J. S. Porter.

NEW BOOKS AT PORTER'S BOOKSTORE

Vennor's Almanack.
Hadeap Violet.
Footsteps of the Master.
The Pearl Fountain.
Indoos, by Miss Braddon.
St. Elmo, by Miss Braddon.
Prince of Wales in India.
The Boston Experiment.
My Little Love, by Marion Harland.

All the newest books of the day

At Porter's Bookstore.

G. H. Bertram.

COOKING STOVES.

COOKING STOVES.

The undersigned has much pleasure in calling the attention of Farmers to his large and varied stock of

COOKING, PARLOUR AND BOX STOVES,

Received from the well-known firms of E. & C. Gurney and J. H. Armstrong, which he is prepared to offer at a price that no one can undersell.

GEO. H. BERTRAM.
Kent Street, Lindsay.

Banking and Exchange.

EXCHANGE OFFICE; Dominion Telegraph office; Fire and Life and Accident Insurance effected; Mortgages, Notes, Bonds, Stocks and Debentures bought and sold; money to loan on Mortgages or other security. Broker, Office in Adams' new block, three doors east of the Merchants' Bank, Lindsay. A. McALPINE.

ONTARIO BANK.

SAVINGS BANK

A Savings Bank has been opened at the Lindsay Branch of the Ontario Bank. 5 per cent. Interest allowed on deposits of $4 and upwards from date of deposit. No notice required of withdrawal of deposit.

M'Coy S. A. McMURTRY, Manager.

BANK NOTICE.

MERCHANTS' BANK OF CANADA

CAPITAL, $9,000,000.

A SAVINGS BANK

Has been opened at the Agency of this Bank, Kent Street, Lindsay. The smallest amounts may be deposited and will earn interest at the rate of FIVE PER CENT. No notice whatever required previous to the withdrawal of Savings Bank deposits. D. MILLER, Agent.

Lindsay, 17th June, 1875. 953-1y.

Publisher's Notices.

Terms. THE CANADIAN POST is $2.00 per annum in advance. If not paid at the end of six months the price will be $2.00 per annum. School teachers and clergymen $1.00 per annum in advance; $1.50 per annum if not paid at the end of six months.

Note. The figures after each subscriber's name (the address label on the paper) shows the date to which he has paid up. Thus **John Walker, 31 Dec. '76**, shows that he has paid to the end of 1876. **John Smith, 3 Jan. '75**, shows that he owes from that date. Subscribers are requested to give notice at once if they see any inaccuracy in the date.

Remittances. Care should be taken to register remittances. Portions of the dollar may be sent in postage stamps. Name and address should be plainly written. Post Office orders can be had at the following low rates: $1 to $4.30; and $1 to $10, 3c.

Irregularities. Subscribers would oblige by promptly notifying us of any irregularity in the delivery or arrival of their papers.

Local Correspondence. We shall be glad to receive items of local news at all times; and to receive regular and prompt correspondence. State facts briefly, and the matter will be carefully prepared for the printer. The name of the writer is necessary, not for publication, but as a guarantee of good faith.

Canadian Post.

LINDSAY, FRIDAY, JAN 26, 1877.

THE SALARY QUESTION.

The salary question came up before the Legislature on Tuesday afternoon and was discussed briefly with closed doors. It is understood that the leader of the Opposition warned the Government that a motion was likely to be made from his side of the House in favour of cutting down the sessional allowance. It is also understood that the movement is headed by the member for London, who supported the increase strongly last session but has since received new light. Under the circumstances Mr. Mowatt had better let the reduction take effect without offering any opposition.

COLONIZATION RAILWAY AID.

The reports read at the recent annual meeting of the Victoria Railway company published elsewhere have awakened fresh interest in this project, and we copy strong expressions of opinion in its favour from papers so widely differing in politics as the *Mail* and the London *Advertiser*. The question has not, and shouldnot have, a political aspect, and as we have said before there is all over the province a hearty feeling in favour of a large colonization railway subsidy to the Victoria project. We have on previous occasions described the great benefits that may reasonably be expected to result from its early construction. These are generally admitted. In fact there is no opposition. Public opinion is apparently in favour of a very liberal subsidy. The main question is the amount. The directors of the company say $12,000 a mile, and that is not unreasonable, considering the difficulties to be overcome, and the large provincial results to be achieved. The error to be avoided is not to be too close and thereby cripple or hamper a great undertaking; and this will be the case should the Government pare too much. We trust they will deal with the question in a liberal and careful spirit, and in such a way as to ensure the early construction of the Victoria to the Mattawan.

THE STEEL RAILS QUESTION.

