

The host had provided a sufficiency of the good things of life for his hungry guests many of whom had ridden far through the frosty night air, and, although he no doubt did his best, it could hardly be expected that he would equal in skilful serving and tasteful arrangement the more experienced caterers of our large towns and cities. It is, however, possible, that he imagined any little deficiencies on his part would be made up by the good will of the guests towards Mr. Ritchie, and we are most happy to say that he was not disappointed, for in all our experience of things of the sort—and it is pretty large—we never saw seventy gentlemen more thoroughly bent upon showing kindness and good feeling towards a guest whom they sought to honor and please. On the removal of the cloth, the Chairman proposed The Queen, God bless Her. (Cheers.) Band—God save the Queen.

Prince and Princess of Wales and the rest of the Royal Family. Band—Rule Brittania.

The Governor General. "For he is a jolly good Fellow."

The Chairman then proposed, The Army and Navy of Britain. The toast was received with enthusiasm.

Adjutant A. Johnston, 2nd Battalion Huron Militia, in responding, said, I feel, Mr. Chairman, Vice-Chairman and gentlemen, most happy in returning thanks for the warm and hearty manner in which you have drank the health of the army and navy of Great Britain. With regard to the navy, I would only say that if there is a navy afloat that don't love them, the navy of Old England will teach them, at least, to fear them; and that banner, the pride of the British nation (and we are a part), that banner of freedom and no mockery, that banner which has stood the "Battle and the breeze for a thousand years," will still be borne triumphant, on every sea and in every clime by the gallant officers and men of the British navy. And should we unfortunately have occasion for their services on these lakes, they will make our saucy neighbours dance to the music of shells and rockets; and in this business I am confident that they would be well assisted and supported by the bone and sinew of Canada, and also by the hardy seamen and blue-nosed fishermen from Halifax, and the coasts of Nova Scotia, Newfoundland, New Brunswick, and the sturdy High and Scotch from Prince Edwards Island. (Great applause.)—Mr. Chairman, I know these men, I have been amongst them, forty years ago I was Signal director on the Citadal of Halifax, and also in Charlottetown, P. E. Island; I know they are loyal to the core.—(Cheers.) With regard to the army, Mr. Chairman, I need only say, that they will be ever proud, ready and willing to discharge their duty, and I may add, that their discipline and efficiency, is only to be equalled by their valor and bravery, when confronted by an enemy, and I am safe in saying, that they are the best clothed, fed, paid, armed and accoutred, of any army in the world, and last but not least, their Artillery and Cavalry, have the best horses, that can be found, for those arms of the service. And to conclude, their disabled and worn-out soldiers are better provided for than that of any other army, that I have either seen or read of. (Cheers.)—And the old sailors likewise, and any one who has or may visit Chelsea Hospital, or Greenwich College, will be convinced of these facts. (Applause.)

Song by Mr. Whitt.

The Chairman rose and said he wished it had devolved upon some one better able than himself to propose the toast which he was now about to offer. Mr. Ritchie, however, saw himself surrounded by his friends, and as they all knew him they saw no know that no extravagant eulogy was required. The Guest of the evening had passed thirty years of his life in the township of Stanley, he had taken everything as it came, doing his full share of the work that was to be done, and always doing it well. The result was that he was held in universal esteem wherever he was known. (Applause.) In public and private Mr. Ritchie had shown himself a thoroughgoing, honest man, not merely in matters of dollars and cents, but in the manifestation of those honorable principles that should ever mark the career of a public man, and those endearing qualities which were at once the adornment and perpetuating attributes of hightoned social life. (Cheers.) Even if there were room for hatred in his breast, he would hate honestly, and not as those do who can "smile and smile again." (Laughter and applause.) He would now propose a bumper to the health of the Guest of the evening DAVID HOOD RITCHIE, Esq.

The toast was received with rounds of applause that made the table rattle again.

Mr. Adamson said before they heard Mr. Ritchie's response he would like to add a word to the excellent remarks that had fallen from the chairman, and which, he had no doubt, were heartily concurred in by all present. He (Mr. A.) was glad to see so many of Mr. Ritchie's neighbors and friends from a distance present on this occasion, because he considered that he was worthy of the tribute they wished to pay to his worth as a public officer and a private gentleman. Mr. Ritchie had represented the township in his infancy in various capacities and it must give him pleasure to see so many of his friends around him that night bearing upon their countenances every indication of undiminished confidence. (Applause.) He was a man respected and appreciated—as a official he was unsurpassed for assiduity and proficiency When he (Mr. R.) came into the township upwards of thirty years ago it was a wilderness and he was subjected to all the hardships incident to life in a new country. He was not a drone. Before he received emoluments in an official capacity, he had by the labor of his own hands hewn himself out a good home in the woods, and was beholden to no party. It was owing to the efforts of such men that they were provided with such a spread as had been placed before them on that dinner table. It must now be a source of pleasure to Mr. Ritchie to take a retrospective view of what he had accomplished in connection with others. They had now a fine railway traversing the County and a complete network of splendid gravel roads, in the projection of which their esteemed guest had taken a prominent part. Take away these great public improvements and what would become of the farmers of the County generally? Why, rather than suffer such a calamity, they would consent to have their present taxes doubled or trebled. (Yes! and cheers.)

