

# Huron Signal

DEVOTED TO COUNTY NEWS AND GENERAL INTELLIGENCE

GODERICH, ONT., FRIDAY, JAN. 1, 1886.

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## THE HURON SIGNAL.

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FRIDAY, JAN. 1st, 1886.

## ENTRANCE EXAMINATION FAILURE.

The report of the Christmas examination of pupils for entrance to the high school, which we publish in another column, shows conclusively that, so far as Goderich public school is concerned, the efficiency of the teaching in the principal's room has much deteriorated. Never entrance examinations were established here has there been so signal a failure, and it is high time the responsibility was placed on the right shoulders.  
The four examinations which have taken place since the advent of the present principal have been failures compared with previous records, and the last failure has been the greatest. When it is known that of the 32 pupils who wrote this occasion, only 6 succeeded in passing, our readers will be forced to concede that the results are not what ought to be expected; when we state that the 6 who passed all but 1, had been for examination once or twice before, without success, will admit that no credit for their passing at the present time can attach to the teacher; and when we further state that of the 26 who failed, 18 had tried the examination once or twice before under the coaching of the present principal, it is high time the parents and friends of these pupils to cast just censure upon the incompetent teacher.  
The teaching incompetency of the principal of our public school is doing an injury to our town in more ways than one.  
The children are suffering because they are kept back from educational progress; the ratepayers are forced to pay school salary to an incompetent teacher, who shows no commensurate results for the large amount paid him; and the usefulness of the high school is militated against owing to one of its principal officers—the Goderich public school—having ceased to perform its function in successful passing of pupils. A few lines on this point will practically illustrate our contention:—  
At the December meeting, 1883, Mr. R. Miller, the then principal, sent up a class of 38 for examination, out of which 35 pupils passed. Since that time we have had four examinations with Allan Embury in charge of the school, and with the following results:—  
June, 1884, 35 pupils went up for examination, 3 passed; in December, 1884, 56 wrote, 12 passed; in June, 1885, 49 went up for examination, 14 passed; December, 1885, 22 went up, 6 passed; or tabulating the statement:—

Month	No. for exam.	No. passed	Teacher
Dec. 1883	38	35	W. R. Miller
June 1884	35	3	A. Embury
Dec. 1884	56	12	A. Embury
June 1885	49	14	A. Embury
Dec. 1885	22	6	A. Embury

Now, we do not intend to bring the personality of the principal into account in this article, but as a public journal the SIGNAL has a duty to perform when the interest of the public is suffering. The principal is, we are aware, possessed of the necessary qualifications, so far as education is concerned, to fill the position; but, with the record of two failures before us, we claim we are justified in questioning his ability as a successful teacher. As to the causes of Mr. Embury's failure as a teacher we will not present our own opinion. It is sufficient for us to know that he is a failure in private life, when a paid servant ceases to be of use, he is immediately discharged—and this is more particularly the case when the servant is not physically incapacitated, and where he possesses necessary qualifications for the work, yet fails to do it. If that be so, and in the case, then why should the public be forced to continue in their employ a servant whose usefulness has been demonstrated to be gone, beyond a peradventure. The people have now the matter in their own hands, and they should settle it at once, and forever. If they want to perpetuate the demoralization of our public school, and the decrease in the attendance at the high school, they cannot do it better than by selecting men like Butler and Ball to stand by a man through thick and thin whom they know to be a complete failure, simply because he is a crony. If, on the other hand, the standard of our public school is to be raised morally and intellectually; if the pupils are to be assisted as they ought to be in the educational path; if the ratepayers of the town are to get value for their school taxes in the shape of better education for their children; if the high school is to once again occupy the position of being well-attended, owing to an excellent public school in Goderich being as good a feeder as it once was;—then, we say, it is the duty of the electors to send men who will strengthen the hands of the honest men at the trustee board who have made up their minds to give the ratepayers value for their money.  
The Incubus must go.

In West Huron we do not know of one Liberal who has gone back on the party since the 16th of November. We do know of 37 former Conservatives in this riding who have pledged themselves to vote against the government. The M.P.'s "war of races" is helping, not hurting, the Reform party in Huron.

NORMAN Clarke's crossing, said Mr. Cameron at Brucefield, the half-bred was receiving bayonet points and bullets, and south of Clarke's crossing, at the same time they were receiving 2,000 scrips from the special commission. Had the scrip been issued early in righteousness there were no need of bayonets and bullets.

