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The HURON SIGNAL

DEVOTED TO COUNTY NEWS AND GENERAL INTELLIGENCE

FORTIETH YEAR. WHOLE NUMBER 2002.

GODERICH, ONT., FRIDAY, APRIL 1, 1887.

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THE HURON SIGNAL

is published every Friday Morning, by Mc GILLICUDDY Bros., at their Office, North st GODERICH, ONTARIO,

FRIDAY, APRIL 1st, 1887.

The Reform candidate in East Bruce is named Truax. He ought to cut down the Tory majority.

The member for West Huron *pro tem*, registers himself "Robert Porter, M P., Goderich." What will Clinton, that elected him, say to that?

Something is going to be smashed by the Coercion Act now under discussion in the Imperial Parliament, and it would not surprise us if it turned out to be the Salisbury Government.

In the event of Mr Porter being unseated we expect to see a large sum set down in the public estimates towards subsidizing Goderich. It's an ill wind that blows nobody some good.

There was a Tory pow-wow at Hagersville the other night. It was like the Tory pow-wow in Goderich election night, only that Hon. Thomas White acted the part of "Mister Brown" on the occasion. Tories are the same all over.

Both the Liberal French papers of Quebec deny that the Hon E. Blake has resigned the leadership of the Opposition. *La Justice* says its chief editor, Col. Amyot, M.P., has received a letter from Mr Blake stating that he intends to remain at the head of his party.

It is currently reported that the Tories do not intend to pass around the hat in connection with the defence fund for the West Huron protest, but that the editor of the *Star* is going to foot the bill himself, out of his Government pap, as he does not favor the idea of "canvassing along the side-lines." Ahem!

From the members of the delegation recently returned from Ottawa, we learn than Manager VanHorne, of the C. P. R., was interviewed by them in Toronto, and that he at once intimated that Goderich would be an objective point for the construction of a line of the railway at an early date. He favored the Guelph Junction Branch, but advised the Goderich people to fully carry out their application for a charter for the Goderich and Canada Pacific Junction. "There a good time coming, boys, wait a little longer.

One of the best jokes in connection with the Tuesday meeting of the Tories was the statement that they were going to use all their efforts to hinder M. C. Cameron from getting any outside constituency, as Sir John is not anxious that Mr Cameron should obtain a seat in the House. We understand Capt. Murray McGregor, Government pilot of the Bayfield, is the prime mover in this scheme, and of course that will settle the matter. But we can inform the Government hanger-on and party healer that M. C. Cameron will meet the present members of the Cabinet on the floor of the House before long, and we can further inform the doughty pilot that there's a day of reckoning coming for him. He ought to be content to live upon the taxpayers of this country without making himself obnoxious.

In Canada when a politician is played out physically and mentally they elevate him to the Senate. It would appear that in the Old Country they follow a line not altogether dissimilar and elevate corpses to the House of Lords. The late Alfred Tennyson was something of a poet in his day and generation, but his poetic soul dried up, his genius departed, and the muse fled from him. They decked him in lordly apparel, gave him a new name, and elevated him to the House of Lords, but nothing that mortals could do could galvanize him back to poetic life. The recent jubilee ode of the late laureate proves conclusively that it's time the old man was put in a vault. There are lots of boys out in the lumber woods who could chop out better "pomes" by the cord. Why one of James Gay's patriotic lays in Guelph years ago, could double discount the whole ode. They used to run thusly:—

I now tell you today
Is the 24th of May.
So listen to my lay
And hear my little say;
Don't worry me I pray,
For I've asked you for no pay;
But if you fear to stay
And want to run away,
I'll sign myself O. K.,
Yours truly, sir, James Gay,
Gunsmith, locksmith, scooters
Guelph, Ontario, Canada.

A BAD WOMAN.