Mr. Ritchie rose to respond amidst continued cheering. He said, Mr. Chairman, Vice-Chairman and gentlemen, I have to thank you most heartily for the very kind and flattering manner in which the toast has been proposed, supplemented by Mr. Adamson and received by the guests. When I look around me to night I am forcibly reminded of the touching fact that many of these my neighbors who are now grey-haired, were, when I knew them first, in all the pride and vigor of early manhood, many of the young men were boys, and some have been born since I came into the township. From the way in which you, Mr. Chairman, were kind enough to speak of me, I am almost debarred from alluding at any length to your speech, but with regard to Mr. Adamson's remarks regarding my public services I feel more free to speak. I may say, without indulging in egotism, that I have taken a deep interest in all the leading improvements of the Counties. When I first knew the township there was not a road in it, and hardly a tree cut down, and, of course, there were none of the comforts which we now enjoy. Instead of a serenade from a band, we were, in those days, greeted with the howling of wolves. Our pasture fields were the unbroken woods, our hay mows the tops of elms, (laughter) but I have lived to see springing up around me all the comforts and many of the luxuries of civilized life. (Applause) In those early days there was not a raising between this and Brucefield that I was not at, but times are changed now, and we are, most of us, able to build houses without having to ask our neighbors as we did then. I may say that there is not a man in the township that wrought harder or endured more hardships than I did. But I was young and able to bear it and I now look back with pride to the toils and triumphs, hardships and happiness of those early struggling years. (Cheers) He could assure those present that he felt honored by the demonstration they had given him. As their representative in the township and county Councils he had endeavored to serve them faithfully, and he had the pleasure of knowing that he was generally successful in anything he undertook. ("that's so!" and applause.) He was happy to think that the cordiality of the present demonstration was a proof that he still enjoyed their confidence and esteem. Without endeavoring to make a lengthy speech, he would now again thank them for their kindness and resume his seat. (Cheers.)

Song by Dr. Cole, "Widow Malone O hone"

The chairman then proposed the Volunteers and Militia of Canada.

Capt. Ross, in response, alluded to the great change that had taken place in the volunteer service of Canada so very recently, which was induced by the change that had come over the continent during the past few years in consequence of the American War. Not long since the American people seemed to think large standing armies inseparably connected with the despotisms of Europe, but we now saw that in the brief time that had intervened since the commencement of the war they had reached the status of a first-class military power, possessing large armies and all the modern improvements in the art of war. The great want was in officers trained and fitted by experience to take command of large bodies of men. The Canadian authorities had acted very wisely he thought in establishing military schools, as it was absolutely necessary that the officers should have some little knowledge of the duties they might be called upon to perform. The Volunteers of Canada occupied a respectable position, and he believed the Goderich companies had done some little towards establishing them in that position. ("Yes," and Cheers.)

Mr. Stewart said he had been drafted, and when they came to be tried he hoped the Militia would be able to stand up with any of their Volunteer companies. (Laughter and Applause.)

Song by Mr. Jocelyn.

The Vice Chairman then proposed the Agricultural Interests of the County in connection with the name of D L Sills, Esq.

Mr. Sills said he was happy to night to meet so many intelligent gentlemen around that board. It was delightful to think there were times when men could come together to do honor to gentlemen who deserved it as highly as Mr. Ritchie. Agriculture was the foundation of all civilization, and without it Commerce, and the Arts and Sciences could have no existence. Comparing the County as it was 30 years ago with its present position, they saw what a vast change had been affected by the axe in the strong hands of our farmers. Mr. Sills after delivering a somewhat lengthy speech upon the subject of Agriculture and Commerce, concluded by pronouncing a well merited eulogy on Mr. Ritchie.

"The Bar of Canada," was ably and humorously responded to by Messrs. L C Moore and Jno Davison, of Goderich.

Mr. Adamson proposed the health of A M Ross, Esq., County Treasurer.

Mr. Ross in responding dwelt upon the sound position the Counties held in a financial point of view, and the great benefit derived from the public improvements for which taxes were being paid. He had in his official position an excellent opportunity of knowing Mr. Ritchie's worth in a public and private capacity. As an officer he was not surpassed by any man in the Province. (Applause.)

