

The HURON SIGNAL

DEVOTED TO COUNTY NEWS

AND GENERAL INTELLIGENCE

THIRTY-EIGHTH YEAR.

GODERICH, ONT., FRIDAY, MAY 22, 1885.

McGILLICUDDY-BROS. PUBLISHERS.

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FRIDAY, MAY 22ND, 1885.

A POINT GAINED.

Public opinion on the one hand, and the blundering of the Tory journals on the other, have forced Macdonald to agree to some important modifications of the Franchise bill in so far as it relates to the "revising barristers." A number of Tory newspapers, among them the little twinkler which sheds its feeble light in Goderich, declared that there was an appeal both on questions of law and fact from the decision of the revising barrister. The bill distinctly said that there was no appeal on questions of fact, but that an appeal could be allowed on any point of law by the revising barrister, if that functionary "thought it reasonable and proper to allow such an appeal." Here was a fix. The papers could not back out. The Tory journalists telegraphed to Ottawa. The Grit journalists were making them out to be liars, and were quoting the actual words of the bill, which they could not do and maintain their position. Then from Grit and Tory poured in protests from every quarter against the despotic powers of the revising barristers, and between the upper millstones of Tory journalistic blundering, and the nether stones of honest public opinion, the tricky premier had to succumb; and, for the first time, in the House on Wednesday evening, he stated that the objectionable clauses relating to the question of appeal would be amended, and that an appeal would be allowed on both questions of law and fact.

The Tory editors lied a fortnight ago, perhaps in ignorance. They will now claim that they were "inspired" by the premier. These Tory scribes will try to quiet their consciences (if they have any left) with the thought that they did evil that good might come.

INTELLIGENCE vs. DIRT.

A writer, who cannot hide his long ears behind his *nom de plume*, in Saturday's *Mail* made a fling at two of the young men who spoke against the Franchise bill at the recent meeting in Goderich to consider that question. Both of these young men are well educated, and thoroughly informed on the questions of the day. But they are guilty of the sin of being Liberals—and grey men. Had they been a pair of greasy young bucks, living on an Indian reserve, dirty and unable to read, they would get votes, and be good enough in the eyes of the *Mail* and its Goderich correspondent, who, by the way, is so poor a tool that he hadn't the courage to put his name to his article. He would likely be found to be but a trifle above an Indian as far as property qualification, real or personal, is concerned. In order to show the class of voters the *Mail* and its Goderich correspondent prefers to our own educated and well informed young townsmen, we clip the following from the *Mail* itself:

On the St. Lawrence we once met a poor Indian who had just come out of prison. A more woe-begone and wretched looking man we never saw. He was as limp as an old paper collar. "Did they starve you in prison?" "No." "Did they treat you with cruelty, overtask you with labor, or torture you in the dark cell?" "No." "The great white chief did none of these things." "Then why this tortured look, and why is my red brother so anguished?" "They made me wash myself. Ugh!" And yet the *Mail* and a few heedless Tories hereabouts would prefer that filthy Indian to a decent, educated Reformer. Well, every one to their taste, as the old woman said when she kissed the cow.

MR. CONNOR, is the name of the Reform candidate in Algoma, for the Local Legislature. If there is anything in a name, he will be elected, as the electors are sure to vote for (e) Connor and good government.

A DRUNKEN doctor is always a sad sight, for he is a source of danger to himself and his patients, if any are foolish enough to put themselves under his charge. We hope the members of the medical profession in Huron will take some steps to see that their profession is not further disgraced without a protest in some form against such unprofessional conduct. Happily such offenders are few, but even one is too many in this day and generation. We are pleased to say that as a body the medical men of Huron are honoring the Scott Act.

We hope our readers will make a special note of the resolutions sent the Scott Act, passed by the Presbytery of Huron, at its regular sitting last week. It was a sensible resolution.

"Would to God I could catch him."—[Sir John A. Macdonald]

All right, John; you've got him.—[London Advertiser.]

Macdonald's prayer now regarding Riel is probably changed to:—"I wish to God I could lose him."

THE *Star* answers at the Reformers who carried around the petitions here against the Franchise bill because they did it "for love." Your Tory "patriot" can't understand any other motive than a mercenary one in connection with politics. The *Star's* patriotism can be measured by the size of its government advertisements.

THE *Toronto World* asks:—"Why should the government be so anxious to push through the obnoxious revising barrister clause at a time when there is so much more serious business before parliament?" The Tory administration is crumbling to pieces, and dare not face the country in a fair contest. It is afraid of the unshackled vote of the people.