The letter which we publish in another column calls attention to an omission in our review of Mr. Cameron's Fenelon Falls speech. Although the reason suggested for our not referring to it more particularly is not the correct one we are glad to be able to draw attention to it once more in a manner so pointed, and for this our readers as well as ourselves are indebted to our correspondent. We may add that we have referred to *Hansard* and that the writer of the letter is quite correct in his statement that at the time when Mr. Cameron was professing to doubt whether Mr. Sandford Fleming really did advise Mr. Mackenzie to purchase the steel rails he held in his hands documentary proof of the most positive kind that Mr. Fleming not only gave the advice but proffered it. This proof was nothing less than a memorandum by Mr. Fleming on the subject which was read by the Premier in the House of Commons in the course of the debate on Mr. Bowell's want of confidence motion on the 31st March, 1876, and was of course embodied in the *Hansard* report of the speech. What renders Mr. Cameron's conduct in the matter still more inexcusable is the fact that he must have been aware of the reading of the memorandum, if he did not actually hear it read, for in the course of the same evening he took part in the debate himself. Mr. Fleming's memorandum occupies over two columns of the *Hansard*, and we extract the first three paragraphs as being sufficient for the present purpose:—

"OTTAWA, March 24, 1876.

"During the summer of 1874 advices from England showed a great decline in the price of steel rails. It was generally considered that they had all but reached the lowest rate, and that it was without opportunity presented itself of purchasing a quantity of rails at lower prices than they could be all probability be obtained for at any future period.

"Early in August, 1874, the Chief Engineer mentioned the matter to the Minister of Public Works, and advised that steps should be taken to secure such quantity as might be deemed advisable. On the 12th of the same month he renewed his recommendation and furnished a draft specification to be acted on if thought best.

"The Chief Engineer was absent from Ottawa until near the end of September, when he again renewed his recommendation to secure the rails."

From the above, which is signed by Mr. Fleming, it appears that he moved in the matter of his own accord and that early in the month of August, 1874; that he voluntarily renewed his recommendation on the 12th of the same month; and that he made it a third time towards the close of September. After these appeals, which may be fairly described as urgent, Mr. Mackenzie did assent to the purchase of the rails and issued his advertisement for tenders on the 29th of September. In view of the above facts and of the additional fact that the Premier at Whitby stated distinctly that he acted on the advice of Mr. Sandford Fleming what must be thought of Mr. Cameron's sense of honour? When a man can profess to doubt the solemn word of an absent gentleman while he holds in his hand the documentary evidence necessary to show that his doubt is absolutely groundless there can be no two opinions about the character of the tactics he is pursuing, and if Mr. Cameron thinks he can by such means strengthen his hold on North Victoria he will find himself very much mistaken.

THE WARDENSHIP.

The mantle of Warden has this year fallen upon the broad shoulders of Mr. W. L. Russell, Reeve of Lindsay, who can *fill* the chair perhaps more effectually than any other member, except the stalwart Reeve of Emily. We congratulate Mr. Russell upon his preferment, although we do not rank among his supporters. The honour was awarded him mainly for political reasons; and the next question will be whether he will choose the Commons or the Legislative Assembly as the arena for the exercise of his talents. In view of the fact that extensive repairs are needed in the Ontario Assembly buildings it might perhaps be more in accord with his recent Lindsay experience to go to Toronto to see that the "Grits" do not get too much for such jobs, only he must elect to run for the North Riding. On the other hand the thousand dollars a session and the large financial issues to be decided at Ottawa will be a powerful attraction. Mr. Russell, as a modest man, will deny the soft impeachment; but the ambition to serve his country in either place is an honorable one.

A QUESTION OF PRIVILEGE.

No one seriously questions the personal integrity of the Hon. Mr. Mowatt or suspects that he is capable of making use of his official position for his own advantage, that is in the way of bringing money into his own pocket. This does not, however, prevent the *Mail* from publishing a series of characteristically brutal articles in which he is held up to public odium in the most unprincipled style. The facts of the case are fortunately, in this instance, easily got at, and the merits of the charges no less easily decided upon: Most of our readers are familiar with the facts of the dispute between the Ontario Government and the representative of the estate of the late W. A. Scott, of Peterboro. The latter had a claim against the former of some $20,000 which, owing to some peculiarities connected with it, was referred to a special commission for adjudication instead of being taken to the courts. Amongst the counsel retained for the Scott estate was Mr. James Maclennan, Mr. Mowatt's professional partner, who, according to Mr. Scott's brother, now prosecuting the claim on behalf of the estate, was chosen for political rather than professional reasons, and who, according to Mr. Mowatt's own statement, was retained without his (Mr. Mowatt's) knowledge. Elaborate evidence was taken before the commission which awarded the sum of $6,000 to the Scott estate. Dissatisfied with this sum Mr. Thomas Scott had the case argued once more before the Attorney General with a view to securing the consent of the Government to the granting of a larger sum. In this argument Mr. Maclennan took no part nor does it appear that he was any longer counsel for the estate. Mr. Mowatt refused to grant any larger sum than that awarded by the commission and so the matter remains for the present.