Mr. Ross, in a neat and complimentary manner, proposed "The Press of Canada," in connection with the name of Mr. W. T. Cox, of the Huron *Signal*.

Mr. Cox responded in suitable terms, thanking those present, on behalf of the "Press Gang," for the kind manner in which the toast had been proposed and received.

Mr. Adamson proposed the health of D. L. Sills, Esq.

Mr. Sills responded in an eloquent speech, which we regret want of space prevents us from reporting in full, not a very easy task either by the way, as the gentleman gets out his words at the rate of about 600 per minute, at least twice as fast as Hon. John A. McDonald, who is said to be the fastest speaker in Parliament.

"The Medical Profession," was learnedly responded to by Dr. Taylor, and humorously by Dr. Woods.

Mr. Cox proposed the health of the ladies of Stanley, which was received with applause and responded to by Mr. Moore, Mr. Geo Campbell and Dr. Leech.

Mr. Adamson proposed the health of Mrs. Ritchie. (Applause.)

Mr. Ritchie responded in gallant style, thanking the company in Mrs. Ritchie's name for their kindly remembrance of her.

In addition to what we have given in detail above, there were songs without end, pieces of excellent music from the Bayfield Brass Band, &c.

The company broke up about 2 o'clock, not a single word having been uttered to mar the harmony and good humor of the highly pleased company.

PEACE PROSPECTS.

The prospects of a speedy peace, of which we heard so much recently, seem to have exploded. We hear nothing of the meeting of thirteen delegates from each section, and as for the mission of Blair & Son, it seems that the worthy pair were not so much moved by patriotism as by a desire to secure certain pecuniary objects. That the Confederates are still unappaled by the recent disasters to their arms is evidenced by the following resolution which was adopted by their Legislature within the past few days:

"*Resolved*, That we, the representatives of the Confederate States, are firmly determined to continue the struggle in which we are involved until the United States shall acknowledge our independence; and to this determination, with a sincere conviction of the justice of our cause, and an humble reliance upon the Supreme Ruler of Nations, we do solemnly and faithfully pledge ourselves."

The New York *Times*, official organ of Mr. Seward, gives very little hope of peace. It says:—

"Those who are looking for peace through private diplomacy, or, as a consequence, immediate or remote, of personal interviews with officials of the rebel government, are, in our judgment, resting their hopes on a false basis. A very little reflection, it seems to us, will convince any one that all such attempts, even if they were compatible with the principles on which the war has been conducted, must prove abortive. They assume that we are first to ascertain what the rebels want, and that this is to be our guide in negotiating with them. Does anybody suppose, for a moment, that they will accept voluntarily, or as the result of negotiation, *less* than they had when they began the war? And does anybody suppose that we will give them *more*? Can we give them a peace that shall make their rebellion an advantage to them—a positive and substantial success? Even if they waive their claim to independence, can we concede their construction of the Constitution? Can we give them State sovereignty in their acceptation of the term? Can we concede to them anything on any point which they did not have when they began the war? Yet without some chance of such concession, there is not the slightest chance of their entering upon negotiations of any sort.

"But although we look for it in another direction, the prospect of peace seems to us by no means remote. Lee's army is all that remains of the rebellion, and so long as that does remain we have no right to expect such a peace as we can accept. When that is destroyed the rebellion is crushed, and we shall have such a peace as must follow the restored authority of the Constitution and laws of the United States. But that great battle remains to be fought. It can no more be averted or evaded than could Waterloo, and its result on one side, at least, must be equally decisive. It is to this final issue that the government is now advancing. It is bringing all its available military force to bear upon that. Its first effort of course will be to compel Gen. Lee to meet it—if successful in that, its next endeavor will be to defeat and overwhelm him. If it fails in either the war may be prolonged; if it succeeds in both, we must, in the natural course of events, have a prompt and lasting peace. And in no other way, and at no earlier moment, in our judgment, can we have peace at all."

The Toronto Reform Committee.

The Reform Committee or Association of Toronto, has been guilty of high crimes and misdemeanors in the eyes of some because it dared on the evening of the 17th to convene a meeting for the purpose of discussing the Confederation Question. When Hon. Mr. McPherson was elected the *Leader* and its smaller followers roared with delight, and proclaimed what it *wished* to believe was a fact that *Gritism* was dead and buried without hope of resurrection. That was after the Coalition of our party leaders and it is not surprising that such an exhibition of uncalled-for partizanship created much indignation in the minds of reformers. They complained, and very justly, that although they had consented to bury for the time being the hatchet of party warfare, their old opponents manifested no desire to meet them half way. On the contrary, during the Saugeen contest and in every election since they have introduced all the old party tactics, and have not for a moment ceased to preach up conservative organization, because, as they allege, the time will surely come when the old lines will be as clearly defined as ever. Now, however, their press has the assurance to turn round and denounce reform organization as an act of unexampled treachery. They rejoice at the defeat of Mr. Farewell, in South Ontario, and yet they think or seem to think that it is the duty of reformers to stand with folded arms while *they* sweep away every constituency that offers an opportunity. Their cry of treachery is absurd, and is even open to retort. It is the duty of Reformers, at this juncture, to do all in their power to prevent partizanship from throwing obstacles in the way of useful legislation, but it is no less their duty to keep a watchful eye upon those who will not scruple to take advantage of any supineness on their part.