READING from reports made by Indian agents in Ontario, in response to circulars from Sir John as superintendent-general of Indian affairs, Mr. Mills showed that in every instance the reply was made that the Indians were not fitted to appreciate or conduct municipal institutions. And yet the unscrupulous Tory leader now claims for them better terms than poor white men can get.

THE cosmopolitan character of the aid Great Britain can draw from her colonies and dependencies, has led the *Pall Mall Gazette* to give the following version of the jingo song:

We don't want to fight,
But by jingo, if we do,
We've got the ships,
We've got the men,
And we've got the money too,
We're the Catholics and Protestants,
God, Mammon, Turk and Jew;
We've Allah and Confucius,
And Buddha and Yama!

MR. C. P. R. is bound to have its greed satisfied. The Bruce volunteers bound for the North-West, were sent to Southampton, to wait for the C. P. R. steamer *Alberta*, which was taken off her regular course to get the contract for forwarding the volunteers to Port Arthur. Why the Beatty Line, which practically covers the route, was overlooked in favor of the grasping Syndicate line is a question that will puzzle anyone. The C. P. R. must have all.

M. C. CAMERON, ourable member, got in a good one upon Bro. Bowell at Ottawa last week. The premier had flippantly referred to Mr. Edgar as the member for Wheeler, and upon Mr. Edgar replying to the insult, Bro. Bowell repeated it, saying that the local government had bought out a member for him. Mr. Cameron timely interjected "That is not so bad as buying out Riel in order to get a seat for a colleague." Bro. Bowell, who was hit on a very sore spot, did not like this reference to his rebel fellow Conservative, and shut up like a stranded clam.

A FRENCH paper, *La Patrie*, published in Montreal, speaks out in the following fashion about the rascally franchise bill:—"The Electoral Bill of Sir John is perhaps the most anti-patriotic that has been devised for thirty years. It is the most arbitrarily tyrannical which has ever been adopted under a Government responsible to the people. It is a provocation which will justify every kind of reprisal. When a party takes to such dastardly means to retain power, people may be excused if they see to it that once down they shall never get up again."

ON THE WING.

An Oration in Oxford—How the Scott Act Works—Says vs. Open Grounds.

I am now in "glorious old Oxford"—that's what they call this county at any rate during the elections, and the reason it is so called is because it rolls up such thundering Reform majorities every time. The Tories don't call it "Glorious old Oxford" on these occasions, and the headings of the Tory papers are not quite so large after the political contest as are those of their Grit contemporaries. But leaving politics to one side, Oxford is a thriving county, and its chief town, Woodstock, is a good business place.

A MODEL LOCAL PAPER. The *Sentinel-Review*, the leading paper of the county, is a capital exponent of public opinion, and is well managed by the Messrs. Pattullo. The office itself is one of the most complete I have yet seen outside of the cities, and the press power is furnished by a 7-horse power gas engine of ingenious design. You will have read of the alleged Keesley motor, which is destined to revolutionize mechanical labor by being able to drive a 100 horse power engine for 24 hours with a table-spoonful of water, three times a day—a homeopathic dose, I must admit. Well, the *Sentinel-Review's* engine doesn't profess to do that, but it actually works to seven-horse power pressure by the simple lighting of an ordinary gas jet. There is no firing up to generate steam; no services of fireman are required; no coal or wood is necessary; no furnace is needed; no time is lost in waiting for motive power. All that is required is to strike a match, light a gas jet attached to the engine and the "wheel goes around" as Toddy used to say to Budde. To my mind, it's far ahead of the Keely motor, in that it works satisfactorily, and the motor doesn't.

THE FRANCHISE SCHEME of Sir John Macdonald is creating great excitement all along the line, and the men of stout hearts and brassy arms are getting on their war paint, and preparing to back up their members in the house. It is amusing to see how opposed to the act some of the old-timers are. It would not take much to get up a large procession of the "old boys" to proceed at once to Ottawa to bring to book the premier for his latest attack upon the rights and liberties of the electors.