A REFORM meeting will be held in Wingham on Thursday next, when an address will be delivered by M. C. Cameron, M.P. If this speech is equal to the magnificent address delivered at Brucefield on Tuesday last, it will be well worth hearing. By the way, we hope every body will read the full text of Mr. Cameron's Brucefield speech, which will appear in the GLOBE either today or tomorrow.

The Goderich Public School Board, To Allan Embury, Dr.  
June 25 To 1 team school. \$3.00  
July 2 To 1 horse of tax. \$2.00  
July 2 To 2 teams school. \$2.00  
Oct 11 To 19 mental arithmetic 30 cts. \$5.70  
Oct 11 To 10 lessons in English. \$1.00  
\$12.70

That was one of trustee Butler's "deals" on the school board. Principal Embury acted as the agent for Butler, and got the pay from the board for him. Butler and Embury violated the School Act on the occasion, and, in addition, overcharged \$5.50 on the ruling prices of the goods. Then Butler obtained a register for the school, sold the board a quantity of chalk upon which he overcharged 4c per pound, and sent in the account for the whole thing in the name of Brown Brothers. Butler pocketed the money although the account was passed in the name of Brown Bros. If Butler is again elected we will expect to hear of more such "deals" at the board. Before you vote be sure and find out "What's the price of chalk?"

The Catholic Record, of London, one of our most welcome exchanges, hits the nail on the head when it makes the following reference to would be poets:—  
"To this interesting class of people we have a word or two to say. Would they not be doing better by striving to write readable and grammatical prose than racking their brains inventing bad verse or aiming against justice by stealing the work of others? Whatever they think, we are, at all events, frankly of this opinion, and therefore inform them and all disposed to follow their example, that we have no room for doggerel verse, nor do we have any desire to encourage half-baked rights in verification. We have long suffered from periodical inundations of the productions of poetsasters, and we trust that in our efforts to suppress the winter spring and in memoriam, rhymerasters we will have the ready co-operation of all right thinking persons, particularly the heads of female academies."

We agree with every word in the foregoing. We have had experience of spring, winter, and "in memoriam" poetry, and we know there is none of it good—no, not one. Of the three kinds, the "in memoriam" is usually the most rubbishy, and we have been frequently horrified at seeing the efforts made by doggerel-builders to embellish with angelic wings departed persons who in life had not exhibited even the pinfeathers of Christianity. For some time back we have charged 10 cts a line for inserting "original poetry" in these columns, and the result has been to dry up the fountains of poetic inspiration in this section to some extent, much to the satisfaction of the general public and the editor of THE SIGNAL.

## THE WATERWORKS SCHEME.

The so-called waterworks scheme is so immature that it is really not worth discussing it at length.  
There is little or nothing in the circular sent out by the council to discuss. There is no mention made of the number of persons who would be willing to patronize the works; the estimate is made for only 1/2 of the forty-seven miles of street which the town possesses; there is no assurance that that large class of ratepayers who do not live in the business portion of the town can have the water if they desire it; and in fact the document does not touch the question save on the one point of the cost of the works and six miles of pipes, etc.

There are many who would vote for water works if the question was intelligently presented, who can only laugh at the manner in which the scheme has been placed before the electors.  
It is absurd to suppose, as some do, that any but freeholders should vote on this question even on this experimental vote. "No man has a right to vote away the people's money and not his own."  
However, it doesn't matter how the vote goes on Monday. If it be carried, it may be that the freeholders will defeat the by-law when they alone vote on it. If it be not defeated, as under the circumstances it might be, some men who are able to grasp the question may present a scheme in such a manner as to commend it to a majority of the freeholders.

The Colonization Company Wrote: Caused the Rebellion.

