

The Guelph Mercury

DAILY AND WEEKLY. OFFICE: EAST MACDONNELL STREET. McLAGAN AND INNES, PUBLISHERS AND PROPRIETORS.

The Evening Mercury

CONTAINING the latest News by Telegraph up to the hour of going to press, is published at 5 o'clock every afternoon (Sunday excepted), and mailed to all parts of the country by the evening mails on the following TERMS: Single copy, one year, \$4. Single copy, 3 mo's \$1.50. 6 months \$2. Single do 1 week 10c.

The Weekly Mercury

IS THE LARGEST COUNTRY NEWSPAPER IN THE DOMINION, containing 40 columns of reading matter. Special care is devoted to the Weekly Mercury, and care is taken that none but the best and most select reading appears in its columns.

TO ADVERTISERS.

Business men will find THE EVENING and WEEKLY MERCURY to be the most valuable advertising mediums, as their respective circulations are in advance of any others in North Western Canada, and is the only means by which extensive advertisements can be reached by the judicious advertiser.

Book and Job Printing,

Executed on short notice, at reasonable rates, and in the best style of the Art. Having every facility at our command, in this department, we defy competition as to style, quality and price.

FURS,

WE have opened our stock of FURS, of our own manufacture, which we will sell at LOW PRICES, viz: Extra Dark Mink, Royal Ermine, Siberian Squirrel, River Mink, Ladies' Hoods, and a full assortment of CHILDREN'S FURS, GENTS' MUFFLERS and GLOVES, SLEIGH ROBES, &c.

Excellent Farm

FOR sale that valuable farm, composed of the West-half of Lot No. 25, 2nd Concession, Eramosa. One Hundred Acres!

Two Storey Stone House

containing nine rooms, pantry, and cellar the whole size of house.

AUCTION SALE

OF LAND IN ERIN. FOR sale that farm, being part of Lot number 24, in the 9th Concession be Erin, containing by admeasurement 20 acres, of the same more or less, being the south corner, butting on the 9th Line, also, 12 acres of the east corner of Lot 24, in the 8th Concession of Erin, all of which will be sold by public auction, on Thursday, 2nd January, 1868, at 3 o'clock p. m., in Hillsburg, opposite Samuel Leeson's place. Title indisputable. Terms cash. Hillsburg, 4th Dec. 1867.

HAY IN TRUSSES

Constantly on hand. Also Straw for beds

TERMS CASH.

JOHN WEST, Guelph, July 22.

To the Public.

BOOTS AND SHOES

WE, the undersigned, agree to close our respective places of business on and after MONDAY, 16th INSTANT, until the 1st March next, at 6 o'clock p. m., and on Saturday evenings at 9 p. m.

JOHN McNEIL, J. CRIDFORD, PHIST & FEEBURN.

STAR SHUTTLE SEWING MACHINE.

Patented May, 1867. THE Star Shuttle Sewing Machine makes a stitch alike on both sides of material sewed, which will not rip or ravel. Does all kinds of work equally as well as Singer's high-priced machine. Combines simplicity with durability, and is warranted for five years. It is suited alike for the dressmaker, tailor, manufacturer or family.

CHRISTMAS HO!

Wholesale, Wholesale! CONFECTIONERY.

FANCY GOODS!

A large lot of Fancy Goods on hand, and a lot daily expected direct from Paris.

REMOVAL.

Military Tailor J. JONES, Late Master Tailor in the 17th Regiment.

Military and Civilian's Clothing,

In the latest and most fashionable styles. Having had long experience, he guarantees to give satisfaction to all who may favor him with their patronage.

CORDWOOD for SALE

GOOD, cheap Cordwood for sale at BROWN'S WOOD YARD

Pocket Diaries

FOR 1868. A Large Assortment of Pocket Dairies for 1868

AT DAY'S BOOKSTORE.

Opposite the Market, Guelph. dw

XXX OYSTERS!

ARRIVING daily at WALKER'S, Yarmouth Bloaters, Kipped Salmon Trout, Smoked Salmon, Pickled Salmon, Fresh Salmon, in cans.