The public interest in the case would have been exceedingly small but for the conduct of some indiscreet friend of the claimant's, who sent a letter to the *Mail* virtually charging Mr. Mowatt with pocketing a share of an alleged exorbitant fee charged for his services by his partner. This letter, and the editorial endorsation of it in the columns of the "gentleman's journal" was promptly noticed by the Premier and replied to in the fullest and most satisfactory manner. He explained to the House that the nature of his partnership with the other members of his firm did not preclude him from accepting retainers in cases of this sort, and stated that no part of the fees derivable from work of the kind alluded to belonged to him. While he maintained that no harm had been done to the public by the action complained of he informed the House he had requested his partners to accept for the future no such retainers and that they had cheerfully assented with a view to removing every possible ground of suspicion. Those who know anything of the *Mail* and its tactics were neither surprised nor pained to see it return to the charge and reiterate its slanders in a more offensive form than before. It is impossible to feel pained now at anything the leading Opposition organ can say or do. It has traversed the whole gamut of journalistic meanness so frequently and with such evident gusto that feelings of pain are about as much in place in connection with its utterances as they would be with the proverbial wallowing of the swine in the mire. Conjoined with the attack on Mr. Mowatt is a resuscitation of the old exploded slanders about Mr. Blake. If the *Mail* thinks by reviving these stale productions of a scandal-mongering party at the present juncture to arouse public opinion against either Mr. Blake or Mr. Mowatt it will find itself sadly mistaken. Attacks of the same kind had the effect of killing off one organ that indulged in them, and if persisted in long enough not all the combined energy and influence of the U. E. Club will suffice to save the *Mail* from a similar fate. The reputations of both Mr. Blake and Mr. Mowat are perfectly safe with the public, and were they anxious to retain power in Ontario they could not take any more effectual means of attaining their purpose than inducing the organ to follow up its recent attacks by a further series equally brutal and equally baseless. The folly and malignity of the organ, however, saves them the trouble.

The report of the Commissioner of Crown Lands for 1876 shows that the accruals from woods and forests in 1876 were $262,398, and the amount collected was $237,098. Mineral lands sold in 1875 on the north shores of Lakes Huron and Superior and in the Algoma District amounted to 6,139 acres and in 1876 to 3,542 acres. The total collections from all sources of the department in 1876 amounted to $667,370, of which last named sum $521,214 is claimed as revenue. The gross disbursements for the year 1876 amounted to $179,653. The amount paid for surveys in the year just closed was $35,607, the number of acres surveyed amounting to 224,625. The expenditure on colonization roads which is the subject of special vote of the Legislature amounted in 1876 to $93,494.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

—The tender for Firstmen is to take place on the 5th of February and the polling on the 12th.

—The Stratford *Beacon* declares that the story, lately revived, that the country had to pay for the fancy ball given by Lord Dufferin last winter, is a most transparent fabrication, and worthy the source [Tory prints] from which it emanated.

—The Ontario Legislature has lost another member this session by death. On Sunday last Mr. John Fleming, M. P. P., for South Waterloo, succumbed to a paralytic stroke which came on a few days previously. He was born in Scotland in 1819, and was therefore at the time of his death in his 58th year. He had held several offices, and was returned to Parliament by acclamation at the last general election. In politics he was a staunch Liberal.

—The interesting letter of our Toronto correspondent, received too late for last week, intimates the probability of the Treasurer's portfolio being taken at an early day by the Hon. S. C. Wood. From other sources echoes the same report. This has long been considered probable; and Mr. Wood's financial ability will enable him to discharge the duties of the office with credit to himself and advantage to the province.

—Turkish affairs are approaching a crisis. The propositions of the Conference were rejected by the Porte, and the ambassadors of the Great Powers have departed in disgust. Russia is said to be disposed to go to war, but is prevented by financial embarrassment and hard times. The Turks were determined to die fighting if die they must, and some rapid and decisive changes may be expected before the year goes out.

—We print elsewhere a report of the auditors of the Port Hope Central Fair and some comments thereupon by the Peterboro *Review*, with the reply by the Port Hope *Times*. Without going deeply into the matter the remarks of the *Review* appear to us to be reasonable, and need not have called forth the somewhat testy "vindication" of our Port Hope cotemporary. There is a difference between fair criticism and virulent, uncalled-for attack; and the managers of our central exhibitions must not expect to escape the former should it be deemed proper by newspapers sincerely desirous of promoting such affairs.

—The Hastings County Council has been petitioned to submit a by-law to the northern municipalities of that county to give a bonus of $75,000 to the Huron and Quebec Railway. The *Globe* has had another strong article in support of the road, and the St. Thomas *Journal* says: "This railway project still keeps fresh before the public, and with the construction of the Ottawa, Montreal and Quebec road its advantages are manifest enough. Two rival routes to the seaboard will ere long be looked upon as a necessity by the business community of Western Ontario, and if aid is needed to push on the Toronto and Ottawa link it will be forthcoming." The present promoters of the project should organize a strong financial company, and then they would get reasonable bonuses and subsidies. At present they are putting the cart before the horse, and by so doing may injure the prospects of a capital railway undertaking.