Sir John, I am sorry to say, saw his opportunity for using almost the absolute power which you had entrusted him, to parcel out the country, and among the people whose steward he was, but to gratify the passion for plunder of his followers. When one remembers the last general election—how closely in reality public opinion in Ontario was divided, and how, a few weeks before the election, Sir John saw fit to call into existence no less than three hundred colonization companies, and when you remember that each of these companies included a large number of influential men among its shareholders, you can easily understand how Sir John managed to secure a small majority for his party. Now, this was a deliberate abuse of trust of the very gravest sort, and if any man met with a just Nemesis it was Sir John. If it be true, as I believe, and as Mr. Blake I think has satisfactorily proved in his great speech on the Northwest, and as the evidence in our courts in respect to this case shows, that the last straw which broke the camel's back, the spark which set the Northwest in a blaze, was an unrighteous concession to a colonization company in which two near relatives of Ministers were largely interested—for the facts are known to us respecting the Prince Albert Colonization Company go to show that a whole township uninhabited by these unfortunate half-breeds was formerly deeded away by the Government to that particular company—if these facts are true, and I do not see how it will be possible to doubt the veracity of the evidence in our courts, can be contradicted, then there never was a juster fate befel any Minister than the doom which now threatens Sir John in consequence of that rebellion, which that gross act of oppressive injustice appears to have provoked.

It is for the Government to say that no sufficient warning was given them, that they were taken unawares, that this disaster came suddenly. You have only got to look at the Northwest papers which were laid on the table of the Legislature although many have been suppressed, in order to see that if ever men were warned for years of the inevitable results of their policy it was the present Government, and most of all the two late Ministers of the Interior. I do not care what source you may look to, whether it be to the priests, or to the missionaries, or to the reports of their own official agents, or to the debates in the Northwest Council, or to the reports of the traders—I don't care whether you search the petitions or the remonstrances with which the pigeon holes of the Department were crowded—you will find the same overwhelming proof that every form of warning seems to have been exhausted in the vain attempt to impress away that things were coming to a crisis in the Northwest; that unless they would consent to look at the just demands preferred by the half-breeds they must make up their minds to expect an uprising.—[Sir Richard Cartwright in Ontario.]

The Tory organs say the Dominion License Act was passed by the Council in the case of Russell vs. the Queen sustaining the Scott Act. They forget that Sir John Macdonald promised to pass the Dominion Act long before the decision in the Russell case was delivered. It was some time before the decision in the Russell case that Sir John made his Yorkville speech in which he pledged himself to take the licensing power out of the hands of the Provincial Government.

## WHAT'S UP?

Things That Are Happening Around Us.

Christmas—Council Nominations—Trustees—Colborne Election—Holmes on the Hawkers—A Viper from Goderich Township—The Judge's Franchise Gag.

Well, Christmas has come and gone, Santa Claus has been around, and notwithstanding the enticement of the Christmas turkey and the baleful effects of the Christmas plum pudding, in the language of the late Artemus Ward, I can yet say, "I still live!"—in other words, my stockings are still full, to my satisfaction. There wasn't an old-fashioned Christmas this year, and many were the bewailments because of it. Jack Frost went off on his holidays, Old Boreas ceased his tuneful lay, the Beautiful Snow departed in peace, and a Green Christmas travelled through the "delectable" on wheels, with mud up near the hub. If that prophecy about a green Christmas having a tendency to increase the tenacity of cemeteries be correct, the undertakers will do a thriving, if not a healthy business during the coming year. I must confess, however, that I don't take much stock in the old saw, and unless I have joined the majority in the meantime, I intend next year, with the help of goodness, to give statistics to show that green Christmas, even if unreasonable, are comparatively healthy. So brace up, brother-in-laws, and let's laugh the old woman's Christmas scare out of court.

The nominations for mayor, reeves, councillors, and school trustees which came off on Monday, didn't create a great deal of excitement except in St. David's and St. Andrew's—the democratic wards. The mayor and reeves were elected by acclamation, and nothing occurred to disturb the harmony of the occasion until Richard Aldworth put in his spoke. Then there was music in the air, and don't you forget it. Mr. Aldworth was gotten up regardless of cost, and with a thorough conception of the dignity of the occasion. A suit of black contended his stalwart frame, his massive brow, and large, well-shaped head were surmounted by a tall pot-hat of some years' standing, and his strong right hand grasped a staff of stately dimensions. When the mayor had said his say, Mr. Aldworth, with that dignified and polished courtesy so peculiar to the real English gentleman of olden time, craved permission to be heard. On his request being granted, his clear, resonant voice waked the echoes of the town hall. No malice was discernible in his tones nor malignity in his words, but a calm, clear, concise statesmanlike expression on the all-absorbing question of municipal taxation, of growth of population, how to revive stagnated trade and a number of other points too numerous to mention. He concluded amidst a round of hearty, whole-souled, 18-carat fine, all-wool, 3-ply, 36-inches to the yard, unadulterated, and warranty-attached applause, and I heard lots of the neighbors say as he sat down, "Old Dick, should have been an Honorable Richard; he'd've made things hot in parliament." The general impression was that a new star had appeared in the municipal firmament, and it was with a sigh of relief that the anti-taxation party learned that the Salon of St. Andrew's had, after much persuasion, allowed himself to be put in nomination for St. Andrew's ward for councillor.