THE SCOTT ACT came into force in Oxford on May 1st, and so far as I have been able to see, is being strictly observed. The sun continues to shine (occasionally), and the rain falls not to fall, notwithstanding the fact that King Alcohol has been dethroned in Oxford, and business has not become altogether paralyzed because the act has become law. The hotel men don't like the new order of things, however, and have advanced up their rates on travellers about 25 per cent. This, however, will not be for long, they will either have to come down to reasonable prices or the travellers will find other stopping places. In the meantime the drummers grin and bear the extortion and wonder why they get so little pork for the shilling. In other respects the act is working well here. The "stoops" in front of the hotels which used to be decorated with a horde of "bummers" of all ages every evening (and Sunday in particular) who made ribald remarks and used insulting expressions to passers by, are now devoid of these ornaments. Sunday evening last after church none of these wretches (I were to be seen, and the female portion of the community could breathe easier as they passed the "stoops" in question, and paraphrasing the old song, say, "Empty is the hotel stoop—whisky's gone." If the Scott Act stopped right here, and did no further good, the respectable portion of the community will have received a great benefit, and the "bumming" interest will have got a mighty setback. But the act has done much more good than that. It sent men home sober to their families on Saturday last, who had never gone home sober at the week's close for years; it filled the larder for many homes, which had been hitherto kept on short commons, through the influence of alcohol; and one man whom I was informed, had been an habitual drunkard, has already blossomed out with a brand new suit of clothes, and looks as respectable as the best. I have not seen a single man with the sign of liquor upon him since I came to this county, and if the act continues to work as well as it has done thus far, the people of Oxford, as a whole, will have reason to thank the majority that conferred the boon upon them.

And as with Oxford, so with Huron and all other counties that passed the Scott Act. A sober county will bear the same relation to a drunken one, that a sober man will bear to a drunkard. There is no comparison in either case.

WOODSTOCK LEADS GODERICH on one point which I would advise Huron's county town to follow at an early day. Here they strictly enforce the cow bylaw, and as a consequence a number of the most wealthy people have taken down the fences in front of their handsome grounds, so that passers by may see and admire to their heart's content. The effect is very pleasing, and could be imitated in Goderich with good results. The latter is a more handsome town, the streets are wider and the situation more picturesque, but the owners of the best houses and grounds are compelled to keep up fences to keep out the bovines, and in some instances are so selfish that they deny the view of the visitor by a close board fence. I throw this hint out for the benefit of our town fathers, and hope that they and the property owners will see it to their interest to imitate their Woodstock cousins in this matter.

In my next I will give you a description of some strange sights I have seen, and some peculiar folk I have met.

D. McG. THE statement of the *Star* regarding the question of appeal against the decision of the revising barrister, came just eleven days before the Premier's statement in the House. The editor of the twinkler now struts around among his Tory friends with a sort of "Me-and-Sir-John-knows-all-about-it" air.

PETER MITCHELL's paper, the *Montreal Herald*, says the Dominion Franchise Bill provides a machinery for the framing and revising of the voters lists for which a parallel must be sought in the prefecture of the last French Empire. And this verdict comes from an independent supporter of the present government. What can the Opposition press say too severely of the Franchise bill after that?

THE *London Advertiser* has the following on the Scott Act amendments:—"The House of Commons passed a bill making such amendments in the Scott Act as were absolutely necessary to the efficient working of the law. The Senate, by a majority of two to one, added to the bill several amendments which render the act wholly useless. These were made under Government influence. Sir John Macdonald proposes to fight the temperance man through the agency of the Senate, rather than to assume the responsibility of fighting them, by the aid of his elected friends, on the floor of the House of Commons."

Literary Notices. Harper's for May contains a readable paper entitled "Ladies' Day at the Ranch," by Alice W. Rollins, beautifully illustrated. A continuation of "The Wild-goose Chase" into North Jutland; "At the Red Glove," a story of Swiss life in an anonymous author; a chapter of historical value on "Knockville in the olden time," and the usual continued and short stories.

Godley's *Lady's Book* for June has one of the most captivating frontispieces which represents "The Puppy Class" at a bench show. Nine very cute little dogs in characteristic poses are arranged on a line for public inspection. The June number is replete with illustrations of a fine character. An unusually elaborate view of an ornate interior is furnished this month. Christian Reid's short serial is ended, and a new two-part story by M. K. Housekeeper is begun. "Through Fire" is one of the stories submitted in the Prize Competition, and shows unusual strength. The other departments are fully up to the usual standard. Box "H. H.," Philadelphia.

Packard's *Shorthand Reporter*, that prince of phonographic journals, has been received for May. Munson writers should send 20c. for a sample copy of this beautiful magazine.

Brown's *Phonographic Monthly* for May has been received. It is devoted to the "American Standard" system, a modification of Pitman's, a style which has many followers.

