

OPENING OF PARLIAMENT.
The session of the Dominion Parliament which begins to-morrow morning promises to be a very important one. The question of the purchase of the North-West territory will supply His Excellency with a text which alone will make his speech one of unusual interest. Whatever may be thought of the terms demanded by the Hudson's Bay Company, the acquisition of their territory at almost any price is necessary to the attainment of the great destiny which lies before us, and Ministers who can squander money on Nova Scotian malcontents and expensive Parliament buildings, need not feel very much disturbed at paying for the North-West the sum demanded. There will also come under consideration the overtures of British Columbia with a view of her admission into the Union, and the acceptance of the terms demanded by Newfoundland. The discontent in Nova Scotia, with the concessions made to her by the general government, will likely furnish topics for discussion; and there is also the great question of assimilating and codifying the laws of the separate Provinces.

The Responsibility of Railway Companies in carrying Goods.
We give to-day a pretty full report of the case of Horsman vs the Grand Trunk Railway Company, in which the defendant was sued to make good the value of a large quantity of iron for which they gave a receipt to the shipping agent in Montreal, in October 1867, but failed to deliver the quantity which the receipt covered. It was admitted that the full number of bars were delivered, but the weight fell short between eleven and twelve tons. The counsel for the defendant held that the Company were not responsible for the weight, that the fault, if any, lay with the officers of the vessel in mixing the different lots of iron, and that in delivering the full number of bars, even though the receipt specified the weight as well as the number, that they were not accountable for the loss. Chief Justice Richards rejected this view of the case, and held that this or any other company, who were common carriers, were responsible to the fullest extent for what their receipts cover. He charged strongly on this point, and said that if the principle sought to be established by defendant's counsel was acted on, merchants and traders would lose all confidence in railway or other companies employed as carriers, and feel no security in conducting their business. His Lordship's ruling will commend itself to every one as being not only good law, but justice and common sense. The case is an important one to the mercantile community, and will henceforth be regarded as a precedent for all such cases of a similar character. The Grand Trunk Company were well aware of this, as they employed an able lawyer, and had quite an array of witnesses present for the defence. The probability is that the Company will not rest satisfied with the decision, but take the case to a higher court.

THE ALABAMA CLAIMS.—Mr. Sumner made a long speech in the United States Senate on the Johnson-Clarndon Treaty on Tuesday. He took the ground that instead of removing any existing grievances, it left nothing but heartburnings, and therefore could not be considered a settlement of the pending questions between the two nations. It offered no semblance of compensation, and it could not be for the interests of either party that the treaty should be ratified. Examining it from beginning to end, he showed that it was merely for the settlement of individual claims on both sides, so that the sufferers by the misconduct of England may counterbalance by the British blockade runner. Mr. Sumner, in view of the circumstances, estimates the American losses, at about \$110,000,000. When he resumed his seat several Senators briefly expressed their views in support of the speech; and when the vote was taken, it was rejected, 54 voting to reject, and only 1 to accept it.

Two hundred Polish refugees in Switzerland recently received a box filled with earth from the sacred soil of Poland. Two hundred small silk-on bags were filled with the earth, and each of the enthusiastic Poles put one of the bags on his heart, pledging himself to wear it there until his return to his native country.

Lord Cecil, it is said, has received an autograph letter from Her Majesty the Queen, who is his Godmother, requesting him to return to England. His Lordship's friends desired him to do so some time ago but he refused. Looking at Her Majesty's letter as a command, he says he will leave Canada immediately.

The contract with Hugh Allan for the Ocean mail service has expired. It is proposed by the Government to renew the contract on the old terms for a few years, subject to the approval of Parliament.

The Queen is about to renew her connection with the literary profession. Very shortly will be published two handsome volumes upon the Highlanders of Scotland.

NEW FISHING REGULATIONS.—The following new fishing regulations for this Province have been adopted by order in Council:—1st. No person shall fish for, catch or kill any speckled or brook trout, between the 30th of September in each year. 2nd.—No person shall fish for, catch or kill any salmon trout during the months of November and December in each year, in the Province of Ontario; nor any white fish between the ninth of November and the first day of December in each year in the aforesaid waters; nor any Maskinonge during the months of April and May in each year in the aforesaid waters; nor any bass between the nineteenth of May and the twenty-first of June in each year in the aforesaid waters. No person shall fish for, catch or kill any bass, pickerel, doree, or maskinonge, between the fifteenth day of April and the first of May in each year in the Province of Ontario.