The school trustees elections were quiet in St. Patrick's and St. George's, but the waves of opposition are running high in St. Andrew's and St. David's. The retiring trustees are Ball and Butler; they are both opposed. The public are well aware that these two individuals are responsible more than any others for the present inefficient condition of our public school. But for them the school would have been raised out of the Slough of Despond into which it has fallen during the past couple of years, and incompetency would cease to be. We pay dearly enough for the school privileges of the children, and it is a pity that a couple of some of the friends were congratulating the judge upon having so much of the revising barrister's work thrown on the janitor judge. His honor's reply was, "Well, I can't see where I have got an easy thing as Doyle, after all is said and done. He has only to keep solid two constituencies which were originally made Conservative by act of Parliament; and I, if I am to be of service to

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these men have said, viz., that your children are too stupid to accept tuition. In the language of the poet, "Clean out the Augean stable."

I've been told that they are having a prize package of fun over in Colborne in municipal matters. The question there has turned upon whisky and water, politics, and one or two other things. Old Willie Young, the popular reeve, who for years presided over the destinies of the township council, took it into his head to tear himself away from the care of wire fences, sheep killed by dogs, fence viewers, poundkeepers, rates of taxation, equalization, attendance upon county council, indigents, long sessions, hot Scotch after meetings, and other trials and tribulations that the flesh of a chief factor of a municipality is heir to. The result is that John Kernighan and Anthony Allen are trying conclusions for the reeveship. Anthony didn't want to run for reeve, I understand, but Fred Johnston and Joe Beck went out to the "Corner" on Sunday before last, and after a protracted meeting prevailed upon the old man to run, so that Joe would be able to stand for deputy reeve, and thus, as Fred expressed it, "Keep the Grits from putting in the warden, so that Bill Clegg, of Wingham, might be given a lift into the next chair, which would help him in the coming Dominion contest in East Huron." Be that as it may, Anthony finally consented to run, and try and get all the voters that he "had a howl an", financially, to vote for Joe. And so ended the Sunday meeting at the "Corners." It's the first time, so I'm told, that a political caucus was held in the township of Colborne, on the Sabbath Day, and, I understand it will make Anthony and Joe solid with the churchmembers. Joe is opposed by Charlie McHardy, one of the best qualified men for public position that controls a farm in Colborne. Joe is a jolly good fellow, but for all round intelligence I'll put my little pile on Charlie.

I heard that county treasurer Holmes was after the position of town treasurer. I don't see how he could hold the two offices, but I suppose he'd find some way to run the show, if the town council would entertain his proposition. And right here I might say that the rumor that the town pounkeeper is going to resign is without foundation. It is a cruel hoax on the office-seeking county treasurer to put such unfounded rumors in circulation.

When the county council, at its December session was re-arranging the hawkers' tariff, I am told treasurer Holmes got a bad set-back. He went to some of his political friends who were arranging the schedule, and asked them not to forget to put on a fee of fifty cents to be paid as a perquisite to the treasurer for issuing the license. The impudent, grasping proposal was too much for reeve Clegg, of Wingham, who turned upon the treasurer, and said, "We'll do nothing of the kind; the granting of licenses is part of your duty, and you are already well paid for your services." Clegg is a solid Tory, but he is too upright a man to conspire to take out a hawkers' license, so that a greedy officeholder, may grow wealthy if not fat.

John McClellan, the well-known sifer, of Goderich township, is out as a candidate for councillor. He raked reeve Elliott fore and aft on nomination day in his bridgeworking. If Jack is elected the dull monotony of many a council meeting will be relieved by a solo on the ear-piercing fife.  
Some of the young "bloods" of the town were on a glistening owl on Monday night, and there is a question floating around which is as full of import as "who struck Billy Patterson?"  
The electors of St. David's ward are warbling this little New Year's carol:—  
What's the price of Chalk, John  
What's the price of Chalk?  
Oh! by Jove, it was a deal,  
And came so mighty near a meal,  
It made the people talk, John,  
Twill make the voters balk.  
Judge Toms has been appointed revising barrister for South Huron and junior judge Doyle is to do the revising for East and West Huron. The other day some of the friends were congratulating the judge upon having so much of the revising barrister's work thrown on the janitor judge. His honor's reply was, "Well, I can't see where I have got an easy thing as Doyle, after all is said and done. He has only to keep solid two constituencies which were originally made Conservative by act of Parliament; and I, if I am to be of service to

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## Signs of Quaking.