Land Improvement Fund.

The Quebec correspondent of the *Leader* gives a list of Municipalities which should at once send power of Attorney to an agent there to draw land improvement fund for 1860. Bruce, we observe, is in the category. If an agent is desired, we would recommend Mr. Henry Grist of Quebec as a gentleman who will, we believe, execute any commission of the sort with promptitude and on reasonable terms. The matter should be attended to, at all events, by the authorities of Bruce without delay.

The Present Winter.

The winter thus far has been the severest experienced in this section for the past ten years. For some years past the quantity of snow that fell annually was so small, and seemed to decrease at such a rate that many imagined the time not far distant when we should have nothing but wagoning all the year round. This winter however seems determined to make up for past deficiencies. Since the early part of December snow has fallen almost constantly until it lies about 3 feet deep in the woods and the roads are drifted full; so much so that in places laden vehicles can hardly come out of the concessions. There is a theory, founded on pretty sound principles, we think, that such winters are always followed by splendid springs and summers. At all events, "old inhabitants," can vouch for the fact that the best crops ever gathered in this part of Canada, in the "good old times" were gathered after just such cold, steady, snowy winters as we are now enjoying. We hope the lapse of time has not spoiled the theory, for most certainly a splendid crop next year would be very acceptable to our crippled farmers, and more especially so should prices happen to be good.

LITERARY NOTICES.

THE GARLAND: A collection of Songs and Lyrics, original and selected, for schools and families. Compiled by H. D. Cameron, Esq., Principal of the Central School, Goderich, published by Theo. J. Moorhouse, Bookseller and Stationer.

This handsome little volume of poetry supplies a want which has been long felt in connection with the public schools of the country. Hitherto, although the regular series of School Books has been published in Canada, no attempt has been made to throw into a permanent and attractive form a sufficient number of songs, &c., suited to the capacities of our children, but we are happy to see that the compiler and publisher of the volume before us have succeeded so well in providing just what was wanted. The book contains about 140 pages and comprises a large number of pieces which must become very popular wherever introduced. Besides several standard pieces from popular British authors, it contains also many gems from such Canadian writers as Alexander McLachlan, the late Thomas McQueen and Wm. Bannatyne, which alone are worth the money asked for the book. As this is the first enterprise of the kind ever attempted in the County of Huron, we trust Mr. Moorhouse will be amply rewarded for the time and trouble it has cost The attention of teachers, trustees and others is directed to the advertisment in another column.

CHAMBERS' JOURNAL.—We have to thank Mr. Moorhouse for a copy of this famous British Monthly. The present is a good time to subscribe for it.

LONDON SOCIETY.—We should have noticed this brilliant magazine in our last. Chewitt & Co, Toronto, T. J. Moorhouse, Goderich: Contents of the January number "Old Fashioned Winters, Fireside Frolics, Scenes in Court, Coelebs in search of a Mulready Envelope, The Mystery of the Bloody Hand, Our Widowed Queen, Custom as it affects Dinner-time, Whist, Social Sketches, A Fast Run and a Double Kill.

CHURCHMAN'S MAGAZINE.—An excellent book for Anglican readers. Imported direct from England by Chewett & Co., Toronto, sold by T. J. Moorhouse, Goderich.

GODEY for February is to hand and is a splendid number, superior, if possible, to anything that has preceded it. An extremely useful book for ladies. Moorhouse supplies it.

ENOCH ARDEN.—Messrs. Ticknor & Fields, the celebrated Boston publishers, have kindly sent us a copy of their illustrated edition of Tennyson's admirable poem, Enoch Arden. It is printed on tinted paper, illustrated handsomely, and is altogether a *perfect* specimen of typography. Mr. Moorhouse will have it on sale in a few days.

The Reciprocity Treaty.

A correspondent of the Montreal 'Herald' says:—

In your issue of yesterday you stated that the Senate of the United States had, by a vote of 31 to 8 confirmed the action taken by Congress, in reference to the Reciprocity Treaty, so that there is not now any doubt that the necessary notice will be given to the British Government for its abrogation.