CANADIAN ENTERPRISE.—Mr. O. Lawrence, son of Mr. Orange Lawrence, after whom the enterprising town of Orangeville is named, leaves Toronto next week for Belize, Honduras, and takes out with him a steam saw mill in complete order for work. On his arrival he proceeds to fill a contract with a firm in Liverpool, for several hundred thousand feet of cut mahogany, which is the staple commodity of that country.

HOTEL ARRIVALS.
COULSON HOUSE.
GUELPH, April 14, 1869.
The following are the arrivals at the Coulson House up to 10:30 this morning: H H Fell, Welland; D McLellan, Minto; John McMan and wife, Arthur; W Woodside, Toronto; Chas Clarke, Elora; J Purves, Toronto; C Peyron and wife, Woodstock; John Watt, Montreal; John Gibson, Shakespeare; D B McPherson, Montreal; L Watson, Goderich; John R Veri, Hamilton; James Crawford, Elora; D McLaren, Acton; Miss Harvey, Fergus; James Whyte, Fergus.

JACKSON'S EXCHANGE OFFICE,
Opposite the Market House.

CHEAP FARES
To Travellers Going South South or West in the United States.

The undersigned is authorized to sell TICKETS to any point South or West by the popular and safe line
MICHIGAN CENTRAL RAILROAD.
FARES CHEAP, and Tickets good for any reasonable time. JOHN JACKSON.
Guelph, 14th April. dw

BREAKFAST
GEO. WILKINSON
GUELPH.
Has on hand

Epp's Homeopathic Cocoa!

Taylor's Chocolate
Taylor's Broma
Taylor's Cocoa Cribs
GEORGE WILKINSON.
Guelph, 14th April. dw

TAILOR WANTED.
Wanted, a good tailor to manage the Cutting and Tailoring at the Guelph Post Office Store. Apply to Mr John Hogg, Guelph, or at the store of the subscriber, as early as possible.
Guelph, 14th April. T. WHITEHEAD. dw

CARETAKER WANTED.
Applications will be received by the undersigned up till TUESDAY the 20th instant, for the situation of caretaker of all the public schools in town, including the Grammar School. His duty will be to scrub each school-room once a month, sweep each school-room once a day, and keep them perfectly clean, cutting the wood, lighting the fires, and such other duties as may be found necessary. All utensils necessary to perform the work of cleaning to be provided by the board. Salary \$200 a year, with house rent and firewood.
ROBT. TORRANCE, Secretary.
Guelph, 12th April. dw

SPEED LACROSE CLUB.
The second annual meeting of the Speed Lacrosse Club of Guelph will be held in the Great Western Hotel, on WEDNESDAY next, 14th of April, at 7 o'clock, sharp, for the election of officers and transaction of general business. A full attendance is requested.
JOHN ANDERSON, Secretary.
Guelph, 12th April. dw

HOUSE WANTED.
Wanted to rent, between now and the 1st of May, a house containing four or five apartments. Any one having such a house to let will please leave their name and address at Mercury Office, Guelph, 2nd April. dtf.

GUTHRIE, WATT & CUTTEN
Barristers, Attorneys-at-Law,
Solicitors in Chancery, &c.
GUELPH, Ontario.
D. GUTHRIE. J. WATT. W. B. CUTTEN.
Guelph, April 1, 1869. daw ft

IMPERIAL
Fire Insurance Company
OF LONDON.
(Established 1803.)
HEAD OFFICES: 1 Old Broad Street, Pall Mall, London.
GENERAL AGENTS FOR CANADA: 21 St. B. Vincent Street, Montreal.
Subscribed and Invested Capital and Reserve Fund
£1,965,000 STERLING
Funds invested in Canada—\$160,000

INSURANCE against loss by fire effected on the most favorable terms, and losses paid with out reference to the Board in London. No charge made for policies or endorsements.
RESIDENT BRO. General Agent, 24 St. Stephen Street. JOHN DOWSWORTH, Inspector.

JOHN M. BOND, Agent, Guelph.
Guelph, 14th Nov. dw

ARCHIBALD McKEAND.
(Successor to John W. Martin).

Banking and Exchange OFFICE,
No. 9, JAMES STREET, HAMILTON.
BILLS OF EXCHANGE, discount Money and B-20 Bonds bought and sold at best rates. Bills of Exchange bought and sold at a slight advance on New York rates.
Agent for the National Steamship Company, weekly Line of Steamers between New York and Liverpool. Also for the London and New York Steamship Company, fortnightly Line between New York and London.
Tickets via the Michigan Central R. R. and the Michigan Southern and Northern Indiana R. R., for all points West and South. Royal Mail Line to Montreal and intermediate ports.
Agent for the Kershaw & Edwards' celebrated Fire and Burglar Proof Safes.
Guelph, Dec. 1. daw 17

1869. **SPRING.** 1869.

ALMA BLOCK, GUELPH.

WHOLESALE.

We are now receiving our Spring importations of

Crockery, China and Glassware!

Cutlery, Plated Ware, and Fancy Goods.

The above Goods have been purchased by one of the firm in the best markets of Britain, and will for cheapness and quality compare with any other House in the Dominion.
We respectfully solicit a call.

R. RAE & CO.

Guelph, 14th April. dw

GREAT

CLEARING SALE!

CROCKERY & GLASSWARE

The whole Stock must be sold within 20 days!

Being obliged to give up this branch of business in order to meet the wants of my rapidly increasing

GROCERY AND FRUIT TRADE!

GREAT BARGAINS WILL BE GIVEN!

In order to secure a speedy sale.

HUGH WALKER,

Guelph, April 10. dw

Opposite the English Church

COAL OIL. DR. BRIGGS'

THEAT AND LUNG HEALER.

PRICES DOWN AT

HORSMAN'S

Coal Oil 35c. per gallon

By five gallons

Single Gallon, - - 40 cents

Guelph, 7th April. dw

WALL

PAPER

CHEAP

AT

CUTBERT'S

Guelph, 14th April. dw

MAGAZINES

FOR APRIL

AT DAY'S BOOKSTORE!

Opposite the Market

Bow Bells

London Society

Young Ladies' Journal

Cornhill

London Journal

British Friend

Sunday Teacher's Treasury

Chambers' Journal

At DAY'S BOOKSTORE,
OPPOSITE THE MARKET.
Guelph, 9th April. dw

PUBLIC NOTICE.
All ACCOUNTS unpaid by the 30th of APRIL will be put in suit for collection.
JAMES MASSIE & CO.
Guelph, 9th April, 1869. dwtd

1869. **SPRING.** 1869.

BRITANNIA RULES the WAVE

AN EPOCH

IN THE HISTORY OF GUELPH

THE MOST EXTENSIVE IMPORTERS OF

DRY GOODS

IN ONTARIO.

The Old Maxim still in the ascendant:

SMALL PROFITS & QUICK RETURNS

The largest, most comprehensive, and by far the CHEAPEST and best assorted Stock of Spring and Summer Dry Goods ever brought into Canada, is now being offered for sale at the

BRITANNIA HOUSE

THIS IS NO BLOWING, BUT REAL AND INDISPUTABLE. It would be useless for us to attempt laying before the public a complete catalogue of the

Many thousand different classes of Goods

Now in stock, suffice it to say, that the store is literally crammed. Come and see for yourselves. A cordial invitation is extended to all. One visit is sufficient to convince the most incredulous that

HEFFERNAN BROTHERS

Are the right men in the right place. Buying for two of the largest Dry Goods establishments in Canada, we are enabled to sell our Goods at the same prices which smaller dealers have to pay for them.

LOOK OUT FOR THE GRAND OPENING OF OUR MAGNIFICENT

Mantle and Millinery Show Rooms

TIMELY NOTICE WILL BE GIVEN.

Clothing made to order in our usual satisfactory manner.

French, English and American Fashion Plates just arrived. Remember the place.

HEFFERNAN BROTHERS.
Britannia House, Wyndham-St., Guelph, and corner Dundas and Talbot-sts, London.
Guelph, 6th April. dw

SPRING & SUMMER GOODS

JUST ARRIVED

AT THE

BRADFORD HOUSE

A LARGE ASSORTMENT

OF PLAIN AND FANCY

DRESS GOODS!

SECOND TO NONE FOR STYLE AND QUALITY.

ALSO, A SPLENDID ASSORTMENT OF

HOOP-SKIRTS!

In all the leading Styles, very Cheap.

PHILIP BISH,

Wyndham Street, Guelph, April 6. dw

BRADFORD HOUSE.

WHITENESSING AND WALL COLOURING
Done by WILLIAM DAVIS, Waterloo Street, in rear of Messrs. Robins and Tolton's granary, near the Grand Trunk Station.
Guelph, March 31. do 3m

BOARDING AND DAY SCHOOL FOR YOUNG LADIES.
CHURCH-ST. - - - GUELPH
MISS WIGHTMAN begs to announce that her school will re-open on the 5th of April.
Guelph, 27th March, 1869. do

INSOLVENT ACT OF 1864.
The creditors of the undersigned are notified to meet at the office of William Morrison Clark, Esq., in the City of Toronto,
ON MONDAY, 19th OF APRIL, 1869
At 4 o'clock, p. m., to receive statements of his affairs, and to name an assignee.
JOHN HENDERSON.
Dated at Elora, 2nd of April, 1869. d13