From the Ottawa Free Press.

Will the Government resign or face parliament? is a query upon every politician's lip at the present moment. The advantages of appealing to the country without meeting parliament are evidently in favor of the Government, and therefore it is possible that that course will be adopted. Should the Government meet parliament and be defeated, practice and precedent demands that the leader of the Opposition be called upon to form a new Government, giving him the right of appeal. Mr. Gladstone was defeated in the last Imperial parliament, notwithstanding that he had been sustained in that house for three years by large majorities. Lord Salisbury was called upon to assume the care of administration, with the right of appeal subject to slight delay to allow the new franchise and redistribution of seats bills to take effect. The case here, is one in which the same precedent ought to apply. Should the Government be defeated, it will be defeated in its own house, and precedent declares that the Opposition leader shall be called upon to form a new Government with the right of appeal. In Sir John's former parliamentary defeat and the accession of Mr. Mackenzie to power, the Dominion precedent established, bears out this contention.  
There are no lacking straws to show which way the wind is blowing. It is learned from unquestionable authority that the Hon. Mr. Thompson, the newly elected minister of justice, has suspended all arrangements for taking a residence and bringing his family to reside in Ottawa, until the result of the ministerial crisis is known, and as a part of that arrangement he has obtained leave of absence from Ottawa for several weeks. Mr. Thompson is evidently a cautious and shrewd observer of the times.  
It is learned further from those interested in rebellion losses claims before the department of the interior, that it is impossible to get their claims liquidated although acknowledged as just. Mr. White the Minister of the Interior has no funds, and refuses to ask a Government's warrant until the present difficulties are settled. In the meantime through this cowardice on the Government's part, the unfortunate people whose houses were burned or looted and property destroyed during the rebellion have to suffer privations because of the Government's tardiness in doing justice.

## Literary Notices.

Canadian Methodist Magazine for January, 1886.—Price \$2 a year; \$1 for six months; 50 cents per number. For sale at all book-stores.  
The first number of the 23rd volume of this interestingly popular Magazine is the handsomest yet published. It is printed throughout in new type, and the numerous engravings are of remarkable artistic beauty. The first article describes Chautauque with pen and pencil, with a dozen elegant illustrations. The second article is one of a series by John T. Moore, of Toronto, describing the wonders of the Yellowstone and Pacific Coast and Alaska, as seen in a recent tour with the Rev. Dr. Sutherland. The pictures, of which there will be over forty, are of exquisite beauty. The Editor condenses the substance of Stanley's two bulky volumes on the Congo and the founding of its Free State, just published in eight different languages, into a single article illustrated with several of the best full page engravings from the book. The Rev. Dr. Sutherland contributes an important article on the Final Outcome of Sin—the destiny of the impatient sinner. One of the finest papers is the first of four by Canon Farrar on the Four Gospels—their purpose, characteristics and scope. Rev. W. Galbraith, D.D., contributes an interesting sketch of Lord Cairnes, late Lord Chancellor of England. The opening chapters of "Jan Veder's Wife," are of a very striking character. The tale promises to be of unusual interest. A record is given of the remarkable success of this Magazine, H. E. Clarke, M.P., contributes to the February number a fully illustrated article on a Trip over the Canada Pacific to the Rocky Mountains. Now is the time to subscribe.

## Dunlop.

Dr. Case, of Dunganon, visited friends here on Christmas Day.  
OUR LOCAL HUNTERS.—Our architect and P. Fritley, of Salford, shot a number of partridges, rabbits, etc., along the lake shore last week, near Kintail. Five foxes fell before the aim of their unerring rifles, and the sportsmen have thus won the gratitude of the dames of that region; who will now feel more secure so far as their poultry are concerned.  
Mrs. Chas. Hawkins, of Shepparton, visited here last week.  
Farmers and others at Barrington, only about sixteen miles distant from Chicago (and in the same county), have suffered of late to such an extent from prairie wolves that a bounty of \$5 a head for each wolf slain is paid for, and the animals are reported to be held and

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