—We notice from a late number of the *Journal of Public Instruction* that the Lindsay High School, with a good many others, it is true, brings up the rear of those schools to which grants are made on the basis of merit. There are in this distribution list eight classes, from the first, obtaining $163, to the last getting nothing; while Lindsay is in the seventh grade and gets just $23. This exhibit is far from satisfactory, and it behoves trustees and teachers to take stock of the situation and see if the Lindsay school cannot at least be brought into the second rank with those at Port Perry, Port Hope, Cobourg and Peterboro. Occupying as Lindsay does a central position it is of great importance that our schools should attain a high rank. We observe from the same paper that the Separate schools are now to undergo the same inspection as the public schools. This is a step in the right direction, and we believe the results will be beneficial.

Some days ago the *Globe* properly sounded the note of alarm in the interests of Toronto against the proposed Hamilton, Uxbridge and Lindsay railway. Our big cotemporary plainly indicated that the line of subsidy granting by the local government must be drawn somewhere, and that line was decidedly against any more railways to cut into Toronto's natural territory and take it away to the "Ambitious City." It is high time, indeed, that Toronto should wake up. Hamilton has got ahead of Toronto in Wellington, Grey and Bruce, it will soon be on even terms in the district immediately adjoining and north of the "Queen City," and now proposes to tap the east by a flank movement, while aided by the *Telegram* and the divided councils of Torontonians, it endeavours to kill the Credit Valley Railway a line that would render directly tributary to Toronto a large section of western and south-western Ontario that now goes to Hamilton and Buffalo. Well, the Hamiltonians are not to be blamed, perhaps. They are very enterprising; and they have made a gallant fight.

The Cobourg *World* closes an able article on Protection with the following timely extract from a recent speech on that question delivered in the U. S. House of Representatives by Mr. Morrison, of Illinois, and which illustrates in a striking way the beauties of a system certain politicians would have this country adopt: "The farmer starting to his work has a shoe put on his horse with nails taxed at 67 per cent.; drives by a hammer taxed at 54 per cent.; cuts a stick with a knife taxed 50 per cent.; hitches his horse to a plow taxed 50 per cent.; with chains taxed 67 per cent. He returns to his home at night, and lays his weary limbs on a sheet taxed 58 per cent.; and covers himself with a blanket that has paid 230 per cent. He rises in the morning, puts on his humble flannel shirt, taxed 80 per cent.; his coat, taxed 50 per cent.; shoes, taxed at 35 per cent.; and hat, taxed 70 per cent.; opens family worship with a bible taxed 25 per cent.; and kneels to his God on an humble carpet, taxed 150 per cent. He sits down to his humble meal—from a plate taxed 40 per cent.; with knife and fork, taxed 35 per cent.; drinks his cup of coffee, taxed 47 per cent.; seasons his food with salt, taxed 100 per cent.; pepper, 297 per cent.; or spice, 397 per cent. He looks around upon his wife and children, all taxed in the same way; takes a chew of tobacco, taxed at 100 per cent.; or lights a cigar, taxed at 120 per cent.; and then thanks his stars that he lives in the *freest* and *best governed* country under heaven."

The *Telegram* earnestly advises Sir John Macdonald to "keep his newspaper in better check," for it is "bringing itself and the party it represents into bad odour by its persistent reiteration of exploded 'facts.' Not that the *Mail* is very particular as to what kind of odor it is in, as a rule, but there are those associated with the party who do not wish to be compromised by the infernal attacks which are being made by the journal which represents their views, on the character of their political opponents." The *Telegram* concludes a long article on this topic with this pertinent interrogation:—"Who really believes that Attorney-General Mowatt has been trumping up cases against private individuals supposed to be indebted to the Government in order that his law partners could get cases, and he might get a share of the fees received by these partners for conducting these cases? The proposition is monstrous. No one doubts Mr. Mowatt's personal integrity, nor would any one have doubted it even though Mr. Mowatt had not fully explained the matter from his place in the House. * * * If we were to believe the *Mail* there is not an honest man in the Reform ranks. Every Reformer is either a thief or a receiver of stolen goods, or is anxiously waiting in the background to get a chance at the public chest. But, happily for the credit of Canada and the reputation of its public men, there is no Act in force making it compulsory to believe anything the *Mail* says. And we doubt very much if even Sir John Macdonald would pass such an Act if he had the power, anxious as he is to rehabilitate himself in the eyes of the public and to work his way back to the sunshine of political life."

OUR TORONTO LETTER.

THE LEGISLATURE—PROGRESS OF BUSINESS—QUESTIONS OF THE DAY—A GREAT ISSUE—SOAP AND BEER—"TAKING IT EASY."

[Special correspondence of The Post.]

TORONTO, Jan. 16.

THE LEGISLATURE.

