

The Huron

DEVOTED TO COUNTY NEWS AND GENERAL INTELLIGENCE

GODERICH, ONT., FRIDAY, JULY 20, 1888.

WHAT'S UP?

Things That Are Happening Around Us.

A Quasi Life is the Best, after all—something about the Public Improvement—The Contractor for the Water Pipes Holding Back.

—I'd rather be an old retired agriculturist, with nothing to do but sit on the back porch and talk to the neighbors, than dwell in the high places of the council board and waterworks committee, and suffer all the inconveniences, troubles, trials, annoyances, and set-backs which have come upon our local municipal legislators during the past two years and a half, in connection with the inception of the public improvement schemes for the betterment of the pretty town in which we live. And for the following amongst other reasons:—

—In the beginning of the alleged "boom" all was chaos—a state of indefinite inaction and entanglement—while some are unkind enough to say exists even unto the present day. The act of the waterworks committee, and the long felt wants were much needed, so the projectors clear, but the way out did not appear clear, and the methods were tedious. Month after month, and municipal election after municipal election, the lurid light of the ignis fatuus led on the benighted electors, and on the 12th of May, 1887, it was thought the Will-o'-the-Wisp had been captured, when the electric light and the waterworks were to be put in by overwhelming majorities.

That was over fourteen months ago today, but there are a large number of the neighbors who are beginning to think that a funeral procession is a 240 trot to the progress that has since been made.

—It is quite true we have our agricultural park, with hall and outbuildings, but we have paid for them over and over again, in comparison with what it was represented they would cost; and when you pay too dear for your whole, you may be inclined to value it at the fictitious price, but, as a commercial transaction you cannot look upon it as an available asset or as good collateral for the amount expended. Of course you have the experience—well bought, at that—but the bank officers don't look upon experience too dearly purchased, as an inducement in the bestowment of credit.

—Next, there was the electric light scheme, and although nearly a year ago we revelled in the fact that our Great Northwestern Fair was inaugurated under the beneficent rays of the great illuminator, we have today nothing to show for it but a stretch of wire, at present unused, and a hole in our municipal treasury big enough to let out about \$300.

—The waterworks is more badly tangled up than either of the other two schemes. At present, I am informed by the neighbors, that the town council doesn't know whether it is a foot or a horseback, or in a birch-bark canoe. You all know about the East street hole-in-the-ground, which didn't turn out to be a decided success. And you know that last year another lot was purchased on the harbor flats, and that a test hole was put down. And you know that the test hole was dynamited to increase the flow, without appreciable results. And you know that Peter McEwan is now spilling perspiration in the building of another test hole. Of course you do, for aren't these all historical facts?

—But some of you may not be aware that there is trouble in the camp about the pipe supply, and that the council is between the "devil and the deep sea"—or rather, that it is having trouble with contractor Gartshore, of Hamilton, and may have to get a part or all of the water mains from Detroit before the agony is over. It's a true bill, all the same, I've been credibly informed by the neighbors, and it occurred in this wise:—

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FROM THE CAPITAL.

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The Question of Idiot Immigration—Nov. 50th Anniversary—The Question of the Idiot Immigration—Nov. 50th Anniversary—The Question of the Idiot Immigration—Nov. 50th Anniversary.

From our regular Correspondent.

Ottawa, July 17.

There is so much talk about pauper and other undesirable immigration, that I have looked into the law and interviewed the authorities. The Governor General may whenever he sees fit issue a proclamation preventing the landing of immigrants at any port. This is the pauper immigration clause.

Then there is a clause directing that the insane, idiot, deaf, dumb or infirm, when not one of a family, shall only be allowed to land upon the master of a vessel giving a bond of \$300 each undertaking in the event of such immigrant being within three years a charge upon a Province, municipality or charitable body to indemnify against all expense incurred in supporting the immigrants. This bond is to be required of the master of a vessel by the medical superintendent and is to be deposited with the Receiver General at Ottawa. Strange to say I found that not a single such bond had ever been taken. Everyone knows that infirm and stricken immigrants are continually thrown on Ontario municipalities for support and the medical superintendent at Grosse Pointe, has neglected his duty, notwithstanding that he increased his salary the year from \$1,600 to \$2,400 and gave an assistant at \$1,200. But as a matter of fact he merely boards a vessel and enquires of the ship's surgeon and captain if there is any sickness on board. Being assured there is none he gives a clear bill of health, and goes off without knowing whether or no there are insane, idiot, deaf, dumb or infirm persons on board for whom he should take bonds. If some municipality should proceed under the statute and bond I fancy the medical superintendent would be liable for neglect of his plain duty. The Deputy Minister.