A letter in Tuesday's *Mail*, signed by "The wife of a West Huron Reformer," and evidently written by a resident of Goderich, shows to what extreme party bigotry and Tory training can go. The substance of the letter is that Hon. A. M. Ross spoke in favor of giving women votes in municipal elections, during his canvass, and that he *voted against* a measure to that effect in the local House. This false charge was made with the knowledge that Col. Ross was in Wingham at the deathbed of his daughter, Mrs Meyer, when the question was debated and voted upon in the House. God help political reputations when woman of that stamp use the name of "Reform" to lie and stab.

THE WEST HURON PROTEST.

At a meeting of the Reform protest committee held in Goderich on Monday last, it was unanimously decided to contest the return of Mr Robert Porter at the recent election in West Huron.

The conduct of the case has been placed in the hands of Mr J. T. Garrow, and the committee has every reason to believe that the unseating and disqualification of Mr Porter is now only a matter of time.

Now that decisive action has been taken by the committee, it behooves the chairmen of the different municipalities to be up and doing in the matter of their collections. Already a favorable showing has been made by some of the polling subdivisions, and the committee confidently expect good returns all along the line.

Mr Porter was gazetted on March 12th, and as the necessary deposit must be made within thirty days from that date, all sums in the hands of collectors are returnable not later than April 7th.

It almost looks as if Hon. Edward Blake would "bob up serenely" as leader of the Opposition at the opening of Parliament, and leader of the Government before its close. According to the *Mail's* figures a defection of fifteen Government supporters would put the Tories in a minority. The pap-feeders have not a dead sure thing after all.

The judge up in Algoma must be shaped after the style of Judge Upper, of Haldimand, or Mr Dunn, the returning officer for Queen's, N. B. He declined to allow a recount on the ground that the deposit of one hundred dollars, although paid to the clerk of the court, and a receipt duly given in return, was illegally paid, because it was not in Dominion bank bills or in gold.

The Scripture Readings.

In the Ontario Legislature on Wednesday, of last week, replying to Mr Clarke, of Wellington, Hon. Geo. W. Ross made the following statement which should satisfy all reasonable persons and set contention at rest on the vexed question of Bible reading in the schools:

"The object of the action of the Government was to have the Bible read in the schools more systematically. It was to secure this object that the book of selections (originally prepared by Mr Kerr, of Brantford) was adopted at the instance and upon the recommendation of the Protestant clergy of all denominations, without objection from any quarter until, for political purposes, the book so recommended and adopted, or any book of Scripture selection, began to be denounced. The Government agree with the Protestant clergymen who revised and recommended the book (some of whom have since been using it at family worship in their own homes) that it would be an advantage that the Scripture Readings in the schools should be from the book of selections, but political agitation has created in some quarters a prejudice against this course, and this for a time deprived the book of its usefulness where this prejudice exists. Where, for this or any reason, the trustees of a school prefer that the reading shall be from the Bible itself instead of from the book of selections, or where trustees prefer to have passages read which are not in the book of selections, the Government have no desire to interfere, and do not propose to interfere, so long as the Bible or its contents are read daily and systematically. If the text of the regulation requires any modification in order to admit of this course, the modification will be made."

The proper way to discontinue taking a paper is to pay up all arrearages, and tell (or notify) the publisher to discontinue sending it to your address. Don't ask the editor to stop the paper while you are owing him—unless you are a dead beat—for the law will compel you to pay for a paper as long as you are owing anything for it; and this is right. Some people will continue taking a paper for a couple of months over the date for which they have paid and then refuse to take it out of the office. They don't pay up, and they don't notify the publisher to stop sending.

WHAT'S UP?

Things That Are Happening Around Us.

A Long, Cold Winter—Why People Cough in Church—A Theatrical Performance that was not on the Program.

—It almost looks as if Winter had made up its mind to take a fresh grip and hang on with both hands for the balance of the season. Two years ago, if you remember, we had a mighty cold March, but I'm inclined to think the weather during the past week knocks the spots off all its predecessors for years back. It almost looks as if Jim Addison's wishbone prophesies from Oneida, concerning the hard winter, were a true bill. I'm not going to moralize on the subject, however, further than to say that it's been a mighty hard winter on coalbins and woodpiles.