Very little progress has since my last letter been made with the public business. The questions discussed have been mainly unimportant ones from a public point of view, and too often they have been mixed up with side issues of a personal character which ought to have been kept out of the Legislature, and for the introduction of which into the public business those are responsible who are seeking to make a little political capital at the expense of truth and fair dealing. The discussions to which any interest attaches have chiefly sprung up while the House was in Committee of Supply, a few, however, having been started by motions for papers. An assault was made by Mr. Bethune on the Book Depository which he contended, had served its purpose, and outlived its usefulness. This position was of course that of the booksellers, who are accused by some people of all sorts of selfishness in the premises. But with their motives, the public have nothing to do. If their arguments in favour of abolishing the Depository are sound it should be abolished accordingly, and that it will be before long is about as certain as anything can be. Mr. Cameron has asked for a return of the names of all those who obtained liquor selling licenses in 1875 and 1876, the real, but not the avowed object being to find out whether the appointments furnished in any way a ground for attacking the Government and the License Act. The information asked for will soon be in the hands of the House and it will then appear whether the Act has been made use of for political purposes or not. The propriety of abolishing the Inspectorship of Division Courts was up for discussion this year as usual, the arguments being much the same as heretofore in favor of abolition. Although one or two leading supporters of the administration were of the opinion that the office might be dispensed with, it appeared from the discussion that it really affords some protection to the public, and some guarantee that the business of these small but highly important courts will be conducted in a regular way. By a large majority the House affirmed the propriety of retaining the office and to this decision few will object. Incidentally the character of our local magistracy came up for a pretty full discussion, and a good deal was said that was the reverse of complimentary to the occupants of the bench. Every one who has watched the local administration of justice knows perfectly well that important matters are frequently bungled by the magistrates before whom they are brought, and that, as a rule, it would be more satisfactory to have cases of grave public interest tried in the first instance by stipendiary or police magistrates. But the present system is not without its advantages, one of which is its discouragement, or rather want of encouragement, to litigation amongst those who are intimate friends and neighbours. Many a man is constrained to forego prosecution of his neighbour because he feels that it is a hopeless matter to attempt it before a bench of magistrates as now constituted, and in all probability, both he and his neighbour is benefitted by this result. While the magistracy had many assailants it had also some vigorous defenders and on the whole it is improbable that anything in the way of replacing the institution by a stipendiary magistracy will be attempted for a long time to come. Closely connected with this is the question of rural police, the want of efficient means for the apprehension of criminals in many districts being a fair ground of complaint. Probably something might be done by the sheriffs to improve the state of affairs complained of, but unfortunately it is only when some outrageous malefactor is allowed to slip through the hand of justice that public opinion is aroused on the subject, and even in these cases it soon subsides after the mischief is done. The Tories have at last got a great issue to go before the country more important than the celebrated Fence scandal. It came out in committee of supply and to Mr. Creighton, who rivals Vennor as an almanac man, is due the credit of the discovery. It seems the patients in the London Lunatic Asylum used in the year some $200 worth of soap more than the patients in the Toronto Asylum, who are considerably more numerous. This with a somewhat similar fact about the consumption of wine, beer and other spirituous liquors in the same institutions wonderfully agitated the whole Opposition last Friday night and nearly brought on a crisis. It may be that the London asylum drawing largely on John Carling's domains found it necessary to use soap more vigorously; or the Toronto superintendent may have been lax in regard to cleanliness, but the broad fact is there in all its naked deformity, and if the Mowat Administration cannot explain it they may expect to be hurled ignominiously from power.

ADJOURNMENTS

have been far too common this session for the public good. The early part of the session was jeopardy wasted in so far as business was concerned by the visit of the Governor-General, but there is still far too strong a disposition to take things easy. It may well be questioned whether for this the Ministry or the Opposition are most to blame. The Public Accounts for 1876 are not yet down, it is true, but those of 1875 are in the hands of the Public Accounts Committee, which ought to have made by this time more progress than it has done. The time between now and the meeting of the Dominion Parliament is very short, and if the Legislature wishes to secure for itself a fair share of public attention its members had better get their business done as rapidly as possible before the important questions of steel rails and protection are let loose upon a long-suffering community.

TOWN COUNCIL.

A special meeting of the Town Council was held on Thursday evening, 18th Jan. Present—the Mayor, Reeve Russell, Dep.-Reeves Deacon and Walters, and Couns. Diament, Duffus, Growden, Heenan, Hopkins and Mann. The minutes of last meeting were read and approved.

STANDING COMMITTEES.

The special committee appointed to strike the standing committee reported the following:

Finance.—W. L. Russell, chairman; J. Deacon, J. Mann, E. Hopkins and J. Diament.

Streets and Bridges.—J. L. Winters, chairman; J. Growden, T. Heenan, W. L. Russell and J. Mann.

Fire and Water.—Thomas Walters, chairman; J. Ketchum, G. Ingle, E. Hopkins and T. Heenan.