It may not be generally understood that this action on the part of the American authorities deprives us of the use of Lakes Michigan and Champlain, and that no Canadian vessel can, after the termination of the Treaty, enter either of these lakes without the permission of the American Government. This will prove a serious blow to Canadian commerce, and should receive the immediate attention of our Ministry.

The Burley Extradition Case.

Recorder Duggan of Toronto delivered judgment in the case of Burley, the alleged pirate, &c. The Recorder, after going over the whole of the evidence, decided that the prisoner should be given up to the United States authorities, under the Ashburton Treaty. Application was immediately made for habeas corpus in order to carry the case before the judges.

TOWNSHIP COUNCIL MINUTES.

In answer to numerous enquiries, we would state that, as heretofore, we shall be happy to publish the Minutes of Township Councils *gratuitously* in the columns of the 'Signal'. Clerks will oblige by sending them in as soon after the meetings as possible and by writing all proper names very legibly, so as to avoid mistakes.

☞ The County Council meets in the Court House, Goderich, on Tuesday next.

Provincial Parliament.

QUEBEC, Jan. 19.

This day at three o'clock p. m. His Excellency the Governor General proceeded in state to the chamber of the Legislative Council in the Parliament Buildings. The members of the Legislative Council being assembled, His Excellency was pleased to command the attendance of the Legislative Assembly; and that House being present, His Excellency was pleased to open the third session of the eighth Parliament of the Province of Canada with the following

Speech from the Throne.

"*Hon. Gentleman of the Legislative Council, and Gentleman of the Legislative Assembly:*—

"In calling you together to resume the performance of your constitutional duties, I desire to express my thankfulness to a beneficent Providence that I am enabled to congratulate you on the general prosperity and contentment of the people of this Province, and the continuance to us of the inestimable blessings of peace.

"Outrages have been committed on the commerce and territory of the United States of America by persons who, after the perpetration of these acts, have sought refuge on Canadian soil. In order to prevent the organization of any such enterprizes within this Province, and also to enable me to discharge in an effective manner my duties towards a neighboring power on terms of friendship with Her Majesty, I have seen fit to organize a system of detective police on the frontier line of the United States, and with the same design I have called out for permanent duty a portion of the volunteer force of the Province.

"Similar considerations have suggested the propriety of arming the executive government with stronger power than it now possesses for dealing with persons who, while availing themselves of the right of asylum which has always been allowed on British soil to political refugees from all foreign countries, may be unmindful of the implied obligations which, by their residence amongst us, they contract to obey our laws and to respect the declared policy of our Sovereign. A bill framed for this purpose will be laid before you, and I ask for it your early consideration.

"I am happy to be able to inform you of the zeal and alacrity displayed by the members of the volunteer force when called upon to turn out for active service. This conduct shows that the present population of Canada has not degenerated from the manly virtues which characterize the races from which it derives its origin, and that it may be relied on, under any circumstances, to respond to the call of duty, either for the maintenance of internal order, or to repel foreign aggression.

"The commissioners appointed under the provisions of the second chapter of the consolidated statutes of Lower Canada, to frame a civil code and also a code of civil procedure for Lower Canada, have completed the former part of their duty. The results of their labors shall be laid before you, and I am informed that the code of civil procedure is in a very advanced state. The compilation of the codification of the civil law in both French and English cannot fail to be of great benefit to the inhabitants of Lower Canada by enabling the people of all origins to read in their own languages the civil law under which they live, and which hitherto has only been accessable in a language which is not the mother tongue of a portion of the people whose civil rights are regulated by it.

"*Gentlemen of the Legislative Assembly,*—

"The expenditure rendered necessary by calling out the volunteers for active service, and which was unforseen when the estimates of the current year were agreed to, will necessitate a supplementary vote for that service. I have desired that an estimate for this purpose shall be laid before you.

"I am happy to be in a position to inform you that the financial legislation of the last session has been attended with beneficial results. The revenue has largely increased and there has been a contemporaneous extension of the trade of the Province

"I have directed the estimates for the next financial year to be laid before you, and you will find that they have been framed with a due attention to economy combined with efficiency.

"*Honorable Gentlemen and Gentlemen,*—

"At the close of the last session of Parliament I informed you that it was my intention, in conjunction with my ministers, to prepare and submit to you a measure for the solution of the constitutional problem, the discussion of which, has for some years agitated the Province.

"A careful consideration of the general position of British North America induced the conviction that the circumstances of the times afforded the opportunity not merely for the settlement of a question of Provincial politics, but also for the simultaneous creation of a new nationality. Preliminary negotiations were opened by me with the Lieutenant Governors of the other Provinces of British North America, and the result was that a meeting was held in Quebec in the month of October last, composed of delegates from those colonies representing all shades of political party in their several communities, nominated by the respective Lieutenant-Governors of their respective Provinces, who assembled here with the sanction of the crown, and at my invitation, to confer with the members of the Canadian ministry on the possibility of effecting a union of all the Provinces of British North America. This Conference, after lengthened deliberations, arrived at the conclusion that a federal union of these Provinces was feasible and desirable, and the result of its labors is a plan of constitution for the proposed union, embodied in a series of resolutions, which, with other papers relating to the subject, I have directed to be laid before you.