—I've been asked by a "Constant Reader," who lives on one of the side streets, if I could tell the reason why people cough so much in church when the practice is not common at political meetings, concerts, theatrical performances, etcetera, etcetera, and so forth. Well, "Constant Reader" you sent your conundrum to the right old man this trip, and I'll at once enlighten you on the subject. The reason people cough in church and not at the other places mentioned is because they are under restraint in the former instance and not in the latter; that is to say, in church they are all on their good behavior and there is a strong decorous tension on, whereas at other public meetings, the audience can give vent to their pent-up feeling by laughter and applause. Coughing is most prevalent in churches where formality is most fostered. If you go to Bond street church, Toronto; the Tabernacle, New York; or had you gone to Plymouth church, Brooklyn, during the pastorate of the late Henry Ward Beecher, you would not have observed much coughing, owing to the fact that the congregations of these churches were at times during service allowed vent for their feelings. Now you understand why people cough in church. If you don't take stock in my reasons, you just watch the congregation on Sunday next and you'll find it's the people who try to be the most reverential, and want to make a business of it, who do the most coughing. It won't be the preacher for he has full vent.

—And while I'm on this question I might tell you that I once, and only once, saw a theatrical performance thrown off its balance owing to the ill effects of a cold in the head of one man. The villain in the piece had come in to slow music when the gas had been turned down, and had sneaked up behind his victim, and by a double-actioned twist of the wrist, had perforated his doublet with a dagger in the most approved Italian bandit fashion. Having satisfied himself that a doctor's services would not be necessary, and that a respectable opportunity was afforded the neighbors of performing obsequies over the deceased, the bold brigand straightened himself to his full height of five feet, adjusted his stage wig and false beard, struck a position before the audience and pointing to the body of the late lamented, remarked in a hoarse voice, "Perish all those who dare to cross my path!" Then he strode off, and had just got behind one of the side-scenes when a lot of the neighbors came on deck and discovered his nibs with the perforated doublet. They examined him as carefully as if they knew all about the medical profession, and decided unanimously that he was as dead as a door nail, after which satisfactory solution, one of the gentlemen present grabbed the deceased by the shoulders and another took it by the pedal extremities and started to bring it to the nearest undertakers, I supposed. Just before they got clear of the stage, however, the corpse sneezed a sneeze that almost blew out the footlights, and which so astonished the gentlemen who were bearing the body forth that they dropped it on to the floor, much to the disgust of the deceased and the amusement of the audience. The ringing down of the curtain gave the audience a chance to dry their eyes and see that nothing had gone wrong with their aching sides. The real part in that theatrical performance was the funniest thing in the business.

AJAX.

The *Mail* figures the Tory majority at 20. That's quite a drop from 70.

AN UNFIT JUDGE.

How a Drunken Tory Tool Counted Out a Liberal Member.

At the public meeting in Cayuga last week Mr Colter made a statement of the manner in which he was counted out, after having been elected by a majority of the voters of the constituency to represent them in Parliament. Judge Upper was drunk, and was kept drunk while the recount was going on. Lauchlin McCallum, formerly M. P. for Monck and now a Senator, took up quarters at Cayuga and managed the Judge. There was no pretence of fairness or consistency in the Judge's rulings. He disallowed ballots from which the counterfoil had not been detached, and counted ballots from which only a little portion of the counterfoil had been pinched off. He counted ballots on which straight lines had been marked instead of crosses, when that ruling seemed to favor Dr. Montague, and changed his decision when he found that Mr Colter would be the gainer by it. He disallowed ballots on which little pencil marks had been accidentally made by the deputy returning officers, and performed other fantastic tricks, which are fully described in Mr Colter's address. The fact is that Judge Upper has long been unfit for his position, and he has determined to make friends of the mammon of unrighteousness; in other words, he has behaved in a manner pleasing to Sir John Macdonald, in order that he may not be deposed from the judicial office to which he is a disgrace. Dr Montague and other Tories have the effrontery to hold the jubilations over the victory obtained in such a dastardly manner. Toryism has sunk pretty low.

