

Reforms Yet Needed.

The experience of the late elections has convinced almost every person who had anything to do with them of the necessity of a stringent election law for the Dominion. The Opposition during the last session of Parliament endeavoured to carry an election law similar to that now in force in Ontario, but the Government absolutely refused to support it, and having a subservient majority at their back, they succeeded in keeping it off the statute book. No valid objections could be urged by them why such a salutary and beneficial law should not be passed. Not an argument was advanced in favour of the present clumsy election law. The Government simply said that it had been in operation before, and that they were determined it should remain in operation during another election. Only one change of any note was made in limiting the polling to one day, and after giving it a fair trial, it is agreed on all hands that it is a great improvement on the old system. But while this reform was good enough in its way, more serious defects in the law were left untouched, and the evils resulting therefrom—the corruption and bribery and other lesser evils attending many of the elections lately held—were practised with impunity, with scarcely even an effort to conceal them. We are satisfied that in no previous election ever held in Canada was there so much money spent as during the one which lately occurred. While the contest was going on, we read daily of immense sums having been spent by Ministerial supporters in the direct or indirect purchase of votes. All sorts of tricks and dodges were resorted to in order to gain the good will and aid of voters. Often carriages, oaks and carts were hired at fabulous prices. Pigs and poultry were in unheard of demand, and were almost worth their weight in gold—at any rate in silver. But in too many cases even this round-about way of doing things was not resorted to. Some candidates, bolder than others, or their still bolder and less scrupulous agents, offered and paid the bribe direct, and in too many cases, we fear, it was accepted without a blush or twinge of conscience by the venal voter. And not only this, but we have heard that some more daring spirits—in defiance of all law human or divine—were not satisfied with corrupting and bribing the individual but actually went into the business wholesale, and, as was proved at the Centre Toronto election, bought voters up in platoons at so much a head! Now, such practices are truly deplorable and utterly degrading to our humanity. They go far to reduce our political contests—which in them selves should occupy a high and pure position—to the lowest mercenary level of a bargain and sale. They strip the dearest birthright which every citizen possesses of its highly important and responsible character, and reduce it to the level of merchandise for which the highest price should be obtained. They make politics a fraud, the franchise a farce, and the independence of the voter a lie! How then are they to be stopped? Only by the enactment of a stringent election law, which in its provisions will, by the imposition of the heaviest penalties and fines, force the candidate and his agents to conduct his canvass and manage his election in an honest and honourable manner. After the experiences which members on both sides of the House have had, we feel that they will see the necessity for a change in the electoral law for their own sakes even if they do not take higher ground. Should the present practice be allowed to continue at elections, it will ere long become a question, simply as to who has the longest purse, and is most willing to spend his money in securing his election. But an election law such as we have in Ontario will put an end to all such disreputable work, and we shall then have the free, unbiased opinion of the electors on the views and on the measures which are put up for their approval or otherwise. We do not mean at present to touch on the ballot as a powerful means of correcting such abuses referred to. We are heartily in favor of that reform, and we have not the slightest doubt of the advisability of adopting that mode of electing members to Parliament will be the subject of earnest and interesting discussion when the House meets. But whether that question comes up for discussion or not, we have no hesitation in saying that the first duty of the Opposition will be to endeavor to secure for the Dominion a better election law, which will set up an effective barrier against bribery and corruption, which will compel candidates to depend on their personal and political influence, on their ability and political character, and not on the length of their purse, which would enforce purity of election and deprive venal electors from selling their vote for a consideration.

Mr. Donohue, who returned to Montreal was highly flattering, proving that though he has no money to spend upon fashionable entertainments, and no offices to bestow, he has troops of friends and admirers. He is one of our most honest and able public men, whom the country could ill afford to lose, and his acceptance of the representation of Napierville will prove gratifying intelligence to multitudes, even of those in the opposite camp.

The St. Thomas Murder.