THE GLENNARY CASE.

The discussion in this important case refused leave to appeal from the Supreme Court of Canada, and declares that in the opinion of the Queen's Privy Council the judgment of the Ontario Court shall in election cases be final. Mr. Parcell is, therefore, secure in his seat.

GOVERNMENT SAVINGS BANKS.

During last session Sir Charles Tupper announced that the government intended to reduce the rate of interest on Savings Banks deposits from four to three per cent. This announcement has apparently created a run on these banks. During June the amount withdrawn from government savings was \$560,995, while the new deposits amounted to only \$256,700.

CHOKING OFF THE CANADIANS.

The other day the collector of customs at Port Huron, Mich., refused to allow fifty Canadian laborers to land and proceed to their work for the Grand Trunk. They lived on the Ontario side of the border, and worked on the other side returning home each evening. The collector viewed this as an infringement of the Contract Labor Act, which prohibits the importation of labor contracted for in foreign country. This extraordinary interpretation of the law raises an important international question. All along our border laborers, mechanics and clerks work on one side and reside on the other, at Detroit, in many instances, Americans work in the Windsor establishments, and hundreds of Windsor people earn their daily need in Detroit, which is only four minutes sail from the Ontario shore. If the Detroit collector takes it into his head to enforce the Alien Labor Act in the same spirit as prompted the Port Huron official see what a peck of trouble would ensue. Reprisals on the part of Canada would be the order of the day, and such men as the Walkers of the Walkerville distillery could be turned back on Ontario because they live in Detroit and cross every morning to Canada. The Minister of Customs, who is the only Cabinet minister left in Ottawa said yesterday he would enquire into it.

MR. LOWE PROMOTED.

Dr. Tache, Deputy Minister of Agriculture has been superseded and Mr. John Lowe, Secretary of the Department promoted to the vacancy. Mr. Lowe is an Englishman, and has been 17 years in the Department. In 1847 he was a reporter on the Montreal Gazette, and is now 64 years of age.

THE CROPS.

The Departure of Agriculture has had reports about the crops in Ontario. The hay crop is a failure, and the prospects for root crops and coarse grains is not encouraging. A fodder famine is not an impossible contingency and the consequent loss of stock with its attendant results in cheese and butter are serious matters for the farmers. July is now more than half gone yet no rain, or very little has fallen in Eastern Ontario during the month. To add to the misfortunes of the yeomen a big wind storm levelled many of their barns and fences and inflicted other damage.

THE "WHITE PASHA."

Mysterious Individual Marching on Khartoum

Declared to be Henry Meakinley, the Explorer—The British Government Said to Have Positive Information on the Subject.

London, July 16.—An attaché of the British Foreign Office said to-day that the Government had positive information that the White Pasha reported in the Province Bah-el-Ghazal, marching on Khartoum, is undoubtedly the explorer, Henry Meakinley. The Foreign Office, he states, has had knowledge all along of some such intention as this on Stanley's part, and that the real object of the expedition at the last moment was not the relief of Emin Bey, who needed no immediate aid, but the rescue of Lupton Bey, Slatin Bey, Neufeld, a German, and several other Europeans whose terrible sufferings at Khartoum were made known to the Government at that time. Absolute secrecy was necessary for the success of the undertaking, hence the reason for withholding the news of the degradation and suffering to which the Mahdi has subjected his unfortunate prisoners at Khartoum. It appears that one geographical problem which awaited solution has already been settled by the expedition. Stanley had himself believed that the Aruimi River flowed from Lake Albert Nyanza, and that it would be possible to make the return journey from the lake to Yambunga in canoes. This has been found to be a mistake, and the river is now believed to take its rise in some high tablelands in the Makobe country. This river, Aruimi, with the exception of its lower course from Yambunga to the Congo, and of the portion of its upper course explored by Dr. Junker, has hitherto been unexplored, and Stanley will no doubt do much to fill the map of this part of Africa. The hills too, forming a watershed between the Nile basin and the Aruimi or Congo basin, must have been crossed by him if he has really come out in the Bah-el-Ghazal, and this is now a very interesting geographical problem. It is however, a disappointment to geographers if Stanley has failed to explore the country between the upper Aruimi and the Albert Nyanza, and if he has left altogether untouched the great mysterious lake, the Muta Nzigé—

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