The Reformers at the meeting yesterday subscribed the money necessary to pay for the protest by which Mr Colter will get the seat to which he was elected. It is a scandal and a shame that a man who was not elected will be able to occupy the seat during an entire session of Parliament, but there is one way of preventing it Dr. Montague will not be the only member occupying a seat in Parliament by a fraudulent title. Sir John Macdonald would not have a majority if there had been fair play in the elections. The representative of "a minority of the electors and a "drunken judge" cannot have much self-respect, but he is thereby the better qualified to support the Tory Government.—Hamilton Times.

A PARTING SALUTE.

Address and Presentation to Capt. John McPherson.

Lucknow Sentinel.

Captain John McPherson, who has resided in this village and vicinity, for over 30 years, has purchased a property adjacent to the town of Kincardine, whither he removed this week with his family and effects, and where he will henceforth reside. The moment it became known that the Captain was about to leave us his friends determined that they could not allow him to go without testifying in some tangible way their high regard and esteem for him. Accordingly the matter was taken in hand by an influential committee of citizens, and on Monday evening last a happy company met at the residence of Dr. McCrimmon when the captain was presented with the following address which was handsomely framed together with a purse of $50 in gold.

To Captain John McPherson.

Dear Sir,—Your many friends in Lucknow, learning of your departure from this place, where you have resided for many years, to take up your abode in Kincardine, desire to express to you the high esteem in which you are held by the citizens generally of this village and vicinity, as well as the regret that is universally felt at the loss of such an estimable friend and neighbor.

As a citizen you have ever been public spirited, as a friend true and steadfast, as a neighbor kind and obliging.

As a slight token of good will and esteem, we ask you on behalf of the citizens and subscribers, to accept the accompanying purse.

That happiness and prosperity may attend you and yours wherever your lot may be cast is the earnest wish of your many friends in Lucknow.

"The Lord bless thee, and keep thee,
"The Lord make his face shine upon thee, and be gracious unto thee;
"The Lord lift up his countenance upon thee, and give thee peace."

Dated at Lucknow, March 21st, 1887, on behalf of the committee.

D. A. McCrimmon M. D. Chairman.
John Murchison Secretary.

The address was read by Dr. McCrimmon, who introduced the business of the evening in a happy and appropriate speech. Congratulatory speeches were also made by Messrs. M. Campbell, D. D. Yule, D. E. Cameron, Dr. Tennant and others. The captain replied in a feeling manner, expressing his gratitude at this unexpected mark of esteem from his fellow citizens among whom he had resided so long, and declaring that no matter where his lot might be cast, Lucknow, where he had spent so many happy days, would ever occupy the first place in his affections. We have seldom lost a citizen whose departure was more generally regretted than is Captain McPherson's. He has our heartiest and best wishes for the future success of himself and family.

WAR ON THE LEAGUE

The Government to Draw a Tight Rein on Ireland.

The New Coercion Measure the Strongest Ever Proposed in Parliament—The Provisions of the Law Set Forth in the House of Commons.

London, March 28.—W. H. Smith, the Government leader, intimated that the Government had decided to ask the House to pass the second reading of the Irish Criminal Law Amendment Bill before proposing the usual Easter holiday. (Cheers and counter cheers.) The Government, said Mr Smith, disavowed any intention to menace the House, but he wished the members to understand that the measure was vital to order in Ireland, that it was one upon which the Government staked their existence and was more important than holidays.