"The general design of a Union, and the particular plan by which it is proposed to carry that intention into effect, have both received the cordial approbation of the Imperial Government. An Imperial act of Parliament will be necessary in order to give effect to the contemplated Union of the Colonies. And I have been officially informed by the Secretary of State that Her Majesty's ministers will be prepared to introduce a bill for that purpose into the Imperial Parliament as soon as they shall have been notified that the proposal has received the sanction of the Legislatures representing the several Provinces effected by it.

"In commending to your attention this subject, the importance of which to yourselves and your descendants it is impossible to exaggerate, I would claim for it your calm, earnest and impartial consideration. With the public men of British North America it now rests to decide whether the vast tract of country which they inhabit shall be consolidated into a state, combining within its area all the elements of national greatness, providing for the security of its component parts, and contributing to the strength and stability of the empire, or whether the several Provinces of which it is constituted shall remain in their present fragmentary and isolated condition; comparatively powerless for mutual aid and incapable of undertaking their proper share of Imperial responsibility. In the discussion of an issue of such moment I fervently pray that your minds may be guided to conclusions which shall redound to the honor of our Sovereign, to the welfare of her subjects and to your own reputation as patriots and statesmen."

His Excellency having left the building the business of the Council commenced.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

The Hon. Messrs. Gingras, Dumonchel, Chaffers, McPherson, Duchesnay, and Bell were introduced and took their seats.

On motion of Sir E. P. Tache the consideration of the Speech was postponed until Monday next.

The Council then adjourned.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

The Speaker having taken the chair, the several re-elected and new members took their seats.

The House resolved to pass the usual Standing Committees.

Mr. Cartier then moved that the Speech be considered on Monday next.

Mr. Holton thought the English practice should be adopted of proceeding at once with the Speech.

Mr. Cartier said that had never been the practice here; besides it would be unfair, as a large number of members were absent. The motion was then carried.

On motion of Mr. Cartier, seconded by Mr Brown, the House adjourned until Monday next,

☞ There appears to be no prospect of resumption of hostilities in front of Richmond for some time to come.

☞ The Indians in Colorado have renewed their atrocities. A telegraph operator reports he found an American ranche, 14 miles west of Valley city, on fire, and seven bodies burnt to cinders,—among them, two children and one woman. It was expected the Indians would butcher every person on the road, unless speedy assistance were sent.

Town & Counties

Co. of Huron Agricultural So'y.

ANNUAL MEETING.

The Annual meeting of members of the Co. of Huron Agricultural Society took place in the British Exchange Hotel, Goderich, on Saturday the 21st inst.

Reports were received from the following Branch Societies: Stanley, Harpurhey, Hay, Exeter, Ashfield and Wawanosh, Belmore, Ainleyville, Clinton and Howick.

From the Treasurer's Report we learn that at the commencement of the year there was on hand the sum of $81.21.—The amt received in 1864 from the various sources of revenue was $1774.10, making in all $1855.31. The amount paid out in 1864 was $1835.82, leaving a balance in the treasurer's hands of $29.49. The report was adopted.

Robert Gibbons, Esq., was re-elected President; A. M. Ross, Esq., 1st Vice President; Wm. Young, Esq., 2nd Vice President; G. M. Trueman, Sec'y, and Andrew Donogh, Treasurer.

The Directors appointed for the current year were, Jas Lomas, Pat Carrol, Jno Stewart (Bennillar), J. W. Elliott, James Torrance Wm Piper, and John Salkeld.

Messrs. James Johnston, Sunnyside, London; F. Stone, of Guelph; Hon David Christie, and Wm Ferguson, M. P. P., were voted as members of the Board of Agriculture for the current year.

It was decided to hold the meetings in Dark's Hotel during the year.

The turn out of members was fair, but hardly so large as last year.

The Sec'y in connection with the Co. Ag. Society is getting up a Club for the *Canada Farmer*, all orders can be left at his office, Goderich.

On Education.

For the "Signal."

Many different opinions have been advanced on this subject, and many rules have been formed to guide us, so that it would seem a mere mockery for us to protrude our ideas on the subject.