HUGH WALKER.

Wyndham Street, Guelph. Guelph, 29th Nov. 1867. (dw)

New Livery Stable.

HORSES FOR HIRE. PARTIES wishing to hire Saddle-horses, or Horses and Buggies, can do so at moderate rates, by applying to the undersigned, at the Wellington Hotel.

Valuable Building Lots for Sale

IN EVERTON. THE subscriber offers for sale, cheap for cash, two valuable building lots in the Village of Everton, being No. 132 and No. 133, as laid out on the map made by Wm. Haskins, Esq., P. L. S.

Gard of Thanks

WE take this early opportunity of returning our sincere thanks to all those who kindly rendered their valuable assistance in saving Stock from the late fire at Alma Block.

STRAYED HEIFER.

CAME on the premises of the subscriber some 7 line last summer, a heifer rising two years old. The owner on proving property and paying expenses can take her away.

The Best White Coal Oil

Can now be had at MR. HORSMAN'S for 15 cents per gallon. Cans of any size are also supplied.

NEW LAW OFFICE.

FREEMAN & FREEMAN BARRISTERS AND ATTORNEYS, SOLICITORS IN CHANCERY, CONVEYANCERS, &c. Office over Berry's Confectionery Store, Wyndham Street, Guelph, 4th December, 1867. dw

Evening Mercury.

OFFICE: MACDONNELL STREET. TUESDAY EV'G, DECEMBER 17.

Local News.

MORE SALT WANTED.—The Bruce Review understands that an effort is being made to commence the sinking of a salt well in Kincardine. They can't see why Goerlich should have all the good things to itself.

THE BRISTOL BILL CASE.—The Hamilton Chief of Police has commenced a suit against the Town of Galt to recover the reward of \$400 offered for the apprehension of the burglars who broke into the Gore Bank there.

FIRE IN AYR.—Barclay's Hotel, Ayr, was accidentally burned at five o'clock on Sunday morning. A total loss. The property was owned by a man named Ellis. Loss \$3,000, partially insured.

PROPERTY AFLOAT.—There is about \$10,000,000 worth of property afloat on the Erie Canal. Much of this is perishable, consisting of apples and potatoes, and already partly frozen. More property is afloat at this season of the year, it is stated than was ever before known.

FIRE AND LOSS OF LIFE.—A fire broke out in a house occupied by a family named Coulson, living near Lowville, Nelson Township, Halton County, on Saturday by which his wife and babe were burned to death. He himself barely escaped, and was very much burned.

JANUARY FAIR.—By reference to our report of last meeting of the Town Council it will be observed that the January Fair will be held on the first THURSDAY in the month, and not on the first Wednesday as usual; the cause for the change of course being, that Wednesday is New Year's day.

THE MANSLAUGHTER CASE IN GALT.—The jury that sat to enquire into the cause whereby Wm. Turner, coloured cook in the Queen's Arms Hotel, Galt, came to his death, after two long sessions returned the following verdict:—That the deceased, Wm. Turner, came to his death from injuries on the head, caused by a boot-jack thrown by Richard Lowell, on Tuesday the fifth day of December, 1867; and we, the jury, consider the said Richard Lowell guilty of manslaughter.

HARD ON THE HANGMAN.—The Jack Ketch who officiated at the execution of Allen turns out to be, not a citizen of Hamilton as was reported, but a coloured individual belonging to Toronto and a man of experience in hanging his fellows. The Kingston Whig says:—He left Kingston on Wednesday evening by the Grand Trunk for Toronto, and while waiting at the station for the train he was recognized and jostled around by some of the cabmen, and would have been badly assaulted were it not that the lusty cry of "Police! Police!" called a policeman to his protection. When the train arrived he took a seat in one of the second-class cars, but was hooted out. Then he was unsuccessful in procuring a berth in the baggage car, and walked back to the second-class car he had vacated, where he was soon hustled down in a corner as the train moved off. His assistant was a white man also from a distance.