Mr Balfour, Chief Secretary for Ireland, then moved the first reading of the Irish Criminal Law Amendment Bill. In doing so he referred to the terms of Mr Parnell's proposed amendment to the bill, in which the Irish leader claims that the House should obtain further information about the condition of Ireland. Mr Balfour thought the Parnellites were sufficiently informed of the state of their country, and should recognize Irish anarchy as an artifice recognizes his own work. The Government did not rest the case on statistics of agrarian crime. They took the view that the amount of crime must be considered in conjunction with its causes and character. The amount was shown in the fact that at the present moment there were 498 persons in Munster, 175 in Connaught and 251 in Leinster, under police protection. The law had been set aside and the vacuum had not been filled by the ordinary law. Here Mr Balfour read a number of charges made by judges to grand juries showing that the number of persons actually charged bore no relation to the amount of crime. Boycotting and intimidation, he said, were rampant in that part of the country most disturbed. The men who gave this testimony were not partisans. (Parnellite cries of dissent.) The paralysis of the courts of law was an evil necessary to be specially checked. It arose from the difficulty of inducing intimidated witnesses to speak out. In 756 cases 432 injured parties were so terrified that they refused to appear. When evidence was obtained the juries declined, even in the clearest cases, to convict. Here he adduced a long list of cases in which the juries had disregarded the evidence presented, and asked if it was to be wondered at when the national press pointed out the jurymen giving a verdict, and held them up to public reprobation and secret vengeance. Those persons desiring the separation of Ireland were ready to attain their object by the exercise of avowed terrorism. The jury system became impracticable. (Parnellite laughter.) The place which the law ought to fill was occupied by the National League. The members of the League relied upon the secret societies, dynamite and the dagger, the object of which was the bringing about of a state of anarchy by means of assassination. It was an absurd travesty to the facts, he declared, to say that the league had any resemblance to a trades union. The initial policy of the league was a combination for the plunder of individuals with the destruction of the constitution. The speaker then proceeded to give instances of boycotting, but was repeatedly interrupted by demands from the Parnellites for the names of the persons boycotted. He declined, however, to give the names unless the persons were beyond the reach of members of the league.

Mr Balfour next read extracts from the *United Ireland*, disclosing the extent of the system of terrorizing. He said the latest official returns showed that 835 persons were boycotted under order from the league. In many districts tenant-right had become valueless, because no selling of the right was possible unless sanctioned by the league. No tyranny, however cruel, could compare with the anarchy resulting from the existence of the league tribunals. Coming to the proposals of the bill, he stated that the Government had borrowed a provision from the Scotch system giving magistrates power to examine witnesses on oath, even when no persons are charged with crime. To meet the difficulty of getting verdicts they propose to abolish the jury system altogether [cheers and counter cheers] for certain classes of crime, giving the magistrate jurisdiction, with power to impose a maximum penalty of six months' imprisonment in cases of criminal conspiracy, boycotting, rioting, offences under the Whiteboy acts, assault on officers of the law, forcible and unlawful possession, and in cases of incitement of the foregoing offences. (Cheers.) The Government did not propose to interfere with the liberty of the press, but they hoped that by giving magistrates the power of summary conviction for inciting offences they would be able to prevent the press sharing in crime. The bill also gave the Government power to change the venue of trial for graver offences. The Government felt the difficulty connected with the trial by jury in Ireland, and, therefore, proposed that the Attorney-General of England and Ireland, in cases of grave crimes, should certify when a fairer trial could be had in England, (cheers) when, under the same conditions as in case of change of venue in Ireland, the trial should be held in England. (Cries from the Parnellites: "What part of England?") Irish counsel he added were to be allowed to appear in English courts (Parnellite laughter), and the state would provide the necessary funds for the conveyance of both witness and lawyers. Purely political offences, such as treason, treasonable felony and seditious libel, are excluded from the provisions of the bill. The crimes triable in England were murder, attempt to murder, aggravated crimes of violence and arson. In all cases the bill applied only to proclaimed districts. The Viceroy would have further power to proclaim dangerous societies found to be disturbing peace and order. A proclamation directed against a society would be submitted to Parliament within seven days after issuance, and if Parliament condemned it the proclamation would be dropped. The Government proposed that the permanency of the bill should not be limited to a fixed time. (Cheers). He concluded by declaring that it was in the cause of liberty that the Government asked the House to break the yoke under which Ireland was groaning.