Town Property.—J. Deacon, chairman; E. Hopkins, W. Duffus, G. Ingle and J. Growden.

Sanitary.—J. Ketchum, chairman; E. Hopkins and T. Walters.

Charity.—J. Mann, chairman; J. Diament, W. L. Russell.

An amendment was moved to place Coun. Hopkins on the Street and Bridge Committee but it was lost, after which the report was adopted.

The Council adjourned for a short time to allow the committee time to appoint chairmen, which they did as above.

Upon resuming Dep.-Reeve DEACON moved, seconded by Coun. MANN, that Messrs. Ketchum, Russell and the mover be a committee to draft a by-law defining when not provided for by statute the amount of remuneration to be paid returning officers and poll clerks and other services connected with municipal elections.—Carried.

APPOINTMENT OF OFFICERS.

Reeve RUSSELL submitted a by-law for the appointment of the municipal officers of the town for the year 1877, which was read a first time.

THE GEORGE-ST. MATTER.

Coun. KETCHUM introduced a by-law to release the revision of that portion of George-st. conveyed to the Agricultural Society for agricultural purposes.

The reason was asked for on the ground that the Society objected to the grant being limited and they could not safely erect buildings and improve the lands on a conditional or limited tenure. The by-law also provided that the street conveyed to the town in lieu of George-st be released to the person by whom granted.

The by-law was read a first time and the Council went into committee thereon, Dep.-Reeve Deacon in the chair. The committee rose with leave to sit again and the Council then adjourned.

PORT HOPE CENTRAL EXHIBITION.

AUDITOR'S REPORT.

Mr. Thomas Harrison, Treasurer, in account with the Port Hope Central Exhibition.

To surplus from Peterboro, as per last audit		$1,062 74
" Interest thereon from J. Carnegie		20 83
" Donation, township of Hamilton		100 00
" " " Cavan		50 00
" " from County of West Durham		50 00
" Donation from County East Peterborough		33 00
" Donation from County West Northumberland		200 00
" Donation from Smith, Emsimore, &c		36 00
" " Dummer and Duro		9 00
" " East Durham		200 00
" " township of Hope		50 00
" Ben Dickson, post entries		50 00
" J. W. Smith, " "		2 00
" South Victoria, " "		33 33
" Manvers, " "		50 00
" Port Hope Horticultural		100 00
" Peterborough "		33 00
" West Peterborough		100 00
" Taken at Gates		2,267 59
" Interest to date		37 50
		$3,549 10
By paid J. Carnegie for the following items paid by him:- Jas. Thorndyke, expenses	$9 00	
" R. Thaxton, Judge	3 00	
" Bond, Smith & Co., lumber	2 70	
" T. W. Robertson & Co.	2 50	
" Thos. Blizzard, expenses	2 00	
" R. Romaine, printing auditors' report	10 00	
		20 00
" T. M. Benson, drawing Treasurer's bond		1 00
" *Globe* Printing Co.		12 00
" Lamps on hand		65 70
" Coulter & Lethbridge, fixing and trimming lamps		20 00
" Stone & Co., oil, rope, wire, etc.		20 40
" Ben Dickson, postage, freight, express charges, etc.		44 47
" A. Smith, dinners for judges		13 00
" A. McMurty and J. Hoar, Treasurer's office		10 00
" George Wilson, printing		123 50
" J. B. Fraser, printing		139 00
" Craig & Son, tanbark		1 00
" W. Williamson, stationery		17 66
" James Baird, stationery		5 85
" R. Dickson, Secretary		100 00
" D. Hassill, drawing water		10 00
" Mulholland & Co., rings, staples for hall		16 05
" H. H. Meredith, rent of office		12 00
" A. Flood, rolling horse course		2 50
" John Walker, furniture for office and lumber		10 70
" Constables and Gate-keepers		134 00
" Turnstile-keepers		20 00
" Carpenters		13 50
" Amount paid for prizes		2,529 75
" Paid the judges		90 00
" Balance in hand		1,087 11
		$3,549 10

We, the undersigned, certify that we examined the accounts and vouchers and find them correct.

WALTER RIDDELL, } Auditors.
M. S. DEAN, }

Port Hope, Dec. 29, 1876.

PAID SINCE AUDIT.

Executive Committee	$38 00
General Committee	27 00
Auditors	10 00
	$95 00

PORT HOPE MANAGEMENT CRITICISED.

[From the Peterboro Review, Jan. 19.]