"To be educated;" does it not convey the idea of a drawing forth an expansion of our intellect—first when we con the rudiments, until gradually, step by step, we dip farther and farther into the endless mines of Knowledge, not a mere smattering, a mere superficial glance; this is not Education. As well might we admire a parrot and say because pretty poll repeats by note the sayings of its mistress, "what an educated bird." This stuffing of our brains with a conglomerated mass, ideas mixed up in inextricable confusion, is not the thing; better, far better, is it to have the fame of knowing less and the satisfaction of being master of that little.—Education has a great effect on mankind, although there are a great many that move a wrong use of it; they think that because they are refined and educated men there is not anything more required from them, and thus they become careless and indolent and abuse their advantages. Better would it have been if they knew less and prized it more.

Others prize education, they make themselves of great service in the world, rising in the estimation of the people, and doing great honor to themselves and good to others, thus they put their advantages to a proper use.

Again—education, we say, prepares us for society. We soon perceive the difference between the educated and the uneducated; the former with how much ease and how fluently he converses on any subject, while the latter seems timid, as though he was not quite sure of what he is saying; and much sooner do you notice it when he is conversing with an educated man. As the world becomes educated how much more improved it becomes. Arts and Sciences begin to make a rapid progress all over the world—improvements of every kind soon begin to appear.—How thankful ought we then to be that we have very good opportunities to improve ourselves, while others would be glad of such opportunities but it is not within their reach. Glad ought we to feel that we are not shut up in utter ignorance,—that we are in a refined and intelligent part of the world, where education is prospering on either sides of us.

Board of School Trustees.

The annual meeting of the Board for Organization for this year was held last night at the Board Room—all the members present. The Board is now composed of the following gentlemen, viz: Messrs. A. Lefroy, A. Smith, W. Hick, Geo. McKenzie, C. Crabb, Alex. Kirkcaldie, John Longworth and Geo. Davis. Mr. Lefroy was chosen Chairman and Wm. Mackay Secretary. A Superintendent was not appointed. The Curator was not appointed—the Board being resolved to receive tenders for the situation at their next meeting. The Committees on Finance, Library & Contingencies were appointed and the Board adjourned.

Eligibility of School Trustees.

DEAR SIGNAL,—At a School meeting held this month in one of the sections in this township, an objection was made to the eligibility of a candidate for the Trusteeship, that he had not paid his school rates for last year; and having, as requested, written Dr. Ryerson for his opinion, received last night the following answer.

Yours respectfully,
JOHN NAIRN,
Local Supt.

TORONTO, 16th January, 1865.—I have the honor to state in reply to your letter of the 13th inst, that a person is eligible to be elected and serve as Trustee in a school section if he be a resident assessed freeholder or householder in it whether he has paid any school rates in it or not, though he cannot vote at school meetings in the section without having paid such rates imposed within twelve months.

COUNTIES COUNCIL.

The new Council met at the Court House, Goderich, on Tuesday last, Mr. Adamson, Counties' Clerk, took the chair and before the members took their seats read the opinion of R. A. Harrison, Esq., relative to the duty of the Clerk in the matter of informal certificates bourne by Reeves and Deputies.

The following gentlemen answered to their names:—

Ashfield—Wm. Mallough Reeve, Maurice Dalton, Deputy Reeve.
Clinton Village—Joseph Whitehead R.
Colborne—Henry Spence R.
Goderich Town—Robt. Gibbons R, Dr. McDougall D. R.
Goderich Township—Wm. Piper R, Henry Ford D. R.
Grey—Arch. McDonald R, John Lockie D. R.
Hay—Robt Brown R, James Smillie D. R.
Hullett—Humphrey Snell R, John Warwick D. R.
Howick—Thos. Gibson R, Wm. Strong D. R.
McKillop—D. Downie R, Jno Ellion D. R., Morris—Chas. Whitehead R, Alfred Brown D. R.
Stanley—Alex. Johnstone R, Alex. Cameron D. R.
Stephen—Richard Sweet R, Jno. Parsons D. R.
Tuckersmith—Geo Sproat R., D L Sills, D. R.
Turnberry—John Messar R
Usborne—Arch Bishop R., Robert Creery, D. R.
Wawanosh—Robt Currie R., Wm Farquharson D. R.
Amabel and Albemarle—Representative not in.
Arran—Jno M Lamsden R, Thomas Nicholson D. R.
Brant—James Brocelbank R., Thos Wilson, D. R.
Bruce—Jno Scott R., Duncan McKinnon, D. R.
Carrick—Michael Fisher R., Jno Hogg D. R.
Culross—Francis H Schoales R., Paul Ross, D. R.
Elderslie—Jno Gillies R, Jno Dobbin D. R
Greenock—Jno Valentine R., Thos Corrigan D. R.
Huron—Robt Johnston R, Robt Martin D R
Kincardine Village—Wm Sutton.
Kinloss—Robt Purvis.
Saugeen—John Wallace.
Southampton—Thos Adair.