CLINTON HORSE THIEF DETECTIVE SOCIETY.—The secretary of the above society writes to the Thorold Patriot as follows: Some three years since, we of Clinton formed a "Vigilance Committee" for the detection of Horse Thieves. We organized by drawing up a brief Constitution and By-laws—appointing officers, riders, &c. Years passed and no horses were stolen, but our society being in working order, we were ready for thieves, if they should come, as the sequel will show. On Tuesday evening, the 3rd inst., about midnight, a span of mares were taken from the stable of R. Kilborne, Esq. Early next morning the President of the Society J. Huff, Esq., was informed of the circumstances, and immediately started riders in pursuit. Messrs. Isman and Rodgers succeeded in tracing the rascals to St. Catharines, who, on finding they were so closely pursued abandoned the horses and fled. From the circumstances we are inclined to think that there is a well organized gang of thieves infesting this part of the country, and would call on the neighbouring townships to organize similar societies.

Town Council.

The Council met on Monday night. All the members present; the Mayor in the chair. The minutes of the former meeting were read and confirmed.

The Clerk read a communication, and a memorial from C. Whitlaw of Elora, praying that \$30 taxes be remitted, as no schedule had been left him by the assessor, as he had only temporary use of the storehouse belonging to Messrs. McCrea & Co., using it while his grain was in transit from Elora to Paris, and as he had given up possession of the storehouse to them in April last. He repudiated the claim of the corporation and would resist payment.

Mr. Heffernan read a petition from Esther Hill for the remission of taxes—her case being one of charity. Mr. Thomson read the following petition: From Messrs. McCrea and Merton for the refunding of \$25 taxes (This had reference to the matter mentioned in the memorial of Mr. Whitlaw); from E. Newton for the refunding of \$7 taxes which he had paid on a lot he did not own; from John Brown for the remission of dog tax; from Drs. Orton & Clarke for the remission of taxes as each of them was assessed as much as they should both be from Charles Beattie for the reduction of taxes; and from George Elliott, one of the executors of the Stanley estate, praying for redress in the assessment of a vacant part of said property. Mr. Galbraith read a petition from Charles Thain praying for the refunding of some money he had paid as arrears of non-resident taxes, which he did not owe. Mr. Melvin read a petition from James McDonald, praying for the refunding of taxes taken on a vacant lot, and one from Wm. Lewis and others asking permission for Smith & Metcalf to erect a frame building in place of that pulled down at the recent fire, in which to carry on their business. Mr. Sayers read a petition from Wm. McCurry, praying for the refunding of overcharge of taxes. Mr. Peterson presented a petition from Thos. Lynch, praying for a transfer of license from Mr. Merilhan to him. Mr. McCurry read a petition from W. Marshall, asking for the refunding of some taxes which had been twice charged. Mr. Mitchell read a petition from George Hinds, praying for reduction of income tax, and for tax on a vacant house. The foregoing were all referred to appropriate committees with the exception of that regarding the erection of a frame building by Messrs. Smith & Metcalf on which no action was taken.

It being an understanding that if they proceeded to put up such a building they would not be interrupted, and that of Thos. Lynch, which on motion of Mr. Chadwick, seconded by Mr. Peterson, was to be granted on the petitioner complying with the usual requirements. Mr. Thomson read the report of the Finance Committee to the following effect: They recommended that \$5 charged on income be remitted to Wm. Stovel, that \$3.75 be remitted John Daly, his being a case of charity; that \$5 be remitted Chas. Adsett, as he was incorrectly assessed. They could not recommend the Council to grant the petition of Wm. Ryson, nor that of G. H. Dewit for the remission of dog tax; but they recommended the remission of \$18.75 to Messrs. Galbraith & Beattie as they had been incorrectly assessed, that \$6.64 be refunded Messrs. Clarke & Stewart on account of vacant offices on Wyndham street and Market Square, that \$5.75 income tax be refunded A. Crooks, that \$3.75 be refunded Wm. Clarke on account of vacant offices, and that \$5 be refunded Jas. T. Nichols, whose petition was reported on at last meeting and who had been twice assessed for the same lot. Adopted.