DILLON ASSAILS THE BILL.

London, March 28.—Mr Dillon followed Mr Balfour. He said the bill would never pass into law. (Irish cheers). If he believed the people of England were capable of sanctioning the measure, he would give up for ever the hope of seeing the Irish and the English shake hands. The Irish people would be slaves indeed if they submitted to it. Either he would have a country where no Irishman could live unless he lived like a slave, or, if the people were willing, he would be proud and happy to lead them into battle. (Cheers.) The measure could only result in causing increased disorganization and driving the people back to the horrors of former years. (Cheers.) Earl Spencer, believing his life to be in danger, had the courage to face the people of Ireland like a man, but small credit was due to the present Government who did not know the dangers they were facing. (Cries of "Oh! oh!" and cheers.) More miserable excuses on which to found coercion had never been heard. Mr Balfour had succeeded in proving nothing but his own ignorance of the country which he sought to govern, and the sooner he quitted office the better for Ireland and for himself. The Government were practically treating Irishmen like slaves. They sought to root them out like vermin. The Government offered them the prospect of a favorable land purchase bill. If this Coercion Bill passed neither a land purchase bill nor any other Irish measure would have to be accepted at the hands of the English people.

It is the opinion of many persons that Mr Balfour's speech, which was at great length, was weak, diffuse, confused and pointless, and that on the first chance he has had to show if he was capable of rising to a great occasion, he has made a notable failure.

HARTINGTON'S MANIFESTO.

London, March 28.—Lord Hartington is about to issue a manifesto through a new Unionist paper. In it he says:—"We are confronted at the present moment with a more acute form of the problem of Ireland than has ever been presented in past times. The difficulties of the problem have been intensified by the action of the Liberals who, suddenly discarding every remedy hitherto approved by the Liberals, have made a change of front unparalleled in completeness and rapidity, and adopted the policy of the avowed enemies of the integrity of the British Empire. Their action has stimulated the courage and hopes of the separationists. It is the duty of the Liberal Unionists now to endeavor to bring back the Liberals to their faith in constitutional reform, resolutely opposing the delusion that the abandonment of their principles or the sacrifice of any class of their countrymen can be an act of courage or justice." Referring to the Coercion Bill he says, "Not a single Unionist believes in coercion as a policy, but all believe in the necessity of every civilized country asserting the supremacy of the law. The object of the Separationists is to prove that the Government of Ireland as a part of the United Kingdom is an impossibility with or without reform. The object of the Unionists must be to prove the union indissoluble, while doing justice to Ireland. The whole tone of the manifesto indicates that there will be no compromise. Messrs. Caine and Chamberlain endorse the manifesto.

PARNELL'S OPINION.

London, March 28.—Mr Parnell considers the Irish Criminal Law Amendment Bill one of the strongest coercive measures ever proposed in Parliament. The bill, he says, even creates new offences. He thinks Mr Balfour's references to the press mean that the Government will suppress prominent Nationalist newspapers as soon as the bill has been passed.

Navigation Opened on Lake Erie.—Colchester, March 29.—The steamer City of Cleveland left Detroit at ten o'clock yesterday morning, and passed here about noon on her first trip to Cleveland. She is commanded by Captain McLaughlin, a veteran of the lakes. The City of Dresden left Windsor yesterday morning, and arrived here at 2 p. m. on her way to Leamington and Pelee Island. She had on board a full cargo of general merchandise and a fair number of passengers. This end of Lake Erie is entirely clear of ice.