The gentlemen composing the Council having taken their seats, it was moved by Mr. Jos Whitehead, seconded by Mr. J. M. Lumsden, That Robert Gibbons, Esq., be Warden for the current year—Carried unanimously amidst loud applause.

Mr. Gibbons briefly thanked the Council for their continued confidence in him, and said he would endeavor to discharge the duties devolving upon him to the best of his ability. Having subscribed to the oath of office, &c., he took his seat, and the session was opened as usual.

A full report of all interesting matters connected with the proceedings will appear in our next.

Letter From Mr. Sherlock.

GODERICH, Jan. 19th, 1864.

To the Editor of the Huron Signal.

SIR,—In the last edition of your paper you published a communication from "Our Clinton Correspondent," relative to the appointment of School trustees for that village. Now, nothing can afford more satisfaction to the friends of education than to see so laudable an anxiety on the part of the people to appoint suitable persons to the very responsible office of trustees, as on them depends the engaging of competent teachers; which I regret in some instances is not attended to sufficiently.

But the matter on which I wish to make a few observations is the speech of a Mr. Hartt, which was (according to your correspondent) "particularly edifying," and which concludes with a peroration "that may be styled eloquent." The portion of the speech to which I refer is as follows: 'The County Board certificates were torn to tatters, in so far as they claimed to be evidences of scholarship on the part of the possessors." Now, Sir, I should live to know what Mr. Hartt means by such language. Does he mean that the County Board calls together year after year a number of teachers (many of them from a considerable distance) merely for the purpose of handing them, and others who present themselves, certificates, without examining them as to their attainments and qualifications for teaching? Or does he mean that the members of the Board are themselves not qualified for the position they occupy? Your correspondent vouches for Mr. Hartt's being possessed of considerable knowledge, which I regret he makes but little use of, or he would not have spoken in the manner he appears to have done. Mr. Hartt should have recollected that the County Board does not profess to teach—its business is merely to examine—and many teachers who hold no other than a County Board certificate are highly educated men; and I may say that few if any of those who hold first-class certificates but are capable of imparting a sound English education, and parents may have every confidence in confiding their children to their care. It may have occurred that a not *perfectly qualified* teacher received a first-class certificate, but the very fact of such cases being few and far between, shows the care and discrimination used by the Board, and should Mr. Hartt and your Clinton correspondent present themselves for examination at its next meeting, they would find a first class certificate from the County of Huron Board of Public Instruction not quite the humbug they appear to imagine.

I remain, Sir,
Yours very truly,
JOSEPH SHERLOCK,
Local Superintendent.

USBORNE.

THE FIRST GUN.—The people of this township, on the 19th and 20th insts. adopted the prohibitory clauses of Dunkin's Bill by a majority of 89. This is the first temperance gun in Huron. The polling created a great excitement.

FURTHER REGARDING THE DEATH OF MR. CASE.—The experience of Mr. Case is a very good example of what persevering industry will do for a man in Canada. Nearly 30 years ago he came here in very moderate circumstances. He hewed out for himself a home, raised a family of 12 children, saw most of his sons heads of families and owners of farms, and died at the age of 84 years in affluent circumstances. He leaves behind to mourn his loss, 10 sons, and 2 daughters, 50 grand-children, and 10 great-grand children. We all sympathise with his beloved wife, now lonely widow, Mrs. Ann Case. She will sadly miss her partner of so many years.—Although 75 years of age, she is yet almost as smart and active as a girl. May she live many years to tell of the struggles and triumphs of her early life!

HOWICK.

CATTLE FAIRS.—Fairs will be held in Howick Village on the last Tuesdays, in Belmore on the last Wednesdays, in Wroxeter on the last Thursdays, and in Ainleyville on the last Fridays of the months of January, March and November of the present year, of which fact farmers and dealers will do well to make a note.

TUCKERSMITH.

THE NEW COUNCIL met in Lloyd's Hotel, Seaforth, on the 16th inst., when it was resolved to send the indomitable agriculturist Geo. Sproatt, Esq., to the County Council, and the no less enterprising merchant D. L. Sills, Esq., as Deputy-Reeve.

KINCARDINE.

Councillors elect for 1865:—Wm Millar, John McKinney, George Daniel, Wm Reekie, John P. McIntyre. Wm Millar, Reeve; J P McIntyre.

McKILLOP.

The elect of this township, viz: Messrs. Jos. Evans, Dennis Downey, Robert Scott, Jno. Elliott and Jno. Hays, met, to hold their first meeting, in Montgomery's Hotel, Seaforth, on the 16th, when it was

Moved by Mr Hays, seconded by Mr Scott, That John Elliott be Reeve for the current year—Carried.

Moved by Mr Scott, seconded by Mr Evens, That Dennis Downey be Deputy Reeve for the current year—Carried.