The Mayor read the resolution of the Fire Company, tendering their resignation, which we published some days ago. His Worship again, as he had often done before, called the attention of the Council to the state of the town in the matter of its inefficiency to contend with fire. He wished to correct a statement made in one of the Town papers (the Advertiser) with regard to how the Council was to blame in the deficiency of its equipments. The Council had matured plan for the construction of Water Works, but the ratepayers refused it, and consequently the latter and not the Council were most to blame. The tank system he considered ruinous. Such water as can be procured out of tanks is destructive of both engine and hose. He considered it would be injudicious for the present Council to make a very large expenditure; that would merely be the duty of the new Council; and the chief object of his remarks was to exonerate the Fire & Water Committee from the blame which had been cast upon them by the paper referred to.

Mr. Mitchell read the report of the Road and Bridge Committee to the following effect:—During the year they have made expenditures on the streets, streets and sidewalks of the Town, as nearly as it was practicable so to do, in accordance with detailed report presented at the commencement of the season by the Committee and adopted by the Council. They recommended the payment of the following accounts: Mr. John Horsman, a balance for nails \$63.49; Messrs. Gowdy & Stewart, lumber \$10.32; Messrs. Mills & Melvin, cast iron grate \$5.20—Report adopted.

Mr. Day read the report of the Fire & Water Committee as follows:—Your Committee recommend, that after the explanations given by Mr. Higinbotham, in accordance with the request set forth in his application laid before Council at the last sitting, he be relieved from his contract, and that Mr. E. Harvey's offer be accepted to carry out the same in accordance with agreement signed in June last for furnishing the Town with coal oil. Mr. Chadwick read the report of the License Committee. They had carefully examined the By-laws relating to transfer of license. They find the language of by-law No. 157 to be very vague and uncertain upon the question referred to; that said by-law was passed in November 1866; that a few days after a transfer took place and \$9 were charged; and that they therefore think the sum paid by the late Thomas Kench was correct.—Adopted.

Mr. Mitchell read the report of the Printing Committee. They had examined the following accounts, which they found correct, and the payment of which they recommended. Herald office \$156.34; Mercury Office \$22.65; Advertiser Office \$0.78; Mr. Shevans' account \$35.17. The report was adopted.

Mr. Day moved, seconded by Mr. Galbraith, that the report of the Fire and Water Committee be adopted.

Mr. Herod moved, seconded by Mr. Chadwick, that the Council go into Committee of the Whole on the report.

Council resolved itself accordingly. Mr. Chadwick in the chair. Mr. Day moved, seconded by Mr. Massie, that the report be adopted. Dr. Herod moved, seconded by Mr. Holliday, that the report of the Fire & Water Committee be amended by striking out that part of the report referring to the relieving of Mr. Higinbotham from the contract. In which he with Mr. Harvey were to supply the Town with coal oil, and the following be inserted: "That the Council hereby agree to rescind the contract entered into by Messrs. Higinbotham & Harvey to supply the Town with coal oil, on their refunding the excess of money advanced over the quantity of oil delivered, in terms of their contract to date."

Dr. Herod said, that he moved the amendment because he did not wish to place Mr. Higinbotham in a false position. That gentleman's reason for wishing to resign the contract is, that he may be Mayor of Guelph, for 1868. He believed there was no one more entitled to the position than Mr. Higinbotham, (hear, hear) but it was not proper for the Council to relieve him from a contract in which the Town was concerned merely that he might be Mayor. As the Council viewed the subject, it became narrowed down to this, that no gentleman in Town has claims to the majority equal to Mr. Higinbotham's, and that he was not willing to admit. If that gentleman were even relieved in the manner proposed by the report, he would not be really relieved, but as much disqualified as ever for the position to which he aspires. The only fair and proper plan of removing the disability was by rescinding the agreement with both contractors, and then making a new one. He considered that in opposing the report as it stood he was doing only his duty, and although he did not expect his amendment to carry still he wanted it put upon record, that it might hereafter be seen, that no person had been freed from a contract with the Town in the manner proposed without a protest.

Mr. McCurry said, if it were Mr. Higinbotham's desire to seek honors at the hands of the ratepayers he would be most happy to remove every obstacle out of his way. Even if he be relieved from contract he will have to go before the electors before he can be Mayor, and he imagined that if there had not been a contest approaching the Dr. would have made no difficulty about the matter.