The auditors' report of the Port Hope Central Exhibition, held last year, does not show the financial position to be as satisfactory as might have been anticipated. The balance handed down from the Peterboro Exhibition the preceding year was $962.74, on which the interest was $20.83; but $30 were paid subsequent to the auditors' report, so the managers of the Port Hope Exhibition had $1,053.57, or $90.83 on hand from the previous year. It might reasonably have been expected that this balance would have been substantially increased, but instead of any augmentation, we find unfortunately that there has been a diminution. The balance shown by the auditors is $1,087.11, but various sums amounting to $95 have since been paid, leaving $992.11, showing a falling off to the extent of $51.46, instead of an increase. This result is partly owing to the much larger prize list—to a very small extent counterbalanced by the increased gate money—and to the town of Port Hope and county of Durham not having followed the example of the town and county of Peterboro with their liberal grants of $250 each. Still the great difference between the financial results of the two exhibitions is not wholly accounted for, causing some doubt as to whether it may not be partly due to want of good management and economy. One item in the expenditure for instance that attracts attention is the large sum of $124 paid for constables, gate keepers and turn stile keepers, being 50 per cent more than was found necessary here. It is to be hoped that the exhibition at Lindsay this year will be more successful financially as well as in other respects. These Central Exhibitions attracting competition from a wider district than the local societies can influence, are calculated to be of great benefit to the agriculturists and others of this section of the Province. It would be a pity therefore if this central organization should dwindle away instead of becoming more firmly established. We hope the people of Lindsay and the county of Victoria will be able to surpass the two exhibitions already held, and that the other societies of the district will aid them liberally.

A PLEA FOR PORT HOPE MANAGEMENT.

[From the Port Hope Times, Jan. 24.]

We notice that the Peterboro' *Review* has an article in its last issue reflecting on the management of the late Central Exhibition here. As the association is but a new one, and lacks experience, we think our contemporary should have shown a little more liberal spirit than it has done, and as the defects of the first exhibition held in Peterboro' were passed over without unfavorable comment, he might have been content to have allowed the same course to be followed with regard to the one here. The officials who managed the Fair in Port Hope are fully equal in ability to the gentlemen who managed the Peterboro one, and therefore we think any reflection on the management in which the affairs of the association have been conducted, are ill-timed and out of place.

LITERARY NOTES.

VERY USEFUL TO EVERY ONE.—In no other way can a person get back so large a profit for a very little money, as to expend it in learning what to do, when to do it, and how to do it—in other words to have his brains help his hands. Here is one way to do this: The small saving or extra production of less than half a cent a day, or 3 cents a week, will now procure a large, beautiful, cheap journal for all of 1877, splendidly illustrated, with over 600 fine original engravings, and over a thousand columns of the very best, plain, practical, trustworthy information about the every day in-door and out-door work and comfort of every home, in country, village and city. This information is not prepared by mere scribblers, but by a large force of intelligent working men and women, who know what they write about, and they are assisted by many others, who furnish information from their own practice and observation. Such a journal is the *American Agriculturist*, so named because it was at first a mere agricultural journal, but since greatly enlarged and improved to suit the daily wants of every man, woman and child in city, country and village—for the farmer and gardener the merchant and mechanic, the professional man—indeed, all classes. It is packed full of useful information that every one ought to have. Many single hints and suggestions will repay more than a whole year's cost of the paper. Its original engraved plans for buildings and improvements, with details of cost, etc., and commonsense directions, are worth far more than a majority of the costly works on architecture. Great care is exercised to have every line in the paper reliable. Its constant, persistent, and full exposure of a multitude of Humbugs and swindlers are alone worth far more than its cost, and have saved to its readers and to the country millions of dollars worth that would have gone into the hand of sharpers. The departments for Housekeepers, and Children are very useful and entertaining. In short, the *American Agriculturist* is full of good things, and ought to be in every house in the land. The circulation is so large that the publishers can supply it a little above the cost of the printing paper—or $1.00 a year, sent post-paid; or four copies $3.40. Take our advice and send your subscription for 1877 (Vol. 36) to ORANGE JUDD COMPANY, 245 Broadway, New York. You will find it pay, and pay well.

ST. NICHOLAS FOR FEBRUARY.—Mr. Thos. Hughes, author of "Tom Brown's School-days," contributes a hearty, stirring "Talk" to the present number of *St. Nicholas*. The article is written in the author's best style, and will charm all readers young or old. The boys especially should not overlook it. Mr. Trowbridge's story is continued; and a serial for girls is begun in this number. It is entitled "Pattikin's House," and the first instalment shows it to be an excellent narrative, simply and pleasantly told. It is illustrated by Mary A. Hallock. "A talk about canaries" contains a description of the varieties and habits of canaries, together with full directions for the care of the little household pets. Prof. Richard A. Proctor continues his admirable series of "Star papers," and tells us all about the "Stars for February," illustrating his paper with the usual brilliant sky-pictures. There are several fine short stories, and the poetry of the number shows the usual variety and excellence. "The Faces of Fishes," is a novel article, illustrated with comical but accurate drawings. "Young People" are treated to four pages of large type and five pictures, and the "Music Page" contains a capital child-song entitled "Harum-Scarum."