The following facts are gleaned from the *Brussels assessor's roll for 1885*:—Total value of real estate, \$259,770; personal property, \$45,800; taxable income, \$8,400; total assessment, \$310,970; number of dogs, 69; population, 1,273; number of cattle, 101; sheep, 8; hogs, 41; horses, 115. Children between ages of 5 and 16, 294; between 7 and 13, 161; over 16 and under 21, 95.

THE INDIAN VOTE.

The Fact to Which Sir John Proposes to Put the Savages.

During the last session of the Ontario Legislature we gave the franchise to every Indian who can prove his right to citizenship according to the laws of the land, and it is right that we should object to those Indians having the franchise who cannot prove their right to citizenship, and who are not capable of bearing the burdens placed by the State upon the other electors, or even of expressing a free and unbiased opinion on the questions submitted to them. What is proposed by this Bill of Sir John Macdonald's? First, it is proposed to give the franchise to Indians who are citizens. To that we have no objection. Secondly, to every Indian living on the reserves. Look at this matter. What is the Indian's position? When we undertake to give him a vote under any system of franchise we assume that the man is capable of exercising the franchise AND VOTING FREELY.

For that reason we have voting by ballot, and exercise great care in the preparation of the voters' lists. What is the relation of the Indian to the State? He is a minor. He cannot hold real estate unless he separates himself from his tribe; he cannot sue or be sued for his debts; he cannot sell a stick of timber or make any bargain binding in law; he cannot be made to serve on a jury; he cannot be enlisted into the militia to defend the country; in fact, he is under the control of the agent, and the agent is under the control of the General Superintendent, and the General Superintendent is Sir John Macdonald; there are the 130,000 Indians of Canada will be under the control of Sir John Macdonald. Even dead or alive he is under the control of Sir John, for if an Indian makes a will, his will is not binding until approved by Sir John Macdonald, and I say that dead or alive he will be controlled by the General Superintendent, and all the influence which a dead Indian can be made to exert will be applied to the benefit of the Tory party. Is that fair to the freemen of this country?

We don't object to Sir John giving the franchise to the free Indians, who have the qualification, but we do object to the giving of the franchise to such as I have described. Sir John Macdonald has admitted that the Indians are not capable of managing their own affairs, and, therefore, I claim that such should not be allowed to vote. Then they are not fit to vote by reason of insufficient education. In the case of the tribal Indians, the education is so defective as to be worthy of special attention. Does the Indian understand the meaning of the word "taxes"? Does he read the newspapers? No. How then can he vote intelligently on the questions of the day? Does he enter into the politics of the day? No. He does not even know the name of the Premier, for he invariably calls him Old Tomorrow. (Laughter.) Indian like, in this he follows his tribal instinct. What right has such an Indian to the franchise? Sir John Macdonald says the Indian pays taxes, therefore he has a right to vote. But wives and mothers pay taxes, and judging by the millinery bills of a well regulated family, some of them pay a good deal of taxes. Volunteers pay taxes, and bear the burdens of the State; have they not a right to vote? Chinaman pay taxes, but Sir John does not propose to give the franchise to them; and I do not say that they should be allowed to vote, but following out Sir John's logic to its legitimate conclusion, they would be equally entitled to vote with the Indian if the payment of taxes should qualify a man. What is

THE PURPOSE OF THE BILL? Just look through it and then we can see its design. Take Bothwell, in which Mr. Mills was returned by 16 majority. There is a large Indian tribe there, with a sufficient number of votes to make that county safe for John J. Hawkins as long as Sir John likes him to sit for it. Then there is South Middlesex with 1,545 Indians, and a certain percentage of these would have votes—enough to turn an election there. In West Lambton, so long and ably represented by Mr. Mackenzie, there is a large Indian settlement, capable of determining the result of a contest there. So is Haldimand, represented by Mr. David Thompson, the Indians can turn the votes there; and in South Brant, represented by one of the ablest members of the House, there are 5,000 or 6,000 Indians—enough to turn the election. Then there is North York, represented by one of your own citizens (Mr. Mulock); the Indian settlement there would suffice to turn any election. Then we might take other places—such as this one in all, Quebec Bruce, Granville—where the Indians would probably turn any election and determine the result if this bill becomes law. The purpose of the bill, then, is that where these men I have mentioned have seats, they shall be asked to support the Government of the day or stay out of the House.—[Hon. G. W. Ross's speech at Toronto.]

Taking an Unfair Advantage.

Our three Indian prisoners were greatly struck with the effect of the shells, and afterwards, speaking confidently to one of their guards, said: "White man no fight fair. He chase Indian with big bullet, then bullet shoot again. That no bullet. Should only shoot once with same bullet."—[Winnipeg Sun.]