Mr. Melvin questioned if the Dr. was in order with his amendment at all. He was as solicitous for the interests of the Town as the Dr. was, but he thought it would be perfectly safe in the transfer of the contract from Mr. Higinbotham to Mr. Harvey. It was not the Council's business to pry into the motives of the former gentleman. Whether he wanted to be Mayor was a point that should never be mooted. He therefore contended that it was not in order.

Mr. Massie condemned the illiberal policy of some of the members of the Council, and thought the people would not look with favor on such discussions as had been going on on this subject for the last two nights. This policy was the same that had been pursued for the last two years, and which had left the Town without water, without an engine and without a fire company. It was full time that a better feeling was established than had heretofore existed.

Mr. Thomson said that the debate was like the mountain in labor. The question was simply whether or not Mr. Harvey was capable of fulfilling the contract. If he was then let him have it; if not, don't. The member for the North Ward had made reference to the opinion of the Council with regard to Mr. Higinbotham being the only person eligible for the majority, but he (Mr. Thomson) thought there was one gentleman present who fancied himself fully as fit and proper as Mr. Higinbotham.

Mr. Heffernan did not think it would be justice to relieve Mr. Higinbotham in the manner proposed. Dr. Herod contended that he would not be relieved unless the old contract was torn up and a new one entered into. He was willing to do that.

Mr. Melvin said that was the very thing he proposed the last sitting, and no one was so wrathly as Dr. Herod.

The Mayor said the Council was not in a position to rescind the contract for Mr. Harvey was not willing to give up. They had no right to enquire whether Mr. Higinbotham wanted to be Mayor or not. As guardians of the public purse it was their duty to see that no loss was sustained by the transfer of the contract to Mr. Harvey, and if its fulfillment is guaranteed that is all they had a right to ask.

Dr. Herod conceived wanted to place the members who voted for the report in an infelicitous position, by making it appear as if they were voting away money from the ratepayers.

The amendment was then put, and Dr. Herod and Mr. Holliday voted for it; all the others voted for the motion. The committee then rose, and the chairman reported the report adopted without amendment. Council resumed; the Mayor in the chair. Mr. Day moved, seconded by Mr. Massie, that the report of the Fire & Water Committee as adopted in Committee of the whole be adopted in Council.

Dr. Herod, seconded by Mr. Holliday, again moved the amendment, which when put was voted for by the mover and seconder, and Mr. Chadwick. All the other members of the Council voted for the motion. Dr. Herod desired that the "years" and "nays" should be taken down.

Mr. Massie read a petition from Geo. Todd & Son, praying for return of income tax, as they had no employment. Referred to Finance Committee.

The Mayor wanted to know what would be done with the communication of the Fire Brigade.

Mr. Peterson did not think the Company could resign, until the Council should relieve them.

Dr. Herod said the Council were not to blame for the request of the firemen not being acceded to, as at the time the memorial was sent in they had not the power to make an appropriation to remedy the deficiency of the equipments.

Mr. Massie said it was no wonder the Fire Company resigned, for lately they had been a laughing stock. On recent occasions when they were called out it would have been hurtful to his feelings to have been wrong—engine out of order, hose bursting, or no water. The Dr. might be right in saying nothing could be done now, but something should have been done long ago. After the warning we received on Saturday it behooved the Council to provide the means

with proper equipments, and any number of them will be found ready to work with a good engine and plenty of water. His property might have been saved. They had money on hand in the non-resident fund which they might apply for the purpose of procuring requisites for combating fire, and even if a special tax for this purpose were proposed, he did not think many would now object to it. Further delay or the throwing of the responsibility on a new Council, he believed, was unwarrantable and dangerous.

Mr. Thomson was pleased that this matter had been brought up. It was strange some time ago, and impure, and selfish motives imputed to the men who advocated it. There are \$3,000, or \$4,000 of non-resident taxes on hand, and action should be taken at once. If there had been water works Mr. Massie's property might have been saved. He thought, that the present Council should provide an engine and hose, and the new Council might construct the water works.