SCRIBNER FOR FEBRUARY.—The February Scribner opens with the third of the "occasional papers on out-door sports" announced by the editors in the November number. The writer is Edward Seymour, and the subject "Trout Fishing in the Rangely Lakes." The second part of General McClellan's "Winter on the Nile" contains a well-written description of the passage of the Cataracts, with sketches and pictures of Nubian life. There is also a popular science article on "The Microscope among the Flowers," by Mrs. S. B. Herrick, with drawings by the author, who describes the agency of insects in the fertilization of flowers, and tells why it is unhealthy to keep flowers in a bedroom at night. Dr. Holland's "Kimball Homestead," and Mrs. Burnett's "That Lass o' Lowrie's" are continued—the latter approaching a climax. There are many other interesting papers, several connected with the social life and civil ability in the political and other departments.

Communications.

MR. HECTOR CAMERON AND STEEL RAILS.

[To the Editor of THE CANADIAN POST.]

SIR,—I read in your issue of last week with a very great degree of pleasure your able and impartial review of the speech delivered by Mr. Hector Cameron in this village on the evening of the 2nd inst.; and I trust you will pardon me for venturing to draw your attention to a statement made that night by Mr. Cameron, which has evidently escaped your notice, but which I consider of too much importance to allow it to pass unchallenged. Mr. Cameron dwelt at considerable length on the celebrated Steel Rails question, and said: "Mr. Mackenzie then stated that he had acted on the advice of Mr. Sandford Fleming, but Mr. Fleming had never stated that he had given such advice. If Mr. Fleming had so advised the Government they would have acted on it." Now, Sir, Mr. Fleming had never given any such advice. What are the facts? Mr. Mackenzie both asked and received Mr. Fleming's advice in writing, and the correspondence was published in the Hansard, a copy of which was in Mr. Cameron's hand when he made the statement. Mr. Cameron either told, knowingly, a deliberate untruth, or he is inexcusably ignorant on a subject about which he professes to know the most minute details.—Yours, etc.,

COMMON SENSE.

Fenelon Falls, Jan. 15, 1877.

DRINKING CUSTOMS OF SOCIETY.

[To the Editor of THE CANADIAN POST.]

SIR,—Resuming my theme I observe that this drinking custom is also a very great obstacle and hindrance to business, and every employer of labor must be a considerable sufferer in the amount of time thrown away and the quantity of work only very badly done by unsteady and intemperate workmen. All imaginary pretexts are resorted to and all conceivable and most absurd excuses framed to indulge this drinking propensity. Lies are told by the score; kind and credulous masters are duped and defeated by men in whom the appetite for drink is so uncomparably strong that they break through all barriers and run all possible risks for the sake of strong drink in many other ways than have been enumerated the drinking habit is fostered. For the sake of being genial and agreeable with a friend; as an accompaniment to a friendly glass in spending a convivial evening with a friend, and so on. So general is the habit that in many cases people drink spirits and liquors that they have proved by experience make them ill simply because they see others do it, and they don't want to appear singular. After the most violent headaches and most disordered stomachs and the greatest personal inconvenience and even suffering, when the pains are over and the ill effects worn off, the same thing is done again as soon as they find themselves under a similar temptation. There are thousands of people who drink in moderation but not in excess and are, so far as I can see, none the worse. They may be better for what they take, but I very much doubt it. At the same time it must be confessed by all that the country generally seems to be universally gravitating to drink, and unless there be some important steps taken to lessen this excessive drinking our future will most assuredly be one of disaster and decay.

VOX.

Little Britain, Jan. 15, 1877.

NORMAL CLASSES IN THE HIGH AND PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

[To the Editor of THE CANADIAN POST.]

SIR,—Most of our High Schools and many of our best Public and Separate schools have established training classes for students desirous of becoming teachers. These classes in the absence of more Normal schools are very desirable and necessary, and I should be glad to see each trustee corporation in which such a class has been established, offering a substantial prize for the student standing highest in his class at the teacher's examinations. My object in this communication is to suggest to the teachers of such classes the propriety of having some standard of admission to this class, and in regulating this standard I would urge that good spelling be made a necessary qualification. This would save many candidates from disappointment, would be a great relief to the examiners, and would effect considerable saving of expense to the country. The papers of such candidates occupy much more of the time of Examiners than those of the successful candidates, and unless some such standard of admission to those classes is adopted we shall continue to have candidates coming to the teachers' examinations who are not competent to enter a similar class. I give below a few curious samples all taken from the English History papers of eleven third-class candidates at the July examination of last year:—

SPELLING.—Aunaxed, Llanylin, Sovering, Literature, Revolved, Spanyards, Sumened, Whome, Hebes Corpes, Hayes Corpes, Their-selves, Great Britton, United Vessels, Parliment, Wouldcut, to meat, Gasp-y, Annexication, Chimes, etc.

HISTORICAL FACTS.—1. The feudal system enacted that Charles should give up all claims to the throne of England. 2. The British Constitution means all the places belonging to Great Britain. 3. The battles of Dunbar and