A DISGRACEFUL SCENE.

The Tory Majority Attempts to Bulldoze the Opposition.

OTTAWA, May 18, 1885. In reply to Mr. Blake, Sir John Macdonald stated that the half breed commission had so far issued scrip for 240 acres to 422 persons, and for 160 acres to 20 persons. He also said, in answer to another question, that Louis Schmidt (secretary to Louis Riel during the first rebellion, and one of the parties to invite him to Prince Albert to head the present movement) has been employed in the Dominion Lands office at Prince Albert since May 1, 1884. In answer to a further inquiry, Sir John replied that frauds and irregularities have been discovered in the preparation and issue of patents for Dominion lands in the Department of the Interior, but that it would injure the public interests to now furnish particulars. Investigation was still going on, and a report could not be made or the extent of the frauds known until it was completed.

The House again went into Committee on the Franchise Bill. Sir Richard Cartwright rose to support the amendments, first that to exempt Ontario from the operation of the act, and second, the amendment of Mr. Charlton to continue the Provincial Franchise. He proceeded to show that from a financial point of view, the present was a most inopportune time to introduce the measure. There would be a deficit at the end of the present year of \$1,250,000. In anticipation of a normal condition of affairs, the Finance Minister had made his estimate for next year, and with his view of the amount of receipts to be obtained there would be a deficit of \$1,945,000 in the coming year. Unfortunately, however, the rebellion had broken out, which would entail an enormous expenditure. The Canadian Pacific Railway had made a further demand for aid, and it was apparent that the interest due by that company, and which the Finance Minister had included in his receipts, would not be paid. In view of these facts the proposal to add to the yearly expenditure \$350,000 was not as absurd as it might seem. Sir Richard was continuing this argument when he was stopped by the chairman and informed that he would not be permitted to apply any financial bearing to the question other than to argue against the expenditure the bill might entail.

Mr. Cameron (Huron) protested against this interruption of the rules and restriction of debate, and quoted authorities to prove that it was quite proper to adduce arguments such as the e put forth. Other members arose to speak, but the Tory members were bound they should not be heard, and led by Sir John, they tried to howl them down. Such conduct was never before witnessed in Parliament. It would have disgraced a lot of gamblers at an exciting horse race. Supported by a partisan chairman who refused to make an attempt to keep order, the House became a pandemonium until Sir Richard appealed from the decision of the chair. The Speaker was then called in and a vote taken as to whether the chairman's ruling would be sustained, which was promptly done with united Tory parizant fervor, by a vote of 67 to 41.

Sir Richard refused to continue his address under the ruling of the chairman, and stated that he would take an early opportunity to place his argument before the House.

Death of Wm. F. Alcock.

On Thursday of last week Wm. F. Alcock, an old and highly esteemed resident of this township, passed away after a severe illness, at the advanced age of about 75 years. The old gentleman was born in Winklow Co., Ireland, in 1811, and after he reached manhood was employed as land steward, and gamekeeper on the estates of Lord Downs and Col. Harry, respectively. 42 years ago he married Miss Mary Griffith, head dairy maid on Lord Downs' estate. They with their family, emigrated to Canada about 31 years ago and settled at Mitchell, where Mr. Alcock was walking boss on the G. T. R. 2 years after he took up lot 6 on 14, which was then a bush lot and he resided there until the time of his decease. In the 30 years, or more, in which he resided in Grey he has lived a very active life, being Bailiff for upwards of 15 years and on a surveyor's staff for a long time. He was of a very jovial turn, and his amusing stories, anecdotes &c. will long be remembered. He was the soul of hospitality and no one was ever turned away from his door. In fact his house bore the title of the "Orphan's Home" from the number of children under the care of himself and good lady. Reading was the old gentleman's chief amusement for the past few years and it was a difficult matter to introduce any topic in conversation that he was not conversant with. The deceased although a Conservative in name was very broad in his platform, especially of late years. He was an adherent of the Episcopalian church, the incumbent of which, Rev. W. T. Cluff, conducted the funeral services. The wife of the departed, who is well advanced in years, has the sincere sympathy of a large circle of friends in the loneliness. Three sons, William, George, and Thomas, who have been in the Northwest for several years, and one daughter, Mrs. J. W. Yeo, are the surviving children of the deceased. Geo. Alcock, who was home for the funeral, will return to Ontario and look for the homestead.—[Brussels Post.]