Mr. Melvin did not blame the Fire Company for resigning, but he blamed the Council for not having acted in the matter of the water supply without consulting the ratepayers. The Fire and Water Committee should be instructed to enquire concerning the cost of an engine and hose, and he doubted not any reasonable outlay would be justified.

Mr. Chadwick thought the Council could have done nothing while the action of that meeting stood against them.

Mr. Harvey thought the engine should be inspected by a competent person to see if it would not answer for a short time, as there was no use getting new hose while the water was supplied from the tanks we have.

Mr. Melvin said the engine can be made no better.

Mr. Peterson thought that the Fire Company should not resign, and that they should have appeared in their former capacity at the late fire. He also thought that a steam fire-engine would probably be best, as it might obviate the necessity of Water Works.

After some further discussion it was proposed by Mr. Melvin, seconded by Mr. Massie, that the Fire and Water Committee be instructed to confer with the Fire Company, with a view to ascertain their requirements for the present, and if possible to meet the same, and that they be fully empowered to take any measures necessary to protect the Town from the ravages of fire till a more efficient system can be devised by the Council; and that they ascertain the probable cost and efficiency of a steam or hand fire-engine suitable to the requirements of the Town, together with the amount of hose necessary to work the same.—Carried.

Moved by Mr. Melvin, seconded by Dr. Herod that in consequence of the monthly fair day falling upon New Year's day, the Clerk be instructed to make it known by advertisement that the fair will be held on Thursday, the 2nd of Jan'y.—Carried.

The Council adjourned.

BY TELEGRAPH

Despatches to the Evening Mercury.

THE FENIAN ALARM IN LONDON.

The Excitement Still Unabated.

DARING ATTEMPTS AT INCENDIARISM.

BY ATLANTIC CABLE.

London, Dec. 16th.—Last night an apparently organized attempt was made to set fire to several warehouses in the city, but was not successful. The incendiarism is generally supposed to have been the work of Fenians, though some of the parties engaged in the plot were caught. These events cause much alarm throughout the metropolis. The magistrates are swearing in special policemen by hundreds.

London, Dec. 16.—A man has been arrested at St. Albans on suspicion of having engineered the explosion at Clerkenwell prison. It is said that he is the person who lit the fuse. His examination will take place to-morrow. Casey was again brought from his prison to-day and examined, but no evidence in regard to the explosion was elicited, and he was remanded.

London, Dec. 16.—The excitement concerning the Fenians is unabated, and the press strongly denounces them.

Dublin, Dec. 16.—Legal proceedings on the charge of seditious conduct, have been commenced by the government against John Martin, President of the Irish National League, Alex. Sullivan, editor of the Dublin Nation, and others, who took a part in the Fenian funeral obsequies on Sunday, the 8th inst., and to-day the accused were brought before the police magistrate for examination. They did not deny their participation in the funeral services, and admitted that they both made speeches on that occasion, freely acknowledging the language charged against them.

Florence, Dec. 16.—In the Italian Parliament the Liberal members have made an attack upon the Government. Prime Minister Menebrea will reply to-morrow.

American Despatches.

New York, Dec. 16th.—The frigate Sagreouahann arrived. She lost three of her crew by yellow fever. Admiral Palmer died at St. Thomas de Cuba, on the 7th, of same disease.

Havana, Dec. 16.—The steamer Cacique has arrived at Santiago de Cuba, with news from Hayti to the 7th. She brings confirmation of the murder of Gen. Montez at Cape Haytien. War has been declared against Hayti by the Republic of St. Domingo, on account of the aid and countenance which that government lent to the partisans of Baz, who recently invaded the Dominican territory at Monte Christi. Gen. Valverde, the Dominican minister to Hayti, on his arrival home after his recall by President Cabrera, made a report which left no doubt as to the complicity of Salnave in the Basist raid. Gen. Cabrera's forces were already on the march, and it was stated that the Haytiens had left the capital to meet the Dominicans. Reports of earthquakes at Martinique and Guadeloupe are contradicted. The steamer Hispaniola