FURTHER PARTICULARS. St. THOMAS, Sept. 16. Old Dr. Neuham, previous to his brutal murder by Fitzsimmons and Lepsey, was walking in front of the verandah of Mr. James Mitchell's boarding-house, where he usually stopped. He was just returning from a professional tour among some of his tribe, and, after spending a few hours in town, went to Mitchell's about nine o'clock. James Mitchell noticed him walking backward and forward under the verandah of the house, and shortly afterwards saw Fitzsimmons and Lepsey trying to get into Luxton's hotel on the opposite side of the street. Both appeared to be drunk, and on being refused admittance, they started across to the Indian, and roughly ordered him away. He left, but had only gone a few feet when they called on him to come back. This he refused to do, and started to run. One of the ruffians then picked up a bag containing a new axe, which a neighbour had left there a short time before, and both started in pursuit. The old doctor was overtaken within three rods of the house, and felled to the ground with a blow of the axe. He was then kicked and pounded in a frightful manner, and before help could come Fitzsimmons and Lepsey had fled to their waggon and driven off. Dr. Famburlik was then sent for, and dressed the wounds, but the injuries were so severe that the old doctor could not recover. Constables were scouring the neighborhood all yesterday and last night, but the murderers have so far evaded capture. It is reported that they slept last night at the house of a farmer, within a few miles of Wallaceton, and it is supposed they are making westward. A coroner's inquest was begun this afternoon, and, after the evidence of several witnesses had been taken, was postponed till 7 o'clock this evening. Dr. Neuham was 70 years of age, and was a man of large and powerful frame; thirty-three years ago, when he came to Canada from New York, he stood 6 feet 4 inches, and weighed 330 pounds.

FALL GOODS.—We would direct attention to the advertisement of Messrs. Hefferman Bros. in to-day's Mercury. As usual they have imported largely and are now prepared to sell goods cheap.

Coal Oil—fresh lot.

Clear, Bright Colour, Free from Offensive Odour, does not Smoke the Glass. At JOHN HORSMAN'S.

Lamps, now opening. Of Choice Designs and Low in Price. At JOHN HORSMAN'S. New Lamp Glasses, From the best Manufacturers. At JOHN HORSMAN'S. Best Lamp Wicks, Of very fine texture and quality. At JOHN HORSMAN'S. Superior Burners, Of all the new and improved patterns. At JOHN HORSMAN'S. Lamp Globes and Shades, In Crystal, Porcelain and Ornamental Paper. At JOHN HORSMAN'S. Lamp Shears, At JOHN HORSMAN'S. Lanterns, The latest and best styles. At JOHN HORSMAN'S. All these Goods are from the various renowned manufacturers in Britain, Germany, France, United States and Canada, and cannot be surpassed for Quantity, Quality and Cheapness. dw

FALL and WINTER New Dry Goods! WM. STEWART. Is now opening a large, varied, and most complete stock of New Dry Goods. Many lines were bought much under present values: 4000 yds Plain and Fancy Winceys, a job lot, from 10c to 25c; 6400 yds Factory Cotton, slightly damaged by fresh water, price 8c to 10c, value 10c to 12c.

DRESS GOODS A SPECIALTY. Now in stock over 10,000 yards Rich and Rare Dress Goods, embracing all the latest productions of the Looms of Britain and the Continent for the coming season. See windows this day. WM. STEWART. Guelph, Sept. 13, 1872 dw

FALL RACES 1872 and 1872. Will take place over the Guelph Course, On Thursday and Friday, 26th and 27th September. Premiums - \$1,900.00. ADMISSION - Entrance to the course, each person 50 cents; Saddle Horse and Buggy, 25c extra; Double carriages 25c extra; Grand Stand, 25c extra. FIRST DAY. Race No. 1, \$300, Dominion Handicap, open to all Dominion bred horses, mile heats, 1st horse \$150, 2nd horse, \$50.

Commercial College and TELEGRAPHIC INSTITUTE. The oldest and most practical business school in British America. Book-keeping in all its branches taught by means of actual business transactions. Plain and ornamental Penmanship, Business Correspondence, Telegraphy and Photography, Business Arithmetic, Mental and Commercial, all taught in the most careful manner. The great superiority of our system of training has ensured us continued success, and added yearly to the popularity of our institution. A Business Education has become a necessity of the age. There are 20 Book-keepers, 20 Telegraphic Operators, 20 Short-hand Writers needed, 10-day, where one of each would have sufficed a few years ago. Sent for circular. JOHN COUGHLIN, Secy-Treasurer, Guelph, Sept. 10, 1872. dw

New Advertisements. GOLDEN LION! 1872. NEW FALL & WINTER GOODS. 500 Cases and Bales Just Received! COMPRISING: 100 bales of Carpets, 100 bales of White Cottons, 100 bales of Factories, 12 cases of Black Silks, 13 cases of Black Lustres, 13 cases of Black Corbours, 12 cases of Black Sarmattas, 15 cases of Ready-made Clothing, 12 cases of Yorkshire Fancy Trousersings, 10 cases of Black Cassimeres, 10 cases of West of England Broadcloaths, 10 cases of Gents Shirts, Collars, Ties and Braees, 93 cases of Fancy Stuffs and Haberdashery.

CHANCE & WILLIAMSON, GOLDEN LION, THE ONLY DIRECT DRY GOODS IMPORTERS IN GUELPH. Wyndham Street, Guelph, September 12, 1872. dw

FRUITS OF THE SEASON WHOLESALE. GRAPES, PEACHES, PEARS, APPLES, PLUMS. Sole Agent for Ludington's BALTIMORE OYSTERS. Dealers supplied at lowest market price.

HUGH WALKER, WYNDHAM STREET, GUELPH. Guelph, Sept. 12, 1872 d

GUELPH TEA DEPOT E. O'DONNELL & Co. ARE SELLING THE BEST YOUNG HAYSON POLAR TEA for 80c per lb. A BEAUTIFUL GUNPOWDER TEA for 70c per lb. A FIRST RATE YOUNG HAYSON TEA for 60c per lb. A VERY GOOD GREEN TEA for 40c per lb. A NICE SWEET DRAWING BLACK TEA for 50c per lb. THE BEST BLACK TEA IMPORTED for 75c per lb.

SUGARS, SUGARS! Sugars will be higher very soon, but we will sell Eleven pounds for \$1.00 for a few days, so lay in your stock for preserving while you can get it cheap.

Raisins, Currants, Cheese, Tobacco, Syrups, Brandies, Wines, Whiskies, Cigars, And everything in the Grocery Line cheap, and will be delivered free of charge to any part of the Town, or to the Stations.

E. O'DONNELL & Co. Guelph, Sept 11, 1872 dw Wyndham Street, Guelph. G. B. FRASER, WHOLESALE AND RETAIL. OPENED OUT AT G. B. FRASER'S. A full assortment of Mourning Goods, suitable for FALL AND WINTER WEAR. Black Crepe Cloths, Black Double Warp Lustres, Black Henrietta Cloths, Black Corbours, Black French Merinos, The new style Black Paramatta equal to French Merinos in wear, and at half the price. Courtyards' Black Crapes, on which rain or damp has no effect. Samples sent free of charge throughout Ontario. G. B. FRASER. Direct Importer of Dry Goods. EX. Steamship St. David, From Glasgow. 2 cases Aberdeen Winceys, 1 case Paisley Shawls, 1 case Wool Shawls, 1 case Balmoral Skirtings. EX. S. S. Sarmatian From Liverpool. 2 cases Dress Goods, 2 cases Flannels, 1 case Blankets, 1 case French Kid Gloves. Just opened and for sale at G. B. FRASER'S. Direct Importer, Guelph.

THE MEDICAL HALL GUELPH. DYE STUFFS. The subscribers desire to call special attention to their large and well selected stock of DYE STUFFS which they have opened out, and being determined to keep none but the best quality of DYE, have devoted more than usual care and time in the selection of the best articles from the most reliable markets.

E. HARVEY & Co. Family and Dispensing Chemists. Guelph, Sept. 5, 1872. dw

SEPTEMBER MAGAZINES AT DAY'S BOOKSTORE. BOW BELLS, BOW BELLS, BOW BELLS.

Young Ladies Journal, Young Ladies Journal, Young Ladies Journal, GENTLEMEN'S JOURNAL, QUIVER, ARGOSY, WEDDING BELLS, SUNDAY MAGAZINE, BOYS OF ENGLAND, EVERY MONTH, LEISURE HOUR, SUNDAY AT HOME, DAY'S BOOKSTORE, WYNDHAM ST., GUELPH.

SEPTEMBER MAGAZINES AT ANDERSON'S, Opposite the Market. BOW BELLS, AND Young Ladies Journal, Old Country Magazines, ANDERSON'S Cheap Book, Stationery and News Depot, OPPOSITE THE MARKET GUELPH. Guelph, Sept